



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 22-PGAF-LIB

August 17, 2022

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 2022/23 local distribution adjustment factor and peak gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2022.

On August 3, 2022, 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”), and pension adjustment factor (“PAF”). The proposed rates are for effect November 1, 2022. The Department has docketed this petition as D.P.U. 22-PGAF-LIB.

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

<u>Fall River/North Attleboro Service Area</u>		<u>Blackstone Service Area</u>	
<u>Rate Class</u>	<u>LDAF</u>	<u>Rate Class</u>	<u>LDAF</u>
Residential	\$0.6447	Residential	\$0.3985
Low Load C&I	\$0.3463	Low Load C&I	\$0.1896
High Load C&I	\$0.2474	High Load C&I	\$0.1209

If the Department approves the Company’s LDAFs as proposed, a typical residential heating customer in the Company’s Fall River and North Attleboro service area will see an **average monthly bill increase of \$2.80, or 1.13 percent** compared to the LDAF currently in effect, and a typical residential heating customer in the Company’s Blackstone service area will see an **average monthly bill increase of \$1.64, or 0.67 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 16, 2022. 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 16, 2022**. Any person interested in commenting on the **GAF** filing may submit written comments no later than the close of business on **Friday, September 30, 2022**. 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.

All written comments or other documents should be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to [dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov) and the hearing officer, Christine Dowling at [christine.dowling2@mass.gov](mailto:christine.dowling2@mass.gov). In addition, all written comments should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Ronald Ritchie, Esq., at [r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com](mailto:r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com). The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 22-PGAF-LIB); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic file name should identify the document but should not exceed 50 characters in length. Importantly, all large files submitted must be broken down into electronic files that do not exceed 20 MB. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "22-PGAF-LIB") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fleroom/dockets/bynumber>.

At this time, a paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Company's offices or the Department due to certain ongoing safety measures and precautions relating to in-person events as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 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 referenced above as soon as is practicable. 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 for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA coordinator at [DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov](mailto:DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov).

For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's attorney, Ronald Ritchie, Esq., at [r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com](mailto:r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com). For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Christine Dowling, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at [christine.dowling2@mass.gov](mailto:christine.dowling2@mass.gov).