



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 25-15

February 18, 2025

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2025 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025.

On January 31, 2025, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (“Company”) filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) for approval of its off-peak revenue decoupling adjustment factors (“RDAFs”), for effect May 1, 2025. This filing was made pursuant to the Company’s revenue decoupling adjustment clause (“RDAC”) tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 1025H. In 2008, the Department developed revenue decoupling by establishing a mechanism through the 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 the disincentive of implementation of 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 D.P.U. 09-30, at 25-26, 87. The Department has docketed this petition as D.P.U. 25-15.

The Company proposes the following RDAF charges effective May 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025:

Customer Class	Proposed RDAF (\$ per therm)	Current Off-Peak RDAF (\$ per therm)	Change (\$ per therm)
Residential R-1 and R-2	0.0460	0.0392	0.0068
Residential R-3 and R-4	0.0460	0.0392	0.0068
G-41, G-42, and G-43	0.0513	0.0437	0.0076
G-51, G-52, and G-53	0.0124	0.0106	0.0018

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

- a residential non-heating customer in the Fall River and North Attleboro service area (R-1) using an average of 11 therms per month during the off-peak period will

experience a bill increase of \$0.07 (or 0.26 percent) from the previously effective off-peak period RDAF;

- a residential heating customer in the Fall River and North Attleboro service area (R-3) using an average of 29 therms per month during the off-peak period will experience a bill increase of \$0.20 (or 0.38 percent) from the previously effective off-peak period RDAF;
- a residential non-heating customer in the Blackstone service area (R-1) using an average of 16 therms per month during the off-peak period will experience a bill increase of \$0.11 (or 0.35 percent) from the previously effective off-peak period RDAF;
- a residential heating customer in the Blackstone service area (R-3) using an average of 25 therms per month during the off-peak period will experience a bill increase of \$0.17 (or 0.41 percent) from the previously effective off-peak period RDAF;
- average bill impacts for Commercial and Industrial customers on basic service will range between an increase of 0.16 percent to 0.83 percent, depending on rate class and average use.

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 **March 26, 2025**. 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 **March 12, 2025**. 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. 25-15); (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 J. 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 "25-15") 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 eeadiversity@mass.gov or 617-626-1282. For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's attorney, Ronald J. 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.