

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 24-121

October 1, 2024

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities for approval of its annual pension adjustment factor rate adjustment and reconciliation filing for effect November 1, 2024.

On August 2, 2024, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities (“Company”) filed its annual pension and post-retirement benefits other than pensions factor (“PAF”) rate adjustment and reconciliation filing with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) for effect November 1, 2024. The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 24-121.

The PAF is a component of the Company’s Local Distribution Adjustment Factor (“LDAF”), pursuant to its Local Distribution Adjustment Clause tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 1002V. The Company’s proposed LDAF for effect November 1, 2024, is currently under review in Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 24-PGAF-LIB.

The Company proposes the following PAFs for effect November 1, 2024:

Rate Class	PAF (per therm)
Residential	(\$0.0436)
Low Load Factor C&I	(\$0.0261)
High Load Factor C&I	(\$0.0148)

Through its 2024 PAFs, the Company proposes a total credit to customers of \$2,513,669. However, because this credit is lower than the total credit distributed to customers through the 2023 PAFs (see Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 23-83), customers will experience overall bill increases. If the Department approves the Company’s PAFs as proposed, the Company states that customers will experience the following bill impacts:

For customers in the Fall River and North Attleboro service areas:

- an average residential heating customer (R-3) using 122 therms per month during the peak period (i.e., November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025) will experience an average monthly bill increase of \$17.17, or 9.46 percent;

- an average residential heating customer (R-3) using 29 therms per month during the off-peak period (i.e., May 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025) will experience an average monthly bill increase of \$4.15, or 7.8 percent;
- an average residential non-heating customer (R-1) using 15 therms per month during the peak period (i.e., November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025) will experience an average monthly bill increase of \$2.06, or 6.28 percent;
- an average residential non-heating customer (R-1) using 11 therms per month during the off-peak period (i.e., May 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025) will experience an average monthly bill increase of \$1.48, or 5.35 percent;
- an average low-income heating customer (R-4) using 110 therms per month during the peak period (i.e., November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025) will experience an average monthly bill increase of \$11.67, or 9.41 percent;
- an average low-income heating customer (R-4) using 28 therms per month during the off-peak period (i.e., November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025) will experience an average monthly bill increase of \$2.91, or 7.68 percent;
- an average low-income non-heating customer (R-2) using 15 therms per month during the peak period (i.e., November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025) will experience an average monthly bill increase of \$1.55, or 6.28 percent; and
- an average low-income heating customer (R-2) using 11 therms per month during the off-peak period (i.e., November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025) will experience an average monthly bill increase of \$1.11, or 5.35 percent; and
- C&I bill increases will vary. For specific bill impacts, these customers should contact the Company as shown below.

For customers in the Blackstone service area:

- an average residential heating customer (R-3) using 117 therms per month during the peak period (i.e., November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025) will experience an average monthly bill increase of \$16.56, or 12.68 percent;
- an average residential heating customer (R-3) using 25 therms per month during the off-peak period (i.e., May 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025) will experience an average monthly bill increase of \$3.54, or 7.8 percent;
- an average residential non-heating customer (R-1) using 19 therms per month during the peak period (i.e., November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025) will experience an average monthly bill increase of \$2.72, or 8.2 percent;

- an average residential non-heating customer (R-1) using 16 therms per month during the off-peak period (i.e., May 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025) will experience an average monthly bill increase of \$2.29, or 6.41 percent;
- an average low-income heating customer (R-4) using 116 therms per month during the peak period (i.e., November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025) will experience an average monthly bill increase of \$12.27, or 12.67% percent;
- an average low-income heating customer (R-4) using 25 therms per month during the off-peak period (i.e., November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025) will experience an average monthly bill increase of \$2.61, or 7.77 percent;
- an average low-income non-heating customer (R-2) using 28 therms per month during the peak period (i.e., November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025) will experience an average monthly bill increase of \$3.00, or 9.21 percent;
- an average low-income non-heating customer (R-2) using 29 therms per month during the off-peak period (i.e., November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025) will experience an average monthly bill increase of \$3.11 or 7.48 percent; and
- C&I bill increases will vary. For specific bill impacts, these customers should contact the Company as shown below.

The Company has proposed other changes to its rates effective November 1, 2024 in D.P.U. 24-PGAF-LIB, which will also have an impact on customers' bills.

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, October 15, 2024**. Written comments from the public may be sent by email to dpu.efiling@mass.gov, katherine.e.stock@mass.gov, and the Company's attorney, Ronald Ritchie, Esq., at r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.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.

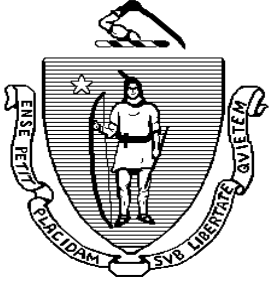
Any person who desires to participate otherwise in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall file a petition for leave to intervene no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, October 15, 2024**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. Receipt 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 should be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by email attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and katherine.e.stock@mass.gov. In addition, one copy of all written comments and petitions to intervene should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Ronald Ritchie, Esq., at r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com. The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 24-121); (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 "24-121") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Flerom/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 eadiversity@mass.gov.

For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's attorney, identified above. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Katherine Stock, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at katherine.e.stock@mass.gov.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

ORDER OF NOTICE

D.P.U. 24-121

October 1, 2024

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities for approval of its annual pension adjustment factor rate adjustment and reconciliation filing for effect November 1, 2024.

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. (“Company”) is required to serve a copy of the attached Notice of Filing and Request for Comments (“Notice”) no later than **Friday, October 4, 2024** as follows: (1) on the service lists in Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 23-PGAF-LIB; Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 23-83; and Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 15-75; and (2) 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.

The Company shall prominently display the Notice on its website from three business days following the receipt of Notice from the Department through the end of the comment period. The Company shall make return of service and proof of website posting at the close of the comment period.

By Order of the Department,

/s/

Mark D. Marini, Secretary