



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 21-GSEP-04

November 10, 2021

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities for Approval of its 2022 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2022.

On October 29, 2021, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (“Liberty” or “Company”) submitted to the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) its calendar year 2022 gas system enhancement plan (“GSEP”) to replace aging natural gas pipeline infrastructure. Liberty states that its 2022 revenue requirement is \$15,472,486, which exceeds the 3.0 percent revenue cap by \$1,549,915; the Company is not seeking a waiver of the cap for 2022. Thus, the Company seeks approval to collect \$13,922,571 through the gas system enhancement adjustment factor (“GSEAF”) to recover the cost to replace eligible leak-prone infrastructure through the end of calendar year 2022 and proposes to defer recovery of \$1,549,915. The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 21-GSEP-04.

According to the Company, its proposed 2022 GSEP is consistent with the requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 145, which allows gas distribution companies to accelerate the replacement of eligible infrastructure to improve public safety or infrastructure reliability and to reduce or potentially reduce lost and unaccounted for natural gas. The Company states that approval of the proposed GSEAFs will result in a monthly bill increase of \$5.25 or 2.62 percent for the average residential heating customer using 122 therms per month during winter months, and a monthly bill increase of \$1.27 or 2.70 percent for the average residential heating customer using 29 therms per month during summer months. Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, on May 1, 2023, the Company will submit to the Department the amount recovered through the GSEAF for reconciliation with actual 2022 calendar year GSEP costs. The Company proposes that the following rates for each customer class take effect on May 1, 2022:

Rate Class Sector	Proposed GSEAF (\$/Therm)
Residential	\$0.2462
Commercial and Industrial (“C&I”) - Low Load Factor	\$0.1567
C&I - High Load Factor	\$0.1265

Due to certain ongoing safety measures and precautions relating to in-person events as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department is providing an extended written comment period and any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Tuesday, December 21, 2021. At this time, all filings will be submitted only in electronic format consistent with the Commission’s June 15, 2021 directive related to modified filing requirements. 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.

Any person who desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding must file a written petition for leave to intervene with the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Wednesday, November 24, 2021. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. All petitions for leave to intervene must be submitted by email only to [dpu-efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu-efiling@mass.gov), [carol.pieper@mass.gov](mailto:carol.pieper@mass.gov), and the Company’s attorney at [mstern@keeganwerlin.com](mailto:mstern@keeganwerlin.com). Receipt by the Department, not mailing, constitutes filing and determines whether a petition has been timely filed. A petition filed late may be disallowed as untimely, unless good cause is shown for waiver under 220 CMR 1.01(4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 CMR 1.03(1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10. All responses to petitions to intervene must be filed by email by the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the second business day after the petition to intervene was filed. The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts filed a notice to intervene in this matter pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(a).

Documents provided to the Department must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 21-GSEP-04); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; (3) a brief descriptive title of the document; and (4) the name, title, email address, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing.

The Company’s filing and all related documents submitted to the Department or issued by the Department will be available on the Department’s website as soon as is practicable at <https://eeonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber> (enter “21-GSEP-04”). A paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Company’s offices or

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](mailto:DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov).

Any person desiring further information regarding the Company's filing or a paper copy of the filing should contact the Company's attorney, Matthew S. Stern, Esq. at [mstern@keeganwerlin.com](mailto:mstern@keeganwerlin.com). For further information regarding this notice, please contact Carol Pieper, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at [carol.pieper@mass.gov](mailto:carol.pieper@mass.gov).