



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 23-19

March 2, 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 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2023, through October 31, 2023.

On February 2, 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 May 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 at 6, n.1 (2008); see also NSTAR Gas Company, D.P.U. 14-150, at 22-23 (2015). The Department has docketed this petition as D.P.U. 23-19.

The Company proposes the following charges effective May 1, 2023, through October 31, 2023:

Liberty Utility Company	
Customer Rate Classes	RDAF charges (\$ per therm)
Residential Non-Heating (R-1 and R-2), and Heating (R-3 and R-4)	0.0672
Commercial and Industrial (“C&I”) Low Load Factor (G-41, G-42, and G-43)	0.0719
C&I High Load Factor (G-51, G-52, and G-53)	0.0142

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 29 therms per month during the off-peak period will experience a bill increase of \$0.69 or 1.04 percent from the previously effective off-peak period RDAF. The average Blackstone residential heating customer using an average of 25 therms per month during the off-peak period will experience a bill increase of

\$0.59 or 1.10 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 off-peak period will range from increases of between 0.20 percent to 1.66 percent as compared to the previously effective off-peak period RDAF. 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 **Thursday, March 23, 2023**. At this time, all filings will be submitted only in electronic format consistent with the Commission's June 15, 2021 directive related to modified filing requirements. Ordinarily, all parties would follow Sections B.1 and B.4 of the Department's Standard Ground Rules (D.P.U. 15-184-A, App. 1 (March 4, 2020)); however, until further notice, parties must retain the original paper version and the Department will later determine when the paper version must be filed with the Department Secretary.

All written comments or other documents should be submitted to the Department in **PDF format** by e-mail attachment to dpufiling@mass.gov and julianne.desmet@mass.gov. In addition, all written comments should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Ronald J. 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. 23-19); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The e-mail must also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. 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 "23-19") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>.

At this time, a paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Company's offices or the Department due to certain ongoing safety measures and precautions relating to in-person events as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The filing and all subsequent related documents, pleadings and/or filings submitted to the Department and/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 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 attorney, Ronald J. Ritchie, Esq., at R.J.Ritchie@libertyutilities.com or (774) 320-5801. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Julianne Desmet, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at julianne.desmet@mass.gov.