



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 24-GSEP-04

November 12, 2024

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for Approval of its 2025 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2025.

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On October 31, 2024, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (“Liberty” or “Company”) submitted to the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) its 2025 gas system enhancement plan (“GSEP”) to replace aging natural gas pipeline infrastructure. Liberty states that its 2025 revenue requirement is \$27,686,698, which exceeds the three-percent revenue cap by \$4,936,534. The Company seeks approval to collect \$22,750,164 through the gas system enhancement adjustment factors (“GSEAFs”) to recover the cost to replace eligible leak-prone infrastructure through the end of calendar year 2025 and proposes to defer recovery of \$4,936,534. The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 24-GSEP-04.

According to the Company, its proposed 2025 GSEP is consistent with the requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 145, which allows gas distribution companies to accelerate the replacement of eligible infrastructure to improve public safety or infrastructure reliability and to reduce or potentially reduce lost and unaccounted for natural gas. The Company states that approval of the proposed GSEAFs will result in a monthly bill increase of \$11.65 or 6.43 percent for the average residential heating customer using 122 therms per month during winter months, and a monthly bill increase of \$2.82 or 6.90 percent for the average residential heating customer using 29 therms per month during summer months. Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, on May 1, 2026, the Company will submit to the Department the amount recovered through the GSEAF for reconciliation with actual 2025 calendar year GSEP costs.

The Company proposes that the following rates for each customer class take effect on May 1, 2025:

Rate Class Sector	Proposed GSEAF (\$/Therm)
Residential	\$0.3862
Commercial and Industrial (“C&I”) – Low Load Factor	\$0.2539
C&I – High Load Factor	\$0.2020

Any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Thursday, December 19, 2024. Written comments from the public may be sent by email to [dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov), [carol.pieper@mass.gov](mailto:carol.pieper@mass.gov), and the Company’s attorney, [kpenders@keeganwerlin.com](mailto: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, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110.

Any person who desires to participate otherwise in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall file a petition for leave to intervene no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. Receipt by the Department 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.

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. 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 may submit written comments to the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Wednesday, November 20, 2024.

All documents should be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by email attachment to [dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov) and [carol.pieper@mass.gov](mailto:carol.pieper@mass.gov). The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 24-GSEP-04); (2) the name of the person or company

submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "24-GSEP-04") at:

<https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>. In addition, one copy of all written comments and petitions to intervene should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Kevin F. Penders, [kpenders@keeganwerlin.com](mailto:kpenders@keeganwerlin.com).

The filing and all subsequent related documents submitted to the Department 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 or intervene 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 [eeadiversity@mass.gov](mailto:eeadiversity@mass.gov) or (617) 626-1282.

For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's attorney identified above. 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).