



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND PROCEDURAL CONFERENCE

D.P.U. 18-GREC-04

May 8, 2018

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for review and approval of the reconciliation of its 2017 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factor.

On May 1, 2018, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (“Liberty” or “Company”) submitted to the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) a reconciliation of its 2017 gas system enhancement plan (“GSEP”) to replace aging natural gas pipeline infrastructure. Based on Liberty’s reconciliation, the Company proposes to collect \$904,837 from ratepayers as an under-recovery through the gas system enhancement reconciliation adjustment factor (“GSERAF”) from November 1, 2018, to October 31, 2019. Liberty states that the proposed GSERAF revenue requirement exceeds the 1.5 percent revenue cap by \$904,837, and seeks a waiver of the cap. The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 18-GREC-04.

Liberty states that approval of the GSERAF will result in an average monthly bill increase of \$2.02, or 1.49 percent for the average residential heating customer using 122 therms per month during winter months, and an average monthly bill increase of \$0.48, or 1.28 percent for the average residential heating customer using 29 therms per month during summer months.

The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (“Attorney General”) filed a notice to intervene in this matter pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(a). Further, pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), the Attorney General filed a notice of intent to retain experts and consultants to assist her investigation of the Company’s filing, and has requested Department approval to spend up to \$150,000 in this regard. Pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), the costs incurred by the Attorney General relative to her retention of experts and consultants may be recovered in the Company’s rates. Any person who desires to comment on the Attorney General’s notice of intent to retain experts and consultants in this matter may submit written comments to the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Thursday, May 24, 2018**.

The Department will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on Liberty's petition. The hearing will take place on **Thursday, May 31, 2018, at 2:00 p.m.**, at the Department's offices, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110. A procedural conference will take place immediately following the public hearing. Any person who desires to comment may do so at the time and place noted above, or submit written comments to the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Thursday, May 31, 2018**.

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 **Thursday, May 24, 2018**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. 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 the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the second business day after the petition to intervene was filed.

An original and one (1) copy of all written comments or petitions to intervene must be filed with Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110, not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the dates noted above. One copy of all written comments or petitions to intervene should also be sent to the Company's attorney, John K. Habib, Esq., Keegan Werlin LLP, 265 Franklin Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110.

In addition to paper filings, all documents should also be submitted to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@state.ma.us and to Laurie Ellen Weisman, Hearing Officer, laurie.e.weisman@state.ma.us or (2) on a CD-ROM. The text of the e-mail or CD-ROM must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding D.P.U. 18-GREC-04; (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. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website: <http://web1.env.state.ma.us/DPU/FileRoom/dockets/bynumber> (enter "18-GREC-04").

Copies of the Company's petition and accompanying exhibits, this Notice, and the Attorney General's notice of intent to retain experts and consultants are on file at the Department's offices, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110, for public viewing during business hours, and on the Department's website. 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@state.ma.us or 617-305-3642. Any person desiring further information regarding Liberty's petition should contact counsel for the Company, John K. Habib at 617-951-1400. Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact Laurie Ellen Weisman, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at 617-305-3721.

Reasonable accommodations at public or evidentiary hearings for people with disabilities are available on request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need, including as much detail as you can. Also include a way the Department can contact you if we need more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible. Last minute requests will be accepted, but may not be able to be accommodated. Contact the Department's ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@state.ma.us or 617-305-3642.