



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 25-GSEP-04

November 14, 2025

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for Approval of its 2026 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2026.

On October 31, 2025, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (“Liberty” or “Company”) submitted to the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) its 2026 gas system enhancement plan (“GSEP”) to address aging natural gas pipeline infrastructure. Liberty states that its estimated 2025 revenue requirement is \$29,032,509, which exceeds the 2.5-percent revenue cap by \$4,273,157. The Company seeks approval to collect \$24,759,352 through the gas system enhancement adjustment factors (“GSEAFs”) and proposes to defer \$4,273,157 for future recovery. According to the Company, its proposed 2026 GSEP is consistent with the requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 145, which allows gas distribution companies to accelerate the replacement of eligible infrastructure to improve public safety or infrastructure reliability and to reduce or potentially reduce lost and unaccounted for natural gas. The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 25-GSEP-04.

The Company states that approval of the GSEAFs will result in a monthly bill increase of \$4.08 or 2.10 percent for the average residential heating customer using 103 therms per month during winter months, and a monthly bill increase of \$0.97 or 2.08 percent for the average residential heating customer using 25 therms per month during summer months. Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, on May 1, 2027, the Company will submit to the Department the amount recovered through the GSEAFs for reconciliation with actual 2026 calendar year GSEP costs.

The Company proposes the following GSEAFs by rate class sector for effect May 1, 2026:

Rate Class Sector	Proposed GSEAF (\$/Therm)
Residential	\$0.4173
Commercial & Industrial (“C&I”) – Low-Load Factor	\$0.2761
C&I – High-Load Factor	\$0.2212

In Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., 24-GSEP-04, at 48 (April 30, 2025), the Department established a GSEP Risk Assessment Working Group to facilitate development of a comprehensive risk-prioritization strategy and to improve the transparency and consistency of risk prioritization within GSEP filings. From May 2025 through August 2025, the GSEP Risk Assessment Working Group, led by our Pipeline Safety Division, convened technical sessions to develop proposed risk-based prioritization principles. On September 26, 2025, the Department issued GSEP Risk Prioritization Safety Guidelines (“Guidelines”) reflecting the Pipeline Safety Division’s recommendations based on its analysis of current LDC processes, as well as stakeholder feedback, and noted that the Guidelines would be officially adopted in a staged process with further investigation being done as part of the LDCs’ 2026 GSEPs. The Department will continue its inquiry into the Guidelines in the 2026 GSEP proceedings, D.P.U. 25-GSEP-01 through D.P.U. 25-GSEP-06.

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, December 23, 2025**. Written comments from the public may be sent by email to dpu.efiling@mass.gov, stephanie.mealey@mass.gov, and the Company’s attorneys, Kevin Penders, kpenders@keeganwerlin.com, Joseph Kelley, jkelly@keeganwerlin.com, and Ronald J. Ritchie, 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 **Monday, November 24, 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.

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. Further, pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), the Attorney General filed a notice of intent to retain experts and consultants to assist her investigation of the Company’s filing and has requested Department approval to spend up to \$150,000 in this regard. Pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), the costs incurred by the Attorney General relative to her retention of experts and consultants may be recovered in the Company’s rates. Any person who desires to comment on the Attorney General’s notice of intent to retain experts and consultants may submit written comments to the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Monday, November 24, 2025**.

All documents should be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by email attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and stephanie.mealey@mass.gov. The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 25-GSEP-04); (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 "25-GSEP-04" on the line for "Docket No."). In addition, one copy of all written comments and petitions to intervene should be emailed to the Company's attorneys, Kevin Penders, kpenders@keeganwerlin.com, Joseph Kelley, jkelly@keeganwerlin.com, and Ronald J. Ritchie, 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 ceadiversity@mass.gov or (617) 626-1282.

For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's attorneys, identified above. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Stephanie Mealey, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at stephanie.mealey@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 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, 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) 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 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 يُرجى التواصل مع Kaylee Burgess بارسال رسالة إلكترونية إلى العنوان dpu.ej@mass.gov، تحدد فيها اللغة المفضلة لديك وتذكر معلومات الاتصال.

ខ្មែរ (Khmer)

ជូនចំពោះ: សេវាកម្មប្រែកម្ម និង/ឬអ្នកបកប្រែផ្ទាល់ គឺមានការស្នើសុំ។ សូមផ្ញើអ៊ីមែលទៅ Kaylee Burgess តាម dpu.ej@mass.gov ដើម្បីស្នើសុំសេវាកម្មប្រែកម្ម 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 para solicitar los servicios de idiomas, especificando su idioma preferido e información de contacto.

简体中文 (Simplified Chinese)

提醒您：您可依需要申請提供筆譯和/或口譯服務。請發送電子郵件給 Kaylee Burgess (dpu.ej@mass.gov) 來申請語言服務要求，並注明您的首選語言和聯繫信息。

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 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 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. В запросе укажите язык перевода и контактную информацию.

한국어 (Korean)

주의: 요청 시 번역 및/또는 통역 서비스가 제공됩니다.

Kaylee Burgess 에게 dpu.ej@mass.gov 로 이메일을 보내 선호하는 언어와 연락처 정보를 명시하여 언어 서비스를 요청하십시오.