

## Missouri Customer Handbook

Natural Gas



## Welcome to Liberty

At Liberty, our customers are at the heart of everything we do. Local teams deliver an exceptional customer experience while always prioritizing safety and reliability. Liberty delivers natural gas service through our network of underground pipelines, providing you an economical fuel choice for home, business, and industrial use. Liberty's commitment to our communities includes investments that help ensure safety and reliability for your home and business today and in the future.

For more information about Liberty, visit www.libertyutilities.com.

Copies of price schedules and general rules and regulations are available at www.libertyutilities.com. This booklet is being provided in accordance with state commission rules.

#### How to Reach Us

Our Contact Center is available for routine service requests and inquiries from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, by calling:

1-800-424-0427

To report a gas leak or emergency 24/7:

1-800-406-9220

### Accessing Your Account Information Online

You may also access information about your account by visiting our website, www.libertyutilities.com, and signing on to MyAccount. MyAccount offers the easiest way to view your Liberty account from anywhere. Simply follow the easy tips to register. Instantly, you can begin accessing your Liberty account information.

**MyAccount** offers a variety of tools to better understand your usage and account.

MyStatement – Examine your current Liberty bill at any time plus view previous bills to compare each month.

MyPayments – You can view account payment history over the previous 12 months.

MyUsage – View and track your usage over the past 12 to 24 months. You can see monthly meter readings to compare usage month to month.

MyEbill – You can select the option to receive your monthly Liberty statement notification via secure email. No longer wait to receive a paper bill, instead you can instantly see your monthly charge.

## Starting and Transferring Service

You can start new service or transfer your current service to another location by calling our Contact Center at 1-800-424-0427 or by completing a request form available on our website, www.libertyutilities.com.

Please contact us at least two business days in advance to schedule the start of your service; this does not include weekends or holidays. Identification may be required.

A deposit may be required for customers who have unsatisfactory or insufficient credit, in cases where tampering or diversion has occurred, and when there is a history of delinquency. Deposits may be billed in installments in some cases. The deposit will be applied to the final bill and any remaining balance, plus interest, will be returned when:

- · You establish a suitable credit history; or
- Your service is discontinued and the amount of your deposit is greater than the balance due to Liberty.

## **Stopping Service**

If you need to discontinue your service, you can call our Contact Center at 1-800-424-0427 or complete a request form available on our website, www.libertyutilities.com. Arrangements must be made at least two days in advance, and you must provide an address to receive your final bill. A disconnection charge of \$40 will apply when service is turned off.

## **Special Services**

#### Our Action to Support the Elderly

The company's program to support the elderly is designed to lift the burden of worry from customers age 60 and older and/or handicapped customers. For those who qualify, deposits and late penalties may be waived, due dates can be adjusted, and third-party notification is available when accounts become delinquent.

#### **Project Help**

Project Help is an assistance program created to meet emergency energy-related expenses of elderly and/or disabled customers. Project Help is funded through voluntary donations. To donate, simply add \$1.00 to your monthly payment or visit our website for more information. All donations are tax deductible. Project Help is administered by the Missouri Valley Community Action Agency.

## **Bill Payment Options**

#### Pay By Mail

Return envelopes are included with your monthly bill. When paying by mail, allow at least five business days for delivery and posting.

#### **Autopay**

When you choose Autopay, your payment is automatically deducted from your bank account. Your monthly bill will show the exact amount and date your bank account will be debited.

#### Average Payment Plan (APP)

APP calculates your expected annual charges and divides them into equal monthly payments.

#### Flexible Due Date

If you participate in APP or Autopay, you may select your scheduled due date from a list of options.

#### Pay By Phone/Pay Online

Phone in your payment by calling 1-800-424-0427 and following the prompts, or you can pay online a www.libertyutilities.com. This feature utilizes an independent service which allows you to pay using a credit or debit card or electronic check. A fee may be charged by our independent provider.

#### Pay In Person

You may pay in person at any of our payment locations. For a list of locations near you, visit www.libertyutilities.com or call 1-800-424-0427. A fee may be charged by our independent providers.



# Understanding Your Billing Charges

#### **Customer Charge**

Liberty service includes a fixed monthly customer charge, no matter how much natural gas is used. The charge allows Liberty to recover a portion of its operational costs and rate of return on its investment. The charge does differ in each of Liberty's three gas territories.

#### **Usage Charge**

The portion is billed for the cubic feet of natural gas used.

#### Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA)

This is the cost the company pays to purchase natural gas on the open market, plus the transportation and storage services fees. It also reflects any under- or over- collection of actual costs in the previous period. Liberty does not earn a profit on the price of gas, only on its delivery. The PGA accounts for about two-thirds to three-fourths of a winter bill.

#### Franchise Fee

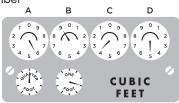
This fee is a tax levied by local municipalities, which the company collects and passes on to those respective cities. Applicable state and local taxes are also charged.

#### **ISRS**

The Missouri Infrastructure system replacement surcharge is a set, monthly charge that recovers a portion of the expenses that the company must incur to maintain and upgrade its systems and to relocate facilities in connection with local, state, and federal public improvement projects and safety requirements.

### **How To Read Your Meter**

Some of the hands on the dial of your meter move in a clockwise fashion, while others move counterclockwise. All move from the lowest number to the highest. To read your meter, simply write down the number where the dial is pointing. When the hand is between numbers, use the smaller number



This meter read: 5935

The company also utilizes digital meters. Their readout is much like a car odometer.

## **Estimated Meter Reading**

The company tries to read each customer's meter each month. However, sometimes it is not possible, and estimations must be made. Any variation between a customer's actual usage and the estimated usage will be corrected the next time the meter is read.

## Disconnection/ Reconnection of Service

Your bill is due upon receipt, and a delinquent date appears on your monthly statement.

To avoid service interruption, call immediately if you cannot pay your bill on time, if you receive a disconnection notice, or if there is any problem with your bill.

If you find you cannot pay your entire bill, please contact us for a mutually agreeable installment plan.

Although we do not routinely disconnect service without advance notice, there are times when we must for health, safety, emergency, or maintenance reasons, or when someone has tampered with our equipment.

We will turn your service back on after the cause for the disconnection has been corrected. Service will be restored the same day, if possible, but no later than the next working day.

## **Natural Gas Safety**

Natural gas is odorless and colorless. As a safety precaution, a sulfur-like odor that smells like rotten eggs is added to help identify gas leaks.

If you suspect a gas leak, never use matches or candles to look for a leak, never turn on or off any electrical switch or appliance, do not use a telephone inside of the building, and get everyone out of the building. Use a phone away from the location and call 1-800-406-9220.



## **Customer Responsibility**

Although the company inspects a customer's exposed gas piping and connected gas equipment, it is the customer's responsibility to maintain their gas piping and connected equipment downstream from the gas meter.

## **Customer Inquiries**

If you have any questions or concerns about your gas bill, please call 1-800-424-0427. We will work to find a solution to your concerns. If you are not satisfied with the resolution we offer, you may contact:

#### Missouri Public Service Commission

PO Box 360 • Jefferson City, MO 65102 1-800-392-4211

#### Office of Public Counsel

PO Box 2230 • Jefferson City, MO 65102 1-573-751-4857 • 1-866-922-2959

## **Energy Efficiency**

We offer a variety of energy efficiency tips and rebates for both residential and commercial customers. Visit our website, www.libertyutilities.com for program details and tips specific to your home.

## Call Before You Dig

Before you plant a tree or build a fence, make sure you know where your underground utilities are located. We encourage customers to dial 811, the nationwide one-call system, or Missouri One Call at 1-800-DIG-RITE (1-800-344-7483).

This is a free service provided by Liberty and other local utilities. This single call allows customers to avoid the possibility of a serious injury or the expense of repair costs for damaged utilities.



Telephone

1-800-424-0427

Emergency Telephone 1-800-406-9220

#### **Address**

602 S. Joplin Avenue **PO Box 127 Joplin, MO 64802** 

## LibertyUtilities.com

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