

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 25-048

**LIBERTY UTILITIES (GRANITE STATE ELECTRIC) CORP. d/b/a LIBERTY and
NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.**

Joint Petition to Alter Franchise Areas in the Towns of Langdon and Charlestown

Order *Nisi* Approving Joint Petition

O R D E R N O . 28,181

September 12, 2025

On July 22, 2025, Liberty Utilities (Granite State Electric) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (Liberty) and New Hampshire Electric Cooperative Inc. (NHEC) filed a joint petition to alter their franchise boundaries in the Towns of Langdon and Charlestown, New Hampshire pursuant to RSA 374:22 and RSA 374:26. The Petitioners later filed a motion for Order *Nisi*. The New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) filed a technical statement recommending that the Commission approve the petition. For the reasons that follow, the Commission **APPROVES** the joint petition consistent with the ordering clause below. The petition and subsequent docket filings, other than information for which confidential treatment is requested of or granted by the Commission, are posted to the Commission's website at puc.nh.gov/VirtualFileRoom/Docket.aspx?DocketNumber=DE 25-048.

I. BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Commission draws the following facts from the parties' filings, including the verified joint petition and attachments, the petitioners notice of customer consent, and the DOE's verified technical statement. Liberty and NHEC are public utilities under RSA 362:2, I and both utilities service portions of Langdon and Charlestown.

The joint petition concerns a single lot at 481 Route 12A which straddles the Langdon-Charlestown line (the Lot).

A residence being constructed on the Lot is within the NHEC franchise area and adjacent to Liberty's service area. For NHEC to provide electric service to the customer, NHEC would need to extend its existing facilities approximately 500 feet. Liberty can provide service from existing infrastructure only 98 feet away from existing facilities. *See* DOE Technical Statement at 2.

The Petitioners request that the Commission approve a boundary change to move the lot into Liberty's territory. *See* Joint Petition, Attachment 1 (showing the proposed boundary changes). The DOE's technical statement represents that the cost for Liberty to extend electric lines to the Lot would be less expensive than NHEC doing so and therefore the DOE concluded that the adjustment to the franchise area boundary is in the public good and recommends approval of the petition. *See* DOE Technical Statement at 2. In addition, the owner of the Lot consents to the franchise boundary change. *See* Petition at 4.

II. LEGAL STANDARD

The Commission has a general obligation to ensure that every electric public utility furnishes such service and facilities as shall be reasonably safe and adequate and in all other respects just and reasonable. *See* RSA 374:21. In addition, public utilities must obtain approval from the Commission before they alter their franchise boundaries. *See* RSA 374:22, I. In order to approve a change in franchise boundaries, the Commission must find that it would be for the public good. *See* RSA 374:26. The Commission may grant such permission without a hearing when "all interested parties are in agreement" that the franchise change is appropriate. *See Id.*

III. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

Based on the parties' representations in their filings, the Commission finds that the proposed alterations to the franchise boundaries are for the public good. The Commission accepts the parties' representations that Liberty can extend service to the lot faster and at a lower cost than NHEC due to the location of existing facilities relative to the lot. Significantly, there is nothing in the record suggesting that the proposed boundary change would negatively affect the public good. Therefore, the Commission finds that the proposed alteration to the petitioners' franchise areas is in the public good consistent with RSA 374:22 and RSA 374:26.

Finally, because all interested parties—the petitioners, the DOE, and the customer—support the franchise boundary changes, the Commission finds it appropriate to approve the petition without a public hearing through an Order *Nisi*. See RSA 374:26.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED *NISI*, that subject to the effective date below, the Petitioners' request to alter franchise areas is APPROVED; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the petitioners shall each post a copy of this order on the Company's website within two business days of the date of this order, with an affidavit of publication to be filed with this office on or before September 22, 2025; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons interested in responding to this order be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing, stating the reason and basis for a hearing, no later than September 29, 2025, for the Commission's consideration; and it is

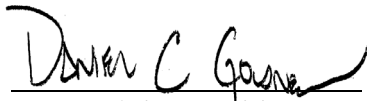
FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than October 6, 2025; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this order shall be effective October 13, 2025, unless the Petitioners fail to satisfy the publication obligation set forth above or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the prehearing conference scheduled for September 16, 2025, in this matter is hereby cancelled; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Liberty and NHEC shall file updated franchise maps with the Commission on or before October 23, 2025, in accordance with New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules, Puc 1603, noting the approved change, annotated with this order and the effective date herein.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this twelfth day of September, 2025.


Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman


Mark W. Dell'Orfano
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket#: 25-048

Printed: 9/12/2025

Email Addresses

amanda.o.noonan@energy.nh.gov
ClerksOffice@puc.nh.gov
eemerson@primmer.com
elizabeth.r.nixon@energy.nh.gov
Energy-Litigation@energy.nh.gov
gary.m.cronin@energy.nh.gov
jason.c.list@energy.nh.gov
karen.sinville@libertyutilities.com
Kendra.Burroughs@libertyutilities.com
mcnairs@nhec.com
Meredith.Verner@libertyutilities.com
Michael.R.Soucy@energy.nh.gov
michael.sheehan@libertyutilities.com
Molly.M.Lynch@energy.nh.gov
Nichole.Thibodeau@libertyutilities.com
ocalitigation@oca.nh.gov
paul.b.dexter@energy.nh.gov
regulatory.nh@libertyutilities.com
Robert.Garcia@libertyutilities.com
Robyn.I.Sarette@energy.nh.gov