



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 23-PGAF-LIB

August 17, 2023

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2023/24 local distribution adjustment factor and peak gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2023.

On August 3, 2023, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (“Company” or “Liberty”) filed with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) its seasonal local distribution adjustment factor filing (“LDAF”), pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.11. The filing includes the residential assistance adjustment factor (“RAAF”), remediation adjustment factor (“RAF”), attorney general consultant expense factor (“AGCEF”), energy efficiency surcharge (“EES”), and pension adjustment factor (“PAF”). The proposed rates are for effect November 1, 2023. The Department has docketed this petition as D.P.U. 23-PGAF-LIB.

The tables below summarize the proposed rates in dollars per therm:

<u>Fall River/North Attleboro Service Area</u>		<u>Blackstone Service Area</u>	
<u>Rate Class</u>	<u>LDAF</u>	<u>Rate Class</u>	<u>LDAF</u>
Residential	\$0.4575	Residential	\$0.1672
Low Load C&I	\$0.2746	Low Load C&I	\$0.0862
High Load C&I	\$0.2312	High Load C&I	\$0.0955

If the Department approves the Company’s LDAFs as proposed, a typical residential heating customer in the Company’s Fall River and North Attleboro service area will see an **average monthly bill decrease of \$22.79, or 8.71 percent** compared to the LDAF currently in effect, and a typical residential heating customer in the Company’s Blackstone service area will see an **average monthly bill increase of \$27.16, or 10.84 percent**, compared to the LDAF currently in effect. For specific bill impacts, please contact the Company as shown below.

The Company will file its peak gas adjustment factor filing (“GAF”) for both its Fall River and North Attleboro service area and its Blackstone service area, in this docket at least 45 days prior to the date on which the proposed GAFs are to be effective. The Company is required to file its peak GAF filing no later than September 18, 2023. Liberty may, at any time during the peak period, submit an amended GAF filing. The amended GAF filing must be

submitted seven business days before the first billing cycle of the month in which it is proposed to take effect.

Any person interested in commenting on the LDAF filing may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Friday, September 15, 2023**. Any person interested in commenting on the GAF filing may submit written comments no later than the close of business on **Monday, October 2, 2023**.

Written comments from the public may be sent to the Department in .pdf format by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and the hearing officer, Kate E. Timberlake, at Kate.E.Timberlake@mass.gov. In addition, all written comments should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Ronald 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-PGAF-LIB); (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 "23-PGAF-LIB") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fleroom/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. 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.

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 attorney, Ronald Ritchie, Esq., at r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Kate E. Timberlake, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at Kate.E.Timberlake@mass.gov.

