

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of Liberty Utilities (Midstates)	
Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty)	<u>File No. GT-2025-0071</u>
Filing of its Revised Weather)	Tracking No. JG-2025-0021
Normalization Adjustment Rider Tariff)	

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF TARIFF SHEETS TO ADJUST
THE WEATHER NORMALIZATION ADJUSTMENT RIDER RATES OF
LIBERTY NORTHEAST, LIBERTY WEST AND LIBERTY SOUTHEAST**

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and respectfully states as follows:

1. On August 30, 2024, Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (“Liberty Midstates”) filed four tariff sheets to revise its weather normalization adjustment rider (WNAR) rates for Liberty Northeast, Liberty West, and Liberty Southeast Districts to go into effect October 1, 2024. On September 13, 2024, the Commission issued its *Order Directing Staff Recommendation and Setting Time for Responses* (“Order”) ordering Staff to file its Recommendation no later than September 20, 2024. These tariff sheets have issue dates of August 30, 2024, and effective dates of October 1, 2024.

2. Accompanying this pleading, and incorporated herein by reference, is Staff’s Memorandum recommending Commission approval of the WNAR rates Liberty Midstates filed in its August 30, 2024, tariff sheets.

3. The effect of Liberty’s WNAR tariff sheet filings means that residential customers of Liberty’s Northeast and West Districts who used 100 Ccf¹ of natural gas in a given billing month would see an approximate \$2.31 bill increase from current effective

¹ Ccf stands for one hundred cubic feet of gas.

rates, and small general service class customers using 100 Ccf of gas will see an approximate \$0.84 increase in their bill from current effective rates. The effect on Liberty's residential customers of its Southeast District who used 100 Ccf of natural gas would see an approximate \$0.80 bill increase from current effective rates, and small general service class customers using 100 Ccf of gas will see an approximate \$0.19 increase in their bill from current effective rates.

4. Due to the expedited nature of the review, Staff's recommendation is based on a limited review of the application and supporting materials. Staff further recommends the tariff language be revised during the next rate case to allow longer processing time sufficient for all parties.

WHEREFORE, as set forth in Staff's Recommendation memorandum, Staff recommends the Commission issue an order approving the Liberty WNAR tariff sheets, as filed August 30, 2024:

P.S.C. MO. No. 2

Thirteenth Revised Sheet No. 67.2 Cancelling Twelfth Revised Sheet No. 67.2

P.S.C. MO. No. 2

Thirteenth Revised Sheet No. 67.3 Cancelling Twelfth Revised Sheet No. 67.3

P.S.C. MO. No. 2

Thirteenth Revised Sheet No. 67.4 Cancelling Twelfth Revised Sheet No. 67.4

P.S.C. MO. No. 2

Thirteenth Revised Sheet No. 67.5 Cancelling Twelfth Revised Sheet No. 67.5.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ J. Scott Stacey

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**ATTORNEY FOR STAFF OF THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been transmitted by electronic mail to counsel of record this 18th day of September, 2024.

/s/ J. Scott Stacey

MEMORANDUM

TO: Missouri Public Service Commission Official Case File
File No. GT-2025-0071, Tariff Tracking No. JG-2025-0021
Liberty Utilities (MNG)

FROM: Michael D. Irwin, Senior Research/Data Analyst
Water, Sewer, Gas, and Steam Department

/s/ Michael D. Irwin / 09-18-2024
Senior Research/Data Analyst / Date

SUBJECT: Staff Recommendation for the **Approval** of the Revised Tariff Sheet Filed by Liberty Utilities to reflect its Weather Normalization Adjustment Rider (WNAR) to go into effect on October 1, 2024.

DATE: September 18, 2024

On August 30, 2024, Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp., d/b/a Liberty (“Liberty”) filed four tariff sheets designed to reflect the semi-annual adjustment made pursuant to the Company’s Weather Normalization Adjustment Rider (WNAR) with a requested effective date of October 1, 2024. On September 13, 2024, the Commission directed Staff to file a recommendation regarding the WNAR Tariff Sheets in Tariff Tracking No. JG-2025-0021 no later than September 20, 2024. After its review, Staff recommends approval of the substitute tariff sheets in Tracking No. JG-2025-0021.

Liberty’s WNAR became effective July 1, 2018. The purpose of the tariff is to reflect the semi-annual adjustment made pursuant to the MNG’s WNAR for the six-month period ending April 1, 2025. Liberty calculated the rates semiannually to account for variations in temperature within its service areas and is based on the difference between the actual heating degree days and the normalized heating degree days. MNG’s current and proposed rates are included in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Current and Proposed WNAR Rates by Class.

	Current		Proposed	
District	Residential	Small General Service	Residential	Small General Service
Northeast and West	\$0.02426	\$0.01431	\$0.04732	\$0.02270
Southeast	\$0.02952	\$0.01053	\$0.03753	\$0.01244

Based on weather variations in Liberty's service districts, proposed residential rates and the small general service class rates for the MNG's district service areas will increase customer bills. This means a residential customer using 100 Ccf of natural gas in a given billing month in MNG's northeast and west district will see an approximate \$2.31 increase in their bill from the currently effective WNAR rate, and a small general service class customer using 100 Ccf of gas in these districts will see an approximate \$0.84 increase in their bill from the currently effective WNAR rate. Likewise, a residential customer using 100 Ccf of natural gas in a given billing month in MNG's southeast district will see an approximate \$0.80 increase in their bill from the currently effective WNAR rate, and a small general service class customer using 100 Ccf of gas in MNG's southeast district will see an approximate \$0.19 increase in their bill from the currently effective WNAR rate.

Staff Recommendation

Staff has reviewed and recommends approval of the following tariff sheets, as filed on August 30, 2024, and to go into effect for service on and after October 1, 2024, the requested effective date:

P.S.C. MO. No. 2

13th Revised Sheet No. 67.2 Cancelling 12th Revised Sheet No. 67.2

13th Revised Sheet No. 67.3 Cancelling 12th Revised Sheet No. 67.3

13th Revised Sheet No. 67.4 Cancelling 12th Revised Sheet No. 67.4

13th Revised Sheet No. 67.5 Cancelling 12th Revised Sheet No. 67.5

Staff has verified that MNG has filed its Annual Report. Staff is not aware of any other matter pending before the Commission that affects or is affected by this tariff filing.

Due to the expedited nature required for review, Staff's recommendation is based on a limited review of the application and supporting materials. Staff recommends the tariff language be revised during the next rate case to allow a longer processing time sufficient for all parties.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Liberty Utilities (Midstates) File No. GT-2025-0071
Natural Gas) Corp d/b/a Libery (MNG)) Tariff No. JG-2025-0021
Filing of its Revised Weather Normalization)
Rider (WNAR) Tariff)

AFFIDAVIT OF MICHAEL D. IRWIN

STATE OF MISSOURI)
) ss
COUNTY OF COLE)

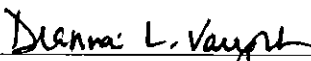
COMES NOW, MICHAEL D. IRWIN, and on his oath declares that he is of sound mind and lawful age; that he contributed to the attached *Staff Recommendation in Memorandum form*; and that the same is true and correct according to his best knowledge and belief.

Further the Affiant sayeth not.


MICHAEL D. IRWIN

JURAT

Subscribed and sworn before me, a duly constituted and authorized Notary Public, in and for the County of Cole, State of Missouri, at my office in Jefferson City, on this 17th day of September 2024.


Notary Public

DIANNA L. VAUGHT
Notary Public - Notary Seal
State of Missouri
Commissioned for Cole County
My Commission Expires: July 18, 2027
Commission Number: 15207377