



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 21-18

February 10, 2021

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for authorization to terminate its Home Energy Reports offering within its Residential Behavior energy efficiency core initiative.

On January 20, 2021, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (“Liberty” or “Company”) filed with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) a request for authorization to terminate its Home Energy Reports (“HERs”) offering within its Residential Behavior energy efficiency core initiative, which the Company asserts is no longer cost effective and, therefore, is not providing benefits to customers. The Department docketed this request as D.P.U. 21-18.

On January 29, 2019, the Department approved Liberty’s three-year energy efficiency plan for calendar years 2019 through 2021 (“Three-Year Plan”). Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 18-113 (2019). Liberty’s Three-Year Plan includes the HERs offering, which is intended to motivate residential customers to adopt behavior that would result in energy conservation and demand reduction (Petition at ¶¶ 5, 8). The Company asserts that, since its implementation, the HERs offering has produced minimal savings that resulted in the HERs offering not being cost effective in 2020 (Petition at ¶ 8, 16). Further, the Company states that it does not expect the HERs offering to be cost effective over the 2019-2021 Three-Year Plan term (Petition at ¶¶ 8, 16).

Liberty maintains that, pursuant to the Department’s current Energy Efficiency Guidelines (“Guidelines”), the Company is not required to seek either Energy Efficiency Advisory Council or Department approval to terminate an energy efficiency core initiative, such as the HERs offering (Petition at 1, ¶¶ 9-13, citing Guidelines at § 3.8). However, in this instance, Liberty maintains that it requires Department approval to terminate the HERs offering in order to nullify its contract with its HERs offering vendor (Petition at 2, ¶ 14). Therefore, pursuant to Guidelines at § 5, the Company seeks an exception to the Guidelines and requests Department approval to terminate the HERs offering as if required under Guidelines at § 3.8 (Petition at 1, ¶ 15).

The Department seeks comments on Liberty's request to terminate the HERs offering. Any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **March 1, 2021**.

All comments should be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and jeffrey.leupold@mass.gov. In addition, one copy of all comments should be emailed to the Company's attorneys, Danielle C. Winter, Esq., and Kerri A. Mahoney, Esq., at dwinter@keeganwerlin.com and kmahoney@keeganwerlin.com. The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 21-18); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; (3) a brief descriptive title of the document; and (4) the name, title, e-mail address, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. The file name should identify the document but should not exceed 50 characters in length. Importantly, all large files must be broken down into electronic files that do not exceed 20 MB.

On March 10, 2020, Governor Baker issued Executive Order No. 591, Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19, which required the closing of certain brick and mortar premises, including the Department's offices. Ordinarily, parties would follow Sections B.1 and B.4 of the Department's Standard Ground Rules regarding the filing of original paper versions (D.P.U. 15-184-A, App. 1 (March 4, 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 paper copies. To the extent a person wishes to submit comments in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission, as detailed above, is sufficient. 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.

The Company's filing and all related documents submitted to 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 "21-18"). A paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Company's offices or at the Department. To request materials in accessible formats (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format) for people with disabilities, contact the Department's ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov.

For further information regarding Liberty's filing or to request a paper copy of the filing, please contact the Company's attorneys, Danielle C. Winter, Esq., and Kerri A. Mahoney, Esq., at dwinter@keeganwerlin.com and kmahoney@keeganwerlin.com or (617) 951-1400. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Jeffrey Leupold, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at jeffrey.leupold@mass.gov.