



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 20-GAF-P3

September 14, 2020

Petition of Blackstone Gas Company pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2020/21 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2020.

On August 3, 2020, Blackstone Gas Company (“Company” or “Blackstone”) filed with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) its seasonal local distribution adjustment factor filing (“LDAF”), pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.11. The filing includes the residential assistance adjustment factor (“RAAF”) and energy efficiency surcharge (“EES”). The proposed rates are for effect November 1, 2020. The Department has docketed this petition as D.P.U. 20-GAF-P3.

The table below summarizes the proposed rates in dollars per Ccf:

<u>Rate Class</u>	<u>LDAF</u>
Residential Heating	\$0.1953
Residential Non-Heating	\$0.2124
G-1/S-1	\$0.0635

If the Department approves the Company’s LDAFs as proposed, a typical residential heating (R-3) customer will see an average monthly bill increase of \$3.12, or 1.66 percent, compared to the LDAFs currently in effect. For specific bill impacts, please contact the Company as shown below.

The Company will file its peak gas adjustment factor filing (“GAF”) in this docket at least 45 days prior to the date on which the proposed GAFs are to be effective. The Company is required to file its peak GAF filing no later than September 17, 2020. Blackstone may, at any time during the peak period, submit an amended GAF filing. The amended GAF filing must be submitted seven business days before the first billing cycle of the month in which it is proposed to take effect.

Any person interested in commenting on the **LDAF** filing may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Monday, September 28, 2020**. Any person interested in commenting on the **GAF** filing may submit written comments no later than the close of business on **Thursday, October 1, 2020**. At this time, all filings will be submitted only in electronic format in recognition of the difficulty that parties and the Department may have filing and receiving original copies. On March 10, 2020, Governor Baker issued a state of

emergency related to COVID-19 for the entire Commonwealth. Ordinarily, all parties would follow Sections B.1 and B.4 of the Department's Standard Ground Rules (D.P.U. 15-184-A, App. 1 (March 4, 2020)); however, until further notice, parties must retain the original paper version, and the Department will later determine when the paper version must be filed with the Department Secretary. Importantly, all large files submitted must be broken down into electronic files that do not exceed 20MB. In addition, one copy of all written comments should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Andrew Newman, Esq., at andrew@newmanfirm.net.

All documents should be submitted to the Department in **PDF format** by e-mail attachment to peter.ray@mass.gov and katherine.goyette@mass.gov. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 20-GAF-P3); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website as soon as practicable at <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>. The e-mail must also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission, as detailed above, is sufficient. To request materials in accessible formats (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@state.ma.us.

The Company's filing and all subsequent related documents, pleadings and/or filings submitted to the Department and/or issued by the Department will be available on the Department's website as soon as is practicable at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber> (enter "20-GAF-P3"). A paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Company's offices or the Department's office due to the state of emergency. Any person desiring further information regarding the Company's filing or a paper copy of the filing should contact Andrew Newman, Esq., at andrew@newmanfirm.net. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Katherine Lee Goyette, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at katherine.goyette@mass.gov.

