
On May 15, 2020, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (“Company”) filed its 2020 gas Emergency Response Plan (“ERP”) with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”). This filing was made pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1). The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 20-ERP-06. The purpose of ERPs is to ensure that each gas company is adequately and sufficiently prepared to restore service to its customers in a safe and reasonably prompt manner during an emergency event. 220 CMR 19.00 et seq.

Any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on June 30, 2020. At this time, all filings will be submitted only in electronic format in recognition of the difficulty that parties and the Department may have filing and receiving original copies. On March 10, 2020, Governor Baker issued a state of emergency related to COVID-19 for the entire Commonwealth. 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. Importantly, all large files submitted must be broken down into electronic files that do not exceed 20 MB.

All documents must be submitted to the Department in pdf format by e-mail attachment to peter.ray@mass.gov and Lauren.Morris@mass.gov. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 20-ERP-06); (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 as soon as practicable at http://www.mass.gov/dpu. 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 (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format) for people with disabilities contact Department’s ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@state.ma.us.
The Company’s 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 soon as is practicable at https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber (insert 20-ERP-06). 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. Any person desiring further information regarding the Company’s filing or a paper copy of the filing should contact Ronald Ritchie, Esq., at 774-627-2910 or r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com. For further information regarding this notice, please contact Lauren Morris, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at lauren.morris@mass.gov.