



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND PROCEDURAL CONFERENCE

D.P.U. 16-GSEP-03

November 16, 2016

Petition of Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company each d/b/a National Grid for Approval of 2017 Gas System Enhancement Plans, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, and for rates effective May 1, 2017.

On October 31, 2016, Boston Gas Company (“Boston Gas”) and Colonial Gas Company (“Colonial Gas”), each doing business as National Grid (collectively, “Companies”), submitted to the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) 2017 gas system enhancement plans (“GSEPs”) to replace aging natural gas pipeline infrastructure. Boston Gas and Colonial Gas seek approval to collect \$50,707,030 and \$7,729,252, respectively, through the gas system enhancement adjustment factor (“GSEAF”) to recover the cumulative cost to replace eligible leak-prone infrastructure through the end of calendar year 2017. In addition, the Company seeks a waiver of the 1.5 percent cap on annual changes in the revenue requirement eligible for recovery. The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 16-GSEP-03.

According to the Companies, their proposed 2017 GSEPs are consistent with the requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 145, which allows gas distribution companies to accelerate the replacement of eligible infrastructure in order to improve public safety or infrastructure reliability, and to reduce or potentially reduce lost and unaccounted for natural gas. Boston Gas states that approval of the GSEAF will result in a monthly bill increase of \$3.49 or 1.9 percent for the average residential heating customer using 128 therms per month during winter months, and a monthly bill increase of \$0.71 or 2.1 percent for the average residential heating customer using 26 therms per month during summer months. Colonial Gas states that approval of the GSEAF will result in a monthly bill increase of \$2.15 or 1.5 percent for the average residential heating customer using 109 therms per month during winter months, and a monthly bill increase of \$0.48 or 1.5 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, 2018, the Companies will submit to the Department the amounts recovered through the GSEAF for reconciliation with actual calendar year 2017 GSEP costs. Boston Gas proposes that the following rates for each customer class take effect on May 1, 2017:

Residential	\$0.556 per dekatherm (“Dth”)
Small Commercial and Industrial (“C&I”)	\$0.513 per Dth
Medium C&I	\$0.441 per Dth
Large C&I	\$0.399 per Dth
Extra Large C&I	\$0.313 per Dth

Colonial Gas proposes that the following rates for each customer class take effect on May 1, 2017:

Residential	\$0.381 per Dth
Small C&I	\$0.282 per Dth
Medium C&I	\$0.195 per Dth
Large C&I	\$0.094 per Dth

The Department will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the Companies’ petition. The hearing will take place on **Thursday, December 15, 2016, at 2:00 p.m.**, at the Department’s offices, One South Station – 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. A procedural conference will take place immediately following the public hearing. Any person who desires to comment may do so at the time and place noted above, or submit written comments to the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Thursday, December 15, 2016**.

Any person who desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding must file a written petition for leave to intervene with the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Friday, December 9, 2016**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 C.M.R. § 1.03. Receipt by the Department, not mailing, 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 C.M.R. § 1.01(4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 C.M.R. § 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.

An original and one (1) copy of all written comments or petitions to intervene must be filed with Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station – 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the dates noted above. One copy of all written comments or petitions to intervene should also be sent to the Companies’ attorney, Camal O. Robinson, Associate Counsel, National Grid, 40 Sylvan Road, Waltham, Massachusetts, 02451.

All documents should also be submitted to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@state.ma.us and to Laurie Ellen Weisman, Hearing Officer, laurie.e.weisman@state.ma.us or (2) on a CD-ROM. The text of the e-mail or CD-ROM must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding, D.P.U. 16-GSEP-03; (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website: <http://web1.env.state.ma.us/DPU/FileRoom/dockets/bynumber> (enter "16-GSEP-03").

Copies of the Companies' petition are on file at the Department's offices, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 for public viewing during business hours, and on the Department's website. A copy is also on file for public viewing at the office of National Grid, 40 Sylvan Road, Waltham, Massachusetts. Any person desiring further information regarding Boston Gas's or Colonial Gas's petitions should contact counsel for the Companies, Camal O. Robinson, at 781-907-5701. Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact Laurie Ellen Weisman, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at 617-305-3500.