



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 22-99

September 12, 2022

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for approval of its annual pension adjustment factor reconciliation filing for effect November 1, 2022.

On August 3, 2022, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (“Company”) filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) for approval of its annual pension and post-retirement benefits other than pensions (“PBOP”) adjustment factors (“PAFs”). The Company has made this filing pursuant to New England Natural Gas Company, D.P.U. 07-46 (2007); Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 15-75 (2015); and M.D.P.U. No. 1002P. The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 22-99. In a separate filing, the Company is proposing other changes to its rates effective November 1, 2022, that may also have an impact on customers’ bills. See Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 22-PGAF-LIB.

The Company proposes the following PAFs, effective on and after November 1, 2022, and included for billing purposes in the Company’s local distribution adjustment factor

Rate Classes	PAF (per therm)
Residential (R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, T-3, and T-5)	\$0.0637
Commercial/Industrial (Low Load) (G-41, G-42, G-43, T-1, T-42, and T-43)	\$0.0380
Commercial/Industrial (High Load) (G-51, G-52, G-53, T-51, T-52, and T-53)	\$0.0193

The Company proposes a PAF revenue requirement of \$3,604,408, which is a decrease of \$117,420 from its current PAF revenue requirement. As a result of the proposed changes to the PAF, the average residential heating customer using on average 122 therms per month during the peak period will experience a bill decrease of \$0.38, or 0.15 percent, and a bill decrease of \$0.09, or 0.14 percent using on average 29 therms per month during the off-peak period. The average residential non-heating customer using 15 therms per month during the peak period will experience a bill decrease of \$0.05, or 0.11 percent, and an average monthly bill decrease of

\$0.03, or 0.10 percent using on average 11 therms per month during the off- peak period. For specific bill impacts, please contact the Company as shown below.

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 **Monday, October 3, 2022**. At this time, all filings should 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 [katherine.e.stock@mass.gov](mailto:katherine.e.stock@mass.gov). In addition, all written comments should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Ronald Ritchie, 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. 22-99); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. 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. 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 "22-99") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/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 at [r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com](mailto:r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com) or (774) 320-5801. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Katherine Stock, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at [katherine.e.stock@mass.gov](mailto:katherine.e.stock@mass.gov).