



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 20-GREC-04

May 11, 2020

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for Approval of the Reconciliation of its 2019 Gas System Enhancement Plan and Review and Approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.

On May 1, 2020, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (“Liberty Utilities” or “Company”) submitted to the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) a reconciliation of its 2019 gas system enhancement plan (“GSEP”) to replace aging natural gas pipeline infrastructure. Based on the Company’s calculations, it proposes to collect \$2,000,782 from ratepayers as under-recoveries through the gas system enhancement reconciliation adjustment factors (“GSERAFs”) from November 1, 2020 to October 31, 2021. The Company states that its proposed revenue requirement exceeds the allowed 3.0-percent GSEP cap and it seeks a waiver of the cap to collect the entire \$2,000,782. The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 20-GREC-04.

The Company proposes the following GSERAFs by rate class sector for effect November 1, 2020:

Rate Class Sector	Proposed GSERAF (\$/Therm)
Residential	\$0.0355
Commercial and Industrial (“C&I”) - Low Load Factor	\$0.0228
C&I - High Load Factor	\$0.0172

The Company states that approval of the GSERAFs will result in an average monthly bill decrease of \$0.01 for the average residential heating customer using 122 therms per

month during winter months. The average residential heating customer using 29 therms per month during summer months will see no impact.

On March 10, 2020, Governor Baker issued Executive Order No. 591, Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19, which required the closing of certain brick and mortar premises, including the Department's offices, and limited gatherings of more than ten people. Because of the State of Emergency, in lieu of a public hearing and to allow for public participation, 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 Monday, June 22, 2020. Written comments from the public may be sent by email to [peter.ray@mass.gov](mailto:peter.ray@mass.gov), [carol.pieper@mass.gov](mailto:carol.pieper@mass.gov), and the Company's attorney, John K. Habib, at [jhabib@keeganwerlin.com](mailto:jhabib@keeganwerlin.com). 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, 5th 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 Thursday, May 28, 2020. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. Because the State of Emergency limits access to the Department's office, all petitions for leave to intervene must be submitted by email only to [peter.ray@mass.gov](mailto:peter.ray@mass.gov), [carol.pieper@mass.gov](mailto:carol.pieper@mass.gov), and the Company's attorney at [jhabib@keeganwerlin.com](mailto:jhabib@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. 20-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 "20-GREC-04"). A paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Company's offices or the Department due to the State of Emergency. 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@state.ma.us](mailto:DPUADACoordinator@state.ma.us).

Any person desiring further information regarding the Company's filing or a paper copy of the filing should contact counsel for the Company, John K. Habib, at 617-951-1400 or [jhabib@keeganwerlin.com](mailto:jhabib@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).