



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 24-GREC-04

May 10, 2024

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for Review and Approval of the Reconciliation of its 2023 Gas System Enhancement Plan and Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.

On May 1, 2024, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (“Liberty” or “Company”) submitted to the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) a reconciliation of its 2023 gas system enhancement plan (“GSEP”) to replace or repair aging natural gas pipeline infrastructure. The Company calculated that it will need to collect \$26,489,401 from ratepayers as under-recoveries through the gas system enhancement reconciliation adjustment factors (“GSERAFs”). The Company states that its entire under-recovery balance exceeds the three-percent cap, and the Company requests that the Department approve the proposed revenue requirement and defer recovery through the GSEP in future years or under traditional ratemaking in the Company’s next base distribution rate case. The Department has docketed this petition as D.P.U. 24-GREC-04.

Because the Company is not proposing a waiver of the cap, its GSERAFs for effect November 1, 2024, will be \$0.00 for all rate class sectors.

The Department is providing a 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 Friday, June 14, 2024. Written comments from the public may be sent by email to dpu.efiling@mass.gov, carol.pieper@mass.gov, and the Company’s attorney, Kevin F. Penders, at kpenders@keeganwerlin.com. Please note that in the interest of transparency any comments will be posted to our website as received and without redacting personal information, such as addresses, telephone numbers, or email addresses. As such, consider the extent of information you wish to share when submitting comments. The Department strongly encourages public comments to be submitted by email. If, however, a member of the public is unable to send written comments by email, a paper copy may be sent to Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 3rd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110.

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 Tuesday, May 28, 2024. 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, carol.pieper@mass.gov, and the Company’s

attorney at kpenders@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.

On May 6, 2024, 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. The costs incurred by the Attorney General relative to her retention of experts and consultants may be recovered in the Company’s rates. Any party who desires to comment on the Attorney General’s notice of intent to retain experts and consultants may submit written comments to the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

Documents provided to the Department must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 24-GREC-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://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber> (enter “24-GREC-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 Andrea.R.Casul@mass.gov.

For further information regarding the Company’s filing, please contact the Company’s attorney at kpenders@keeganwerlin.com. For further information regarding this notice, please contact Carol Pieper, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at carol.pieper@mass.gov.