



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 23-82

August 16, 2023

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2023 Peak Period, November 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024.

On August 3, 2023, 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 revenue decoupling adjustment factors ("RDAFs"), for effect November 1, 2023. This filing was made pursuant to Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 15-75 (2016), and 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 NSTAR Gas Company, D.P.U. 14-150, at 6-8, 22-23 (2015). The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 23-82.

The Company proposes the following charges effective November 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024:

Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp.	
Customer Rate Classes	RDAF charges (\$ per therm)
Residential Non-Heating (R-1 and R-2), and Heating (R-3 and R-4)	0.0536
Commercial and Industrial ("C&I") Low Load Factor (G-41, G-42, and G-43)	0.0411
C&I High Load Factor (G-51, G-52, and G-53)	0.0390

As a result of the proposed changes to the RDAF, the average Fall River/North Attleboro residential heating customer (customer class R-3) using on average 122 therms per month during the peak period will experience a bill increase of \$1.77 or 0.67 percent from the previously effective peak period RDAF. The average Blackstone residential heating customer (customer

class R-3) using an average of 117 therms per month during the peak period will experience a bill increase of \$1.70 or 0.68 percent as compared to the previously effective peak period RDAF. The Company states that the average monthly bill impact for all rate classes at each class's average use during the peak period will range from increases of between 0.50 percent to 0.78 percent as compared to the previously effective peak period RDAF. 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 September 13, 2023. Written comments from the public may be sent by email to dpu.efiling@mass.gov, julianne.desmet@mass.gov, and the Company's attorney, Ronald J. 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.

All documents should be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by email attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and julianne.desmet@mass.gov. The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 23-82); (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 "23-82") 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 J. Ritchie, Esq., at 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 Gabriella.Knight@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 Julianne Desmet, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at julianne.desmet@mass.gov.