

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: LIBERTY UTILITIES (MIDSTATES NATURAL GAS) CORP., d/b/a LIBERTY UTILITIES	DOCKET NO. RPU-2016-0003 (TF-2016-0303,TF-2016-0304, TF-2016-0305, TF-2016-0306)
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**ORDER MODIFYING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
TO CHANGE LOCATION OF HEARING**

(Issued November 17, 2016)

On July 25, 2016, Liberty Utilities (Midstates Natural Gas) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities (Liberty or Liberty Utilities), filed with the Utilities Board (Board) an application to increase its annual revenues by approximately \$1 million, or 61.3 percent. Liberty's application was identified as Docket No. RPU-2016-0003. Liberty also filed proposed tariff revisions that would implement the rate increase in three phases. The proposed tariff revisions were identified as TF-2016-0304, TF-2016-0305, and TF-2016-0306. Pursuant to Iowa Code § 476.6(9)(b), on August 4, 2016, Liberty implemented temporary rates specified in a tariff identified as TF-2016-0303.

On August 16, 2016, the Board issued an order that docketed Liberty's proposed tariffs and established a procedural schedule that specified a hearing would be held beginning on February 22, 2017, in the Hearing Room at the Board's offices in Des Moines, Iowa. The Board reserved two days for the hearing.

Informally, the Board sought input from the parties about the possibility of holding the hearing in Keokuk, Iowa, which is the sole community affected by the proposed rate

increase. In that informal exchange, one party supported the idea, while concerns were raised by other parties about the expenses that would be incurred if the hearing were held in Keokuk and about the possibility that those expenses would burden consumers.

The Board has considered the informal responses from the parties and concludes that holding the hearing in Keokuk is appropriate in this case because the service area for the utility seeking the rate increase is limited to one community and because the Board has determined that an adequate facility in that community is available. Holding the hearing in Keokuk will allow affected ratepayers to observe the proceeding more conveniently and in person. The Board concludes that benefit outweighs the anticipated costs associated with moving the hearing.

The Board will modify the procedural schedule to change the location of the hearing from the Board's Hearing Room in Des Moines to the Grand Theatre in Keokuk, Iowa. Also, to allow sufficient time in advance of the hearing to make appropriate arrangements to accommodate persons with disabilities requiring assistive services or devices to observe or participate in the hearing at the new location, the Board will modify the procedural schedule so that such requests should be made at least ten days before February 22, 2017. The remainder of the procedural schedule is not changed.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The procedural schedule originally established for Docket No. RPU-2016-0003 on August 16, 2016, as modified on September 23 and November 1, 2016, is modified to change the location of the hearing scheduled to begin in this proceeding at 9 a.m. on February 22, 2017, from the Utilities Board's Hearing Room

in Des Moines, Iowa, to the Grand Theatre in Keokuk, Iowa, 26 N. 6th Street, Keokuk, Iowa 52632.

2. The procedural schedule is also modified such that persons with disabilities requiring assistive services or devices to observe or participate should contact the Board at (515) 725-7334 at least ten days in advance of February 22, 2017, to request that appropriate arrangements be made.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Geri D. Huser

/s/ Elizabeth S. Jacobs

ATTEST:

/s/ Trisha M. Quijano
Executive Secretary, Designee

/s/ Nick Wagner

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 17th day of November 2016.