BEFORE THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

IN RE:	)	
	)	
Liberty Utilities (Peach State Natural Gas) Corp.'s Application for Amended Distribution System and Pipe Line Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in Meriwether County	)	Docket No. 41159
	)	
Countywide Safety Plan for Meriwether.	)	Docket No. 29309

APPLICATION OF LIBERTY UTILITIES (PEACH STATE NATURAL GAS) CORP. TO AMEND ITS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND PIPE LINE CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY IN MERIWETHER COUNTY.

LIBERTY UTILITIES CORP.'S APPLICATION FOR AN AMENDED CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR MERIWETHER COUNTY

Liberty Utilities submits this Application to Amend its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Meriwether County for consideration by the Georgia Public Service Commission ("Commission").

Under O.C.G.A. § 46-4-28(a) and Commission Rule 515-7-1-.13, Liberty respectfully requests that the Commission amend Liberty's current Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("Certificate") as discussed below[1]. Liberty requests the amendment to its Certificate to conform its current Certificate boundaries with the safety-based boundaries requested pursuant to the Commission's Countywide Safety Plan Rule (Commission Rule 515-9-7-.01). Liberty is

[1] Liberty notes that O.C.G.A. § 46-4-21(b) provides that a Certificate is not required "for an extension into territory contiguous to that already served by such gas distribution system and not receiving similar service from another such person if no certificate . . . has been issued to or applied for by any other person covering such territory."

providing notice of its Application in accordance with Commission Rule 515-7-1-.04 by serving this Application upon the persons listed on the attached Certificate of Service.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

Under O.C.G.A. § 46-4-21 and Commission Rule 515-7-1-.02, Liberty previously obtained a Certificate to operate a gas pipeline and distribution system in Meriwether County, Georgia. In order to synchronize proposed Countywide Safety Plan boundaries with Liberty's certificated territory, Liberty is requesting to amend its service area within this County. There will be no transfer of customers.

Under O.C.G.A. § 46-4-28(a) and Commission Rule 515-7-1-.13, the Commission may amend a Certificate. Accordingly, Liberty submits this Application to amend its Certificate boundaries to conform its current Certificate boundaries to the safety-based boundaries requested under the Commission's Countywide Safety Plan Rule.

COMMISSION'S APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

In support of this Application, Liberty provides the following according to the Certificate requirements found in Commission Rule 515-7-1-.03:

> ***(a) The exact legal name of the applicant; if the applicant is a corporation, the State or territory under the laws of which the applicant was organized, the location of the applicant's principal place of business, the names of all States where the applicant is authorized to do business and a concise but comprehensive description of the existing business, operations and properties of the applicant with particular reference to the transportation, distribution and sale of natural or manufactured gas.***

1. The exact legal name of Liberty is Liberty Utilities (Peach State Natural Gas) Corp.

2. Although Liberty Utilities (Peach State Natural Gas) Corp. only conducts business within the Georgia, Applicant is a wholly owned subsidiary of Liberty Energy Utilities Co., which

is a wholly owned subsidiary of Liberty Utilities Co., and an indirect subsidiary of Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp. ("Algonquin"). Algonquin is a publicly traded corporation that is traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange and the New York Stock Exchange and is incorporated under the laws of Canada, with its principal place of business in Oakville, Ontario.

3. Liberty is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia with its principal place of business located at 2300 Victory Drive, Columbus, Georgia 31901. Liberty is a utility and gas company regulated by the Georgia Public Service Commission. A certified copy of Liberty's articles of incorporation has been provided to the Commission in Docket No. 36278. Liberty provides financial data for itself and its parent company to this Commission on a quarterly and annual basis within Docket No. 42959.

4. Liberty is authorized to do business in the State of Georgia.

5. Liberty continues to provide distribution, transportation and retail commodity sales services as a traditional natural gas distribution company following the deregulation of the State of Georgia's natural gas market. Liberty operates and maintains a natural gas distribution system in Georgia that serves approximately 56,000 customers in and around Gainesville as well as in and around Columbus, as of June 2024.

(b) The name, title or post-office address of the person to whom correspondence or communications in regard to the application are to be addressed. Unless advised to the contrary, the Commission will serve notices, orders, and other papers upon the person so named.

Correspondence or communications concerning this application are to be addressed to:

Adam Bigknife	Jason A. Dean
Sr. Manager, Rates and Regulatory Affairs	Hulsey, Oliver & Mahar, LLP
1766 Cleveland Hwy	P.O. Box 1457

Gainesville, GA 30501
Adam.Bigknife@libertyutilities.com

Gainesville, GA 30503
jad@homlaw.com

(c) A brief but accurate description of the project or facilities for which a certificate is sought and the dates on which it is intended to begin and complete construction or acquisition.

Liberty seeks to immediately amend existing certificated boundaries in Meriwether County to include the following; all unassigned territory in Meriwether County Northwest of Interstate 85 and all unassigned territory in Meriwether County West of Alternate Highway 27.

(d) A statement setting forth the service proposed to be rendered by applicant, showing communities proposed to be served, with the population of each, main line industrial customers, sales or interchange with other utilities and any other service. In describing such other service, furnish the name of any other utility rendering service within any county in which any community or customer to be served by applicant is located, together with a general statement of pertinent facts as to the extent and nature of such existing service, specifying whether such other utility is serving natural or manufactured gas.

Liberty seeks to provide natural gas distribution service and natural gas pipeline service to residential, commercial, and industrial customers within the amended certificated areas of Meriwether County. As of August 2024, the additional certificated area sought by Liberty does not include major population centers or incorporated city boundaries. Any existing risers at customer locations are served by propane or are all-electric.

Natural gas operators in Meriwether County currently include Atlanta Gas Light and Liberty. Atlanta Gas Light operates in Meriwether County under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity issued by the Commission in Docket No. 30300 as revised by the Commission on

April 19, 2012. A copy of the amended CWSP map filed in the Meriwether CWSP docket (Docket No.29309) is attached to this application as Attachment A.

Liberty is not seeking to serve any customers served by or in the areas certificated to Atlanta Gas Light. The Applicant simply seeks Certificate authority to amend its existing certificated area to include currently unassigned territory and to serve potential customers.

> ***(e) A description of the facilities proposed to be constructed, acquired or operated, giving, insofar as such information may be pertinent, the size, capacity, length and location of pipelines and laterals; the extent of distribution systems; the location, rated horsepower and capacity of all compressor stations; the location and description of other important property units; a description of the proposed manner or method of operating said proposed facilities, including proposed operating pressures, the capacity of the proposed facilities, estimates of maximum and minimum day demands, and any other pertinent facts showing that such facilities will be capable of performing adequately the service which the applicant proposed to render. In connection herewith the applicant shall furnish:***

There are no facilities to be constructed at this time. Liberty's existing supply agreements are anticipated to meet needs within the amended certificated. Liberty is aware of potential customers expressing interest in gas service within the unassigned territory as well as residential, agricultural and commercial properties currently within the area who could benefit from becoming natural gas customers.

> ***1. Fifteen (15) copies of a map delineating the size and location of applicant's proposed pipe lines, or distribution system, the communities to be served, the points of connection with existing facilities and the location of points of gas supply to be utilized in connection with the proposed facilities; such map shall include roads, waterways and any other natural boundaries to enable the Commission to distinguish the true location of the proposed facilities; as well as any other operator's gas facilities within 1,200 feet of the applicant's proposed facilities. The location of the proposed pipeline or distribution system and other gas operator's facilities must be delineated in contrasting colors. The maps shall be at least 11 x 14 inches.***

There are no existing facilities within the unassigned territory Liberty seeks to amend its certificated area to include. Liberty is aware of potential customers expressing interest in gas service within the unassigned territory as well as residential, agricultural and commercial properties currently within the area who could benefit from becoming natural gas customers.

2. A statement setting forth all contracts for the construction, purchase or lease of the proposed facilities and giving the affiliation, if any, between applicant and any other party to said contract. A detailed breakdown of costs must be included for the construction, purchase or lease of the proposed facilities. The cost breakdown shall include the following:

Liberty is not constructing or leasing any new facilities in areas where Liberty is requesting new territory.

(i) Overall cost of the project,

See response to (e)2., *supra.*

(ii) Cost per foot for each size of pipe,

See response to (e)2., *supra.*

(iii) Cost for right-of-way,

The Company will continue to use its rights to occupy right-of-way in exchange for franchise fees. At this time, there are no specific costs known. See response to (e)2., supra

(iv) Financing costs,

See response to (e)2., *supra.*

(v) Cost of labor, and

See response to (e)2., *supra.* Because Liberty seeks unassigned territory where no customers have engaged for service, there are no incremental labor costs associated with this Application. Liberty anticipates performing day-to-day responses and maintenance with the same

employees that provide services for the existing Meriwether County area, with support from Liberty's Columbus operations center.

(vi) Any other costs.

See response to (e)2, *supra.*

(f) A statement of the source of gas, together with a copy of the interstate pipeline contracts or full requirements contract therefore, which is to supply the market which is proposed to be served. However, if such interstate pipeline contracts or full requirements contract contain discounted or negotiated rates or terms, the applicant may file such contracts pursuant to Commission Rule 515-3-1-.11.

Gas will be sourced in accordance with the contract entered into by the City of Manchester, Meriwether County, and the City of Hogansville, the latter being the provider of firm and uninterruptible natural gas sales to the city of Manchester. Copies of the relevant pipeline contracts are attached as Attachment B, which has been filed at Trade Secret pursuant to Commission Rule 515-3-1-.11. In 2018, Liberty purchased Manchester's natural gas distribution system in Meriwether County, and the Commission approved an amendment to the Meriwether CWSP on June 5, 2018, along with Liberty's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

(g) A statement setting forth all facts bearing upon economic feasibility including:

1. The estimated total overall capital cost of the proposed extension or acquisition, including all expenditures involved in the construction or acquisition of the proposed facilities, proposed cost of financing, working capital, and other incidental costs, amount of engineering and contracting fees to be paid and a brief statement of applicant's proposed plan of financing.

See response to (e)2., *supra.*

2. ***A detailed statement of the extent to which such plan is supported by firm or contingent commitments from all financial sources, including commitments from banks, trust companies, insurance companies, investment bankers, steel companies, pipeline supply companies and other sources.***

See response to (e)2., *supra.*

3. ***A statement showing estimates of total revenues expected from the proposed new facilities to be constructed, acquired or operated, total fixed charges, total operating expenses.***

See response to (e)2., *supra.*.

4. ***A general statement covering the rates proposed to be charged by applicant for each kind of natural or manufactured gas service proposed to be rendered, and the expected sales, revenues, average revenue per MCF and average revenue per therm to be derived therefrom.***

Liberty will charge customers in the new certificated area and current service area in accordance with the Company's rate schedules that are filed with the Commission and in effect from time-to-time. The rates charged for the natural gas commodity used to supply the applicable community or mainline customer shall be the rate established by the Liberty Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA).

The current rate structure for Liberty residential and commercial customers includes both customer charges and volumetric charges.

Residential Customers				
	Usage CCF/yr	**Fixed Monthly Charge**	**Volumetric Rate (inc. gas) Range (1)**	**Annual Cost**
Liberty	450	$ 30.47	$0.5746	$ 624

Commercial Customers				
	Usage CCF/yr	**Fixed Monthly Charge (2)**	**Volumetric Rate (inc. gas) Range (1)**	**Annual Cost**
Liberty	5,000	$ 62.31	$.0.3470	$ 2,483

(h) A general description of the proposed method of supervising the operations of the proposed project, including reference to any relevant service or management contracts, existing or contemplated.

Liberty will supervise the operations of the any new facilities as part of, and consistent with, Liberty's on-going distribution system service. Liberty will operate the system with existing Liberty Utilities employees.

(i) A statement of any other facts and circumstances upon which applicant relies to establish that present or future public convenience and necessity required the new construction, acquisition or operation of such facilities

The proximity of the unassigned territory to Liberty's existing certificated area, existing contractual supply agreement, and experienced personnel positions Liberty uniquely to meet future public convenience and necessity requirements as the area grows.

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, LIBERTY respectfully requests the Commission amend Liberty's Distribution System Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and a Pipe Line Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Meriwether County in the manner described above.

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of August 2024.

Attorney for Liberty Utilities
(Peach State Natural Gas) Corp.

Jason A. Dean
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(770)532-6312
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in Meriwether County	)	
	)	
Countywide Safety Plan for Meriwether.	)	Docket No. 29309

TRADE SECRET FILING OF
LIBERTY UTILITIES (PEACH STATE NATURAL GAS) CORP.

Liberty Utilities (Peach State Natural Gas) Corp. ("Liberty Utilities" or the "Company") hereby files with the Georgia Public Service Commission ("Commission") the Company's application for amended Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Meriwether County in the above referenced dockets. This filing contains data and information that are of a proprietary and trade secret nature. Additionally, the data and information are exempt from public disclosure under O.C.G.A. § 50-18-72(a)(34). Liberty Utilities is therefore filing the application as proprietary and trade secret pursuant to Commission Rule 515-3-1-.11 governing trade secrets.

The data and information reflected in the application derive economic value to the Company and to the Company's customers from not being generally known to others. Liberty submits that data and information contained in this filing are highly confidential and competitively sensitive. Accordingly, consistent with the Company's own interests, and the interests of its customers, the Company protects against disclosure of this information.

Pursuant to the terms of Commission Rule 515-3-1-.11, Liberty is providing the information under protective seal (each printed page is marked "Trade Secret") to the Commission Staff. The trade secret documents have been numbered and the Company is maintaining a master list of these documents.

Additionally, the affidavit of Carolyn Bermudez is attached hereto.

Simultaneously with this Trade Secret filing, the Company is filing public disclosure documents in this docket.

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of August 2024.

JASON A. DEAN, Attorney for Liberty Utilities (Peach State Natural Gas) Corp.

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by: Jason A. Dean
GA State Bar No. 214762

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VERIFICATION

County of Muscogee
State of Georgia

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned officer, duly authorized to administer oaths, Carolyn Bermudez, who after being duly sworn, states on oath that she is the President for Liberty Utilities (Peach State Natural Gas) Corp.; that as such she is authorized to make this affidavit; that she is familiar with the contents of the foregoing applications of Liberty Utilities (Peach State Natural Gas) Corp. to the Georgia Public Service Commission; and that the facts stated therein are true and correct to the best of her knowledge and belief.

Carolyn Bermudez
President
Liberty Utilities (Peach State Natural Gas) Corp.

Sworn to and subscribed before me
this 14th day of August, 2024.

Notary Public
My commission expires: 1/12/2027
(NOTARY SEAL)

LAUREN ELLIOTT NOTARY PUBLIC HARRIS COUNTY, GEORGIA MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JANUARY 12, 2027

Attachment A: CWSP Map for Meriwether County

