



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 21-GAF-P6

September 2, 2021

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2021/22 local distribution adjustment factor and peak gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2021.

On August 3, 2021, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (“Company” or “Liberty”) 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”), remediation adjustment factor (“RAF”), attorney general consultant expense factor (“AGCEF”), energy efficiency surcharge (“EES”),<sup>1</sup> and pension adjustment factor (“PAF”). The proposed rates are for effect November 1, 2021. The Department has docketed this petition as D.P.U. 21-GAF-P6.

The tables below summarize the proposed rates in dollars per therm:

<b><u>Fall River/North Attleboro Service Area</u></b>		<b><u>Blackstone Service Area</u></b>		
<b><u>Rate Class</u></b>	<b><u>LDAF</u></b> <b><u>11/1/21</u></b>	<b><u>Rate Class</u></b>	<b><u>LDAF</u></b> <b><u>11/1/2021</u></b>	<b><u>LDAF<sup>2</sup></u></b> <b><u>1/1/2022</u></b>
Residential	\$0.5345	Residential	\$0.3636	\$0.3315
Low Load C&I	\$0.3038	Low Load C&I	\$0.1711	\$0.1745
High Load C&I	\$0.2351	High Load C&I	\$0.1302	\$0.1336

<sup>1</sup> The Company has proposed EESs for effect November 1<sup>st</sup> using the most recent estimate of its Three-Year Plan budget for program year 2022. The Department will review the proposed budgets during its investigation of the 2022-2024 Three-Year Plans, which must be filed on or before October 31, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> For the first two months of the peak period, customers in the Blackstone service area will be charged the National Grid EES approved by the Department in D.P.U. 21-GAF-P5. Liberty will roll the Blackstone service area into its existing energy efficiency program beginning January 1, 2022, the start of the 2022-2024 Three-Year Plan.

If the Department approves the Company's LDAFs as proposed, a typical residential heating customer in the Company's Blackstone service area will see an **average monthly bill increase of \$1.41, or 0.89 percent**, compared to the LDAF currently in effect, and a typical residential heating customer in the Company's Fall River and North Attleboro service area will see an **average monthly bill increase of \$18.52, or 10.46 percent**, compared to the LDAF 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") for both its Fall River and North Attleboro service area and its Blackstone service area, 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, 2021. Liberty 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 **September 17, 2021**. Any person interested in commenting on the **GAF** filing may submit written comments no later than the close of business on **Friday, October 1, 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. Due to certain ongoing safety measures and precautions put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as outlined in the June 15, 2021 Commission Memorandum continuing modified filing requirements, all filings should be submitted to the Department and parties by electronic means only, for the time being.

All documents should also be submitted to the Department in electronic format by e-mail attachment to [dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov) and the hearing officer, Katherine Lee Goyette at [katherine.goyette@mass.gov](mailto:katherine.goyette@mass.gov). The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 21-GAF-P6); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. The electronic file name should identify the document, but should not exceed 50 characters in length. 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, audio format), contact the Department's ADA coordinator at [DPUADACoordinator@state.ma.us](mailto: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 practicable at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber> (enter "21-GAF-P6"). 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 certain COVID-19 pandemic ongoing safety measures and precautions. Any person desiring further information regarding the Company's filing or a paper copy of the filing should contact R.J. Ritchie, Esq., at [r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com](mailto:r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com). For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Katherine Lee Goyette, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at [katherine.goyette@mass.gov](mailto:katherine.goyette@mass.gov).