

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 24-89

July 19, 2024

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for Approval of a Mid-Term Modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan.

On June 11, 2024, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty ("Company") filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") seeking approval of a mid-term modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan ("Three-Year Plan"), which was filed in D.P.U. 21-123 and approved by the Department in 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plans, D.P.U. 21-120 through D.P.U. 21-129 (2022). The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 24-89.

The Company proposes to modify its Three-Year Plan to increase its Department-approved energy efficiency budget in the Income-Eligible sector. Specifically, the Company seeks to increase the budget for its Income-Eligible Existing Buildings program by \$1,136,000 (or 20 percent). The Company maintains that the proposed increase is driven by unexpected growth in single family (1-4 units) projects. The Company states that it will use the increased budget to continue to fund all services under the Income-Eligible Existing Buildings program. On January 31, 2024, the Department approved a settlement of a prior mid-term modification request that increased the Company's energy budgets for the Residential, Income-Eligible, and Commercial and Industrial ("C&I") sectors. Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 23-91, Stamp-Approved Settlement Agreement.

If the Department approves the budget increase as proposed for this latest mid-term modification, the Company states that customers will experience the following additional bill impacts:

- Residential heating (R-3) customers in the Fall River/North Attleboro service area using 122 therms of gas per month in the winter will experience a monthly bill increase of \$2.03 (or 0.84 percent).
- Residential low-income (R-4) heating customers in the Fall River/North Attleboro service area using 110 therms of gas per month in the winter will experience a monthly bill increase of \$1.38 (or 0.84 percent).

- Residential heating (R-3) customers in the Blackstone service area using 122 therms of gas per month in the winter will experience a monthly bill increase of \$2.03 (or 0.82 percent).
- Residential low-income heating (R-4) customers in the Blackstone service area using 110 therms of gas per month in the winter will experience a monthly bill increase of \$1.38 (or 0.82 percent).
- Bill impacts for C&I customers will vary. These customers should contact the Company for specific bill impact information.

The Department will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the Company's petition on **Tuesday, August 6, 2024, beginning at 2:00 p.m.** The hearing will be virtual and use Zoom videoconferencing. Attendees can join the public meeting by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82616248745>, from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only access to the public hearing, attendees can dial in at **(646) 558-8656 or (309) 205-3325 (not toll free)** and then enter the **Meeting ID# 826 1624 8745**. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, please send an email by **Friday, August 2, 2024**, to elizabeth.c.mcnamara@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address.

Any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Tuesday, August 6, 2024**. 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. Therefore, consider the extent of information you wish to share when submitting comments. The Department strongly encourages public comments to be submitted by email using the methods described below. 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.

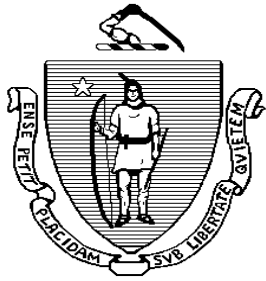
Any person who desires to participate otherwise in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall file a petition for leave to intervene no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, August 2, 2024**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. Receipt 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.

To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments or a petition to intervene in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission is sufficient. All documents must be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and elizabeth.c.mcnamara@mass.gov. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 24-89); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. In addition, a copy of all comments or petitions to

intervene should be sent to the Company's attorneys, Molly Karg Agostinelli, Esq., at magostinelli@keeganwerlin.com, and Kevin Penders, Esq., at kpenders@keeganwerlin.com. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "24-89") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>.

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), 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 attorneys, identified above. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Elizabeth McNamara, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at elizabeth.c.mcnamara@mass.gov.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

ORDER OF NOTICE

D.P.U. 24-89

July 19, 2024

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for Approval of a Mid-Term Modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan.

Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (“Company”) is required to publish the attached Notice of Public Hearing, and Request for Comments (“Notice”) no later than **July 25, 2024**, in either the Boston Globe or the Boston Herald.

The Company is required serve a copy of the attached Notice no later than **July 23, 2024** on: (1) the service lists in Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 23-91, Stamp-Approved Settlement Agreement (January 31, 2024) and Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 21-123; (2) the members of the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council; (3) the Mayor, Select Board Chair, Town Clerk, and City Clerk, as applicable, for each municipality in its service territory; and (4) on any person who has asked to be notified by the Company. The Company’s service may be by electronic distribution, which the Department finds reasonable and consistent with the public interest.

Finally, the Company shall prominently display the Notice on its website from three business days following receipt of the notice from the Department through the end of the comment period.

The Company shall make return of service and proof of publication (including evidence of the required website posting) no later than **August 2, 2024**.

By Order of the Department,

Mark D. Marini, Secretary