

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 25-116

September 3, 2025

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 2025 Peak Period, November 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026.

On August 1, 2025, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities ("Company") filed with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors ("RDAFs") for the 2025 peak period, November 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026. This filing is made in compliance with Department Orders in D.P.U. 15-75, D.P.U. 17-93-A, D.P.U. 18-15-E, D.P.U. 21-RDAF-01 and the Company's revenue decoupling adjustment clause ("RDAC") tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 1025H. On August 20, 2025, the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("Attorney General") filed a notice to intervene in this matter pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E. The Department has docketed this petition as D.P.U. 25-116.

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).

Absent the Company's proposed waiver of the revenue recovery cap described below, the following RDAF charges would be proposed by the Company effective November 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026, as compared to the currently effective peak period RDAFs:

Customer Class	Proposed 2025-2026 Peak RDAFs (\$/therm)	2024-2025 Peak RDAFs (\$/therm)	Increase (\$/therm)
R-1, R-2	\$0.0545	\$0.0380	\$0.0165
R-3, R-4	\$0.0545	\$0.0380	\$0.0165
G-41, G-42, and G-43	\$0.0422	\$0.0291	\$0.0131
G-51, G-52, and G-53	\$0.0406	\$0.0279	\$0.0127

If the Department denies the waiver of the revenue recovery cap and approves the RDAFs stated above, customers will experience the following bill impacts:

- an average Fall River and North Attleboro Residential Heating customer (R-3) using on average 122 therms per month during the peak period will experience an increase of approximately \$2.01 per month (or 0.83 percent);
- an average Blackstone Residential Heating customer (R-3) using on average 117 therms per month during the peak period will experience an increase of approximately \$1.94 per month (or 1.04 percent);
- an average Fall River and North Attleboro Residential Non-Heating customer (R-1) using on average 15 therms per month during the peak period will experience an increase of approximately \$0.24 per month (or 0.60 percent);
- an average Blackstone Residential Non-Heating customer (R-1) using on average 19 therms per month during the peak period will experience an increase of approximately \$0.32 per month (or 0.77 percent); and
- Commercial and Industrial (“C&I”) customers will experience bill increases ranging on average from 0.77 percent to 1.05 percent.

Pursuant to the RDAC tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 1025H, RDAFs are subject to a three percent revenue recovery cap. The waiver exceeds the revenue cap amount by \$2,137,268 or 77.56 percent. Should the Department agree to waive the peak RDAF recovery cap, the Company proposes the following RDAF charges effective November 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026:

<b>Customer Class</b>	<b>Proposed 2025-2026 Peak RDAFs (\$/therm)</b>	<b>2024-2025 Peak RDAFs (\$/therm)</b>	<b>Increase (\$/therm)</b>
<b>R-1, R-2</b>	\$0.0968	\$0.0380	\$0.0588
<b>R-3, R-4</b>	\$0.0968	\$0.0380	\$0.0588
<b>G-41, G-42, and G-43</b>	\$0.0750	\$0.0291	\$0.0459
<b>G-51, G-52, and G-53</b>	\$0.0721	\$0.0279	\$0.0442

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

- an average Fall River and North Attleboro Residential Heating customer (R-3) using on average 122 therms per month during the peak period will experience an increase of approximately \$7.16 per month (or 2.94 percent);
- an average Blackstone Residential Heating customer (R-3) using on average 117 therms per month during the peak period will experience an increase of approximately \$6.90 per month (or 3.71 percent);

- an average Fall River and North Attleboro Residential Non-Heating customer (R-1) using on average 15 therms per month during the peak period will experience an increase of approximately \$0.86 per month (or 2.14 percent);
- an average Blackstone Residential Non-Heating customer (R-1) using on average 19 therms per month during the peak period will experience an increase of approximately \$1.13 per month (or 2.74 percent); and
- C&I customers will experience bill increases ranging on average from 2.71 percent to 3.66 percent.

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

Any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments to the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Friday, September 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. 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 otherwise desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall file a petition for leave to intervene no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, September 17, 2025**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. Receipt by the Department, not mailing, 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.

All documents should be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to [dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov) and [lauren.macarthur@mass.gov](mailto:lauren.macarthur@mass.gov). The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 25-116); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic file name should identify the document but should not exceed 50 characters in length. Importantly, all large files submitted must be broken down into electronic files that do not exceed 20 MB. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "25-116") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>. 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](mailto:r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com).

The filing and all subsequent related documents submitted to the Department or issued by the Department will be available on the Department's website as referenced above as soon as is practicable. To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments or intervene in

accordance with this Notice, electronic submission, as detailed above, is sufficient. 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](mailto:eeadiversity@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 Lauren MacArthur, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at [lauren.macarthur@mass.gov](mailto:lauren.macarthur@mass.gov).

## Translation and Interpretation Services

### English

ATTENTION: Translation and/or interpretation services are available upon request. Please email Kaylee Burgess at [dpu.ej@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.ej@mass.gov) to request language services, specifying your preferred language and contact information.

### Português (Portuguese)

ATENÇÃO: Disponibilizamos nossos serviços de tradução e/ou interpretação de acordo com a sua demanda. Para solicitar um serviço linguístico, envie um e-mail para Kaylee Burgess através do endereço [dpu.ej@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.ej@mass.gov), informando o idioma desejado e seus dados para contato.

### 繁體中文 (Traditional Chinese)

提醒您：您可依照需求申請筆譯和/或口譯服務。請以電郵聯絡Kaylee Burgess ([dpu.ej@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.ej@mass.gov)) 來申請語言服務請求，請在電郵內註明需要的語言和聯絡資訊。

### Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)

LƯU Ý: Các dịch vụ biên dịch và/hoặc phiên dịch có sẵn theo yêu cầu. Vui lòng gửi email đến Kaylee Burgess theo địa chỉ [dpu.ej@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.ej@mass.gov) để yêu cầu dịch vụ ngôn ngữ, nêu rõ ngôn ngữ ưa thích của quý vị và thông tin liên lạc

### (Arabic) العربية

يُرجى الانتباه: تتوفر خدمات الترجمة و/أو الترجمة الفورية عند الطلب. لطلب خدمات لغوية يرجى التواصل مع Kaylee Burgess بإرسال رسالة إلكترونية إلى العنوان [dpu.ej@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.ej@mass.gov)، تحدد فيها اللغة المفضلة لديك وتذكر معلومات الاتصال.

### ខ្មែរ (Khmer)

ជូនចំពោះ៖ សេវាកម្មប្រែក្លាយ និង/ឬអ្នកបកប្រែផ្ទាល់ គឺមានតាមការស្នើសុំ។ សូមផ្ញើអ៊ីមែលទៅ Kaylee Burgess តាម [dpu.ej@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.ej@mass.gov) ដើម្បីស្នើសុំសេវាកម្មប្រែក្លាយ ដោយបញ្ជាក់ភាសាដែលអ្នកចង់បាន និងព័ត៌មានទំនាក់ទំនង។

### Español (Spanish)

ATENCIÓN: Los servicios de traducción y/o interpretación están disponibles bajo solicitud. Por favor envíe un correo electrónico a Kaylee Burgess en [dpu.ej@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.ej@mass.gov) para solicitar los servicios de idiomas, especificando su idioma preferido e información de contacto.

### 简体中文 (Simplified Chinese)

提醒您：您可依需要申请提供笔译和/或口译服务。请发送电子邮件给 Kaylee Burgess ([dpu.ej@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.ej@mass.gov)) 来申请语言服务要求，并注明您的首选语言和联系信息。

### Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole)

ATANSYON: Gen sèvis tradiksyon ak/oswa entèpretasyon ki disponib sou demann. Tanpri voye imèl bay Kaylee Burgess nan [dpu.ej@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.ej@mass.gov) pou mande sèvis lang, ki enfòm lang ou pi pito a ak enfòmasyon kontak ou.

### Français (French)

ATTENTION : Des services de traduction et/ou d'interprétation sont disponibles sur demande. Veuillez envoyer un e-mail à Kaylee Burgess à l'adresse [dpu.ej@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.ej@mass.gov) pour demander des services linguistiques, en précisant votre langue préférée et vos coordonnées.

### Русский (Russian)

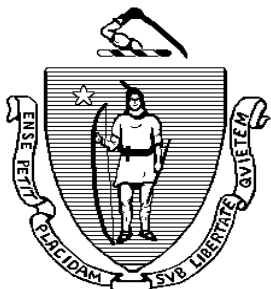
#### ВНИМАНИЕ!

Услуги письменного и/или устного перевода предоставляются по запросу. Для запроса услуг перевода обращайтесь к Kaylee Burgess по адресу [dpu.ej@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.ej@mass.gov). В запросе укажите язык перевода и контактную информацию.

### 한국어 (Korean)

주의: 요청 시 번역 및/또는 통역 서비스가 제공됩니다.

Kaylee Burgess에게 [dpu.ej@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.ej@mass.gov)로 이메일을 보내 선호하는 언어와 연락처 정보를 명시하여 언어 서비스를 요청하십시오.



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### ORDER OF NOTICE

D.P.U. 25-116

September 3, 2025

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 2025 Peak Period, November 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026.

Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty ("Company") is required to serve a copy of the attached Notice of Filing and Request for Comments no later than **Monday, September 8, 2025**, on the service lists in: (1) Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 24-120 (2024); (2) Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 24-24 (2024); (3) Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 23-82 (2023); and (4) on any person who has asked to be notified by the Company. Service lists may be by electronic means, which the Department finds reasonable and consistent with the public interest. Finally, the Company shall prominently display the notice on their website from three business days following receipt of the notice from the Department through the end of the comment period. The Company shall provide return of service at the close of the comment period.

By Order of the Department,

/s/

Mark D. Marini, Secretary