



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 21-GAF-O3

April 7, 2021

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. (Blackstone Service Area) d/b/a Liberty pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00 for approval of its 2021 off-peak gas adjustment factor filing, effective May 1, 2021.

On March 17, 2021, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. (Blackstone Service Area) d/b/a Liberty (“Company” or “Liberty”) filed with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) its off-peak gas adjustment factor (“GAF”) for its Blackstone service territory, pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00. The filing includes the Company’s off-peak GAF for effect May 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021, as well as the reconciliation of its 2020 off-peak period gas costs. The Department has docketed this petition as D.P.U. 21-GAF-O3.

The Company submitted a proposed off-peak GAF of \$0.4267 per therm. If the Department approves the Company’s GAF as proposed, a typical residential heating (R-3) customer will see an average increase of \$1.91 per month, or a 4.61 percent bill increase, compared to the 2020 off-peak period. For specific bill impacts, please contact the Company as shown below.

Liberty may, at any time during the off-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 filing may submit written comments no later than the close of business on Monday, April 19, 2021. 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 20 MB.

In addition, one copy of all written comments should be emailed to the Company’s attorney, R.J. Ritchie, Esq., at r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com.

All documents must be submitted to the Department in electronic format using the following method: by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@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. 21-GAF-03); (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>. 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) for people with disabilities contact Department's ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@state.ma.us or (617) 305-3500.

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 "21-GAF-03"). 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. Any person desiring further information regarding the Company's filing or a paper copy of the filing should contact R.J. Ritchie, Esq., at (774) 627-2910. For further information regarding this notice, please contact Katherine Lee Goyette, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at katherine.goyette@mass.gov.