



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 21-21

February 16, 2021

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corporation d/b/a Liberty for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2021 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2021, through October 31, 2021.

On February 1, 2021, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corporation d/b/a Liberty ("Company") filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") for approval of its revenue decoupling adjustment factors ("RDAFs"), for effect May 1, 2021. This filing was made pursuant to Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 15-75 (2016), and the Company's revenue decoupling adjustment clause ("RDAC") tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 1025H. The RDAC allows the Company to modify, on a semi-annual basis, its base distribution rates as a result of changes in customer usage, in order to promote the efficient deployment of demand resources. See NSTAR Gas Company, D.P.U. 14-150, at 22-23 (2015). The Department has docketed this petition as D.P.U. 21-21.

The Company proposes RDAF charges of \$0.0499 per therm for residential customers, \$0.0506 per therm for commercial and industrial ("C&I") low load factor customers, and \$0.0134 per therm for C&I high load factor customers, effective May 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021. As a result of the proposed changes to the RDAF, the average residential heating customer (customer class R-3) using on average 29 therms per month during the off-peak period will experience a bill increase of \$0.34 or 0.87 percent as compared to the previously effective off-peak period RDAF. The Company states that the average monthly bill impact for all rate classes at each class's average use during the off-peak period will range from increases of between 0.40 percent to 0.87 percent as compared to the previously effective off-peak period RDAF. For specific bill impacts, please contact the Company as shown below.

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. Any person who desires to comment on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **April 1, 2021**. To the extent a person wishes to submit comments in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission, as detailed below, is sufficient.

All written comments or other documents should be submitted to the Department in **PDF format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and stephanie.mealey@mass.gov. In addition, all written comments should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Ronald Ritchie, Esq., at r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket

number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 21-21); (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. Importantly, all large files must be broken down into electronic files that do not exceed 20MB.

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. 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)). However, due to the Commonwealth's state of emergency, 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 at the Department's website as soon as is practicable at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber> (enter "21-21"). A paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Company's offices or the Department due to the state of emergency. 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@state.ma.us.

Any person desiring further information regarding the Company's filing or a paper copy of the filing should contact the Company's attorney, Ronald Ritchie, Esq., at r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com or (774) 627-2910. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Stephanie Mealey, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at stephanie.mealey@mass.gov.