



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 23-83

September 13, 2023

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for approval of its annual pension adjustment factor reconciliation filing for effect November 1, 2023.

On August 3, 2023, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company d/b/a Liberty (“Company”)), filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) for approval of its annual pension and post-retirement benefits other than pensions (“PBOP”) adjustment factors (“PAFs”). The Company made this filing pursuant to New England Natural Gas Company, D.P.U 07-46 (2007); Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 15-75 (2015); and M.D.P.U. No. 1002P. The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 23-83. In separate filings, the Company is proposing other changes to its rates effective November 1, 2023, that may also have an impact on customers’ bills. See Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., D.P.U. 23-PGAF-LIB.

The Company proposes the following PAFs, effective on and after November 1, 2023, and included for billing purposes in the Company’s local distribution adjustment factor:

Rate Classes	PAF (per therm) Credit
Residential	\$(0.1846)
C&I Low Load Factor	\$(0.1093)
C&I High Load Factor	\$(0.0619)

The Company proposes a PAF revenue requirement credit of \$10,533,361, which is a decrease of \$14,137,769 from the Company’s current PAF revenue requirement. As a result of the proposed changes to the PAF, the average residential heating customer in the Fall River and North Attleboro service territory using an average of 122 therms per month during peak period will experience a bill decrease of \$30.23, or 11.55 percent, and a bill decrease of \$7.30, or 13.13 percent using on average 29 therms per month during the off-peak period. The average residential non-heating customer using an average of 15 therms per month during the peak period will experience a bill decrease of \$3.63, or 8.57 percent, and bill decrease of \$2.61, or 9.09 percent using on average eleven therms per month during the off-peak period.

The average residential heating customer in the Blackstone service territory using an average of 117 therms per month during peak period will experience a bill decrease of \$29.15, or 11.73 percent, and a bill decrease of \$6.24, or 10.16 percent using on average 25 therms per month during the off-peak period. The average residential non-heating customer using an average of 19 therms per month during the peak period will experience a bill decrease of \$4.79, or 9.32 percent, and a bill decrease of \$4.03, or 8.59 percent using on average 16 therms per month during the off-peak period. 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 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, October 4, 2023**. Written comments from the public may be sent by email to [dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov), and [katherine.e.stock@mass.gov](mailto:katherine.e.stock@mass.gov) and the Company's attorney Ronald Ritchie, Esq., [r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com](mailto: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 that 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 in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall file a petition for leave to intervene no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, October 4, 2023**. 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 is timely filed. A petition filed late may be disallowed as untimely, unless good cause is shown for waiver under 220 CMR 1.101(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 for leave to intervene must be filed by the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the second business day after the petition for leave to intervene was filed.

All written comments or other documents must be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to [dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov) and [katherine.e.stock@mass.gov](mailto:katherine.e.stock@mass.gov). In addition, all written comments should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Ronald Ritchie, Esq., [r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com](mailto:r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com). The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 23-83); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The email must also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about this 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 "23-83") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Flerom/dockets/bynumber>. . In addition, one copy of all written comments and petitions to intervene should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Ronald Ritchie, Esq., [r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com](mailto:r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com).

The filing and all subsequent documents submitted to the Department or issued by the Department will be available on the Department's website as referenced above as soon as 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](mailto:Gabriella.Knight@mass.gov).

For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's attorney, identified above. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Katherine Stock, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at [katherine.e.stock@mass.gov](mailto:katherine.e.stock@mass.gov).