

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 24-120

August 28, 2024

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2024 Peak Period, November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025.

On August 2, 2024, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities (“Company”) filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors (“RDAFs”) for the 2024 peak period, November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025. This filing was made pursuant to: Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 18-15-E (2019); and the Company’s revenue decoupling adjustment clause (“RDAC”) tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 1025H. The Department has docketed this petition as D.P.U. 24-120.

In 2008, the Department instituted revenue decoupling by establishing a mechanism through the Company’s RDAC that allows the Company to modify, on a semi-annual basis, its base distribution rates as a result of changes in customer usage. Revenue decoupling severs the link between sales and revenues, and instead provides gas and electric utility companies with a target revenue level, thus removing a disincentive to implement energy efficiency and demand reduction programs that encourage customers to lower energy usage and demand. See generally Revenue Decoupling, D.P.U. 07-50-A (2008); see also Bay State Gas Company, D.P.U. 09-30, at 25-27 (2009) (describing rate setting pursuant to RDAC).

The Company proposes the following RDAF charges effective November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025, as compared to the currently effective peak period RDAFs:

Customer Class	Proposed 2024-2025 Peak RDAFs (\$/therm)	2023-2024 Peak RDAFs (\$/therm)	Decrease (\$/therm)
R-1, R-2	0.0380	0.0536	(0.0156)
R-3, R-4	0.0380	0.0536	(0.0156)
G41, G-42, and G-43	0.0291	0.0406	(0.0115)
G-51, G-52, and G-53	0.0279	0.0390	(0.0111)

If the Department approves the changes to the RDAFs as proposed, customers will experience the following bill impacts:

- average Fall River and North Attleboro Residential Heating customers (R-3) using on average 122 therms per month during the peak period will experience a decrease of approximately \$1.90 per month (or 1.05 percent);
- average Blackstone Residential Heating customers (R-3) using on average 117 therms per month during the peak period will experience a decrease of approximately \$1.83 per month (or 1.29 percent);
- average Fall River and North Attleboro Residential Non-Heating customers (R-1) using on average 15 therms per month during the peak period will experience a decrease of approximately \$0.23 per month (or 0.69 percent);
- average Blackstone Residential Non-Heating customers (R-1) using on average 19 therms per month during the peak period will experience a decrease of approximately \$0.30 per month (or 0.91 percent); and
- C&I customers will experience bill decreases ranging on average from 0.88 percent to 1.14 percent.

For specific bill impacts, please contact the Company as shown below.

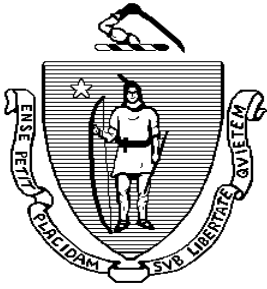
Any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Friday, September 20, 2024**. Please note that, in the interest of transparency, any comments will be posted to our website as received and without redacting personal information 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, September 13, 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. 24-120); (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 attorney, Ronald Ritchie, Esq., at r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.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 "24-120") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>.

For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's attorney, Ronald Ritchie, Esq., at r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Elizabeth McNamara, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at elizabeth.c.mcnamara@mass.gov.



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ORDER OF NOTICE

D.P.U. 24-120

August 28, 2024

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Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities (“Company”) is required to serve a copy of the attached Notice of Filing and Request for Comments no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, September 4, 2024** on the service lists in: (1) Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 24-24 (April 30, 2024); (2) Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 23-82 (2023); and (3) on any person who has asked to be notified by the Company. Such 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 on September 20, 2024.

The Company shall make return of service no later than 5:00 p.m. on **September 19, 2024**.

By Order of the Department,

/s/

Mark D. Marini, Secretary