

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 24-24

March 18, 2024

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2024 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024.

On February 1, 2024, 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, 2024. The Department has docketed this petition as D.P.U. 24-24.

Revenue decoupling is a mechanism that allows the Company, through its revenue decoupling adjustment clause tariff, to modify its base distribution rates as a result of changes in customer usage on a semi-annual basis. M.D.P.U. No. 1025H. 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 Bay State Gas Company, D.P.U. 09-30, at 25-26, 87 (2010).

The Company proposes the following RDAF charges effective May 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024:

Customer Class	RDAF charges (\$/therm)	Current Off-Peak RDAF (\$/therm)	Change (\$/therm)
Residential R-1 and R-2	0.0392	0.0672	(0.0280)
Residential R-3 and R-4	0.0392	0.0672	(0.0280)
G-41, G-42, and G-43	0.0437	0.0719	(0.0282)
G-51, G-52, and G-53	0.0106	0.0142	(0.0036)

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 decrease of \$0.29 (or 1.17 percent) from the previously effective off-peak period RDAF;

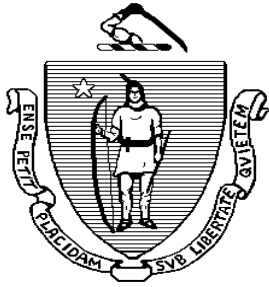
- a Residential Low Income Non-Heating customer in the Fall River and North Attleboro service area (R-2) using an average of 11 therms per month during the off-peak period will experience a bill decrease of \$0.29 (or 1.56 percent) from the previously effective off-peak period RDAF;
- a Residential Heating 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 decrease of \$0.82 (or 1.79 percent) from the previously effective off-peak period RDAF;
- a Residential Low Income Heating customer in the Fall River and North Attleboro service area (R-4) using an average of 28 therms per month during the off-peak period will experience a bill decrease of \$0.77 (or 2.35 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 decrease of \$0.45 (or 1.33 percent) from the previously effective off-peak period RDAF;
- a Residential Low Income Non-Heating customer in the Blackstone service area (R-2) using an average of 29 therms per month during the off-peak period will experience a bill decrease of \$0.62 (or 1.57 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 decrease of \$0.70 (or 1.64 percent) from the previously effective off-peak period RDAF;
- a Residential Low Income Heating customer in the Blackstone service area (R-4) using an average of 25 therms per month during the off-peak period will experience a bill decrease of \$0.52 (or 1.63 percent) from the previously effective off-peak period RDAF; and
- average bill impacts for Commercial and Industrial customers on basic service will range between a decrease of 3.27 percent to 0.29 percent, depending on rate class and average use. For specific bill impacts, please contact the Company as shown below.

Any person who desires to comment on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **April 10, 2024**. The Department strongly encourages public comments to be submitted by email as specified 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.

All written comments should be submitted to the Department in **PDF format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and elizabeth.c.mcnamara@mass.gov. In addition, all written comments should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Ronald John Ritchie, Esq., at r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 24-24); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document.

The filing and all documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "24-24") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>. 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.

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 attorney, Ronald John Ritchie, Esq., at r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com or (774) 320-5801. 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

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March 18, 2024

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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 (“Notice”) no later than **March 21, 2024**, on the service lists in: (1) Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 15-75 (2016); Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 23-19 (2023); and Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 23-82 (2023); and (2) 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, April 10, 2024.

The Company is directed to make return of service (including proof of website posting) after the close of the comment period, but not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on April 17, 2024.

By Order of the Department,

/s/

Mark D. Marini, Secretary