



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 20-GSEP-03

November 10, 2020

Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of its 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2021.

On October 30, 2020, Boston Gas Company (“Boston Gas”) d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid” or “Company”) submitted to the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) its 2021 gas system enhancement plan (“GSEP”) to replace aging natural gas pipeline infrastructure. The Company proposes to collect \$94,598,285 through the gas system enhancement adjustment factor (“GSEAF”) for Boston Gas and \$14,129,119 through the GSEAF for the former Colonial Gas Company (“former Colonial Gas”). The Company is not seeking a waiver of the cap for 2021. The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 20-GSEP-03.

According to the Company, its proposed 2021 GSEP is 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. The Company states that approval of the GSEAF will result in a monthly bill increase of \$2.91 or 1.4 percent for the average residential heating customer using 130 therms per month during winter months, and a monthly bill increase of \$0.61 or 1.7 percent for the average residential heating customer using 27 therms per month during summer months for Boston Gas and monthly bill increase of \$0.44 or 0.3 percent for the average residential heating customer using 115 therms per month during winter months, and a monthly bill increase of \$0.10 or 0.3 percent for the average residential heating customer using 26 therms per month during summer months for the former Colonial Gas. Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, on May 1, 2022, the Company will submit to the Department the amount recovered through the GSEAFs for reconciliation with actual 2021 calendar year GSEP costs.

The Company proposes, for Boston Gas, the following GSEAFs by rate class sector for effect May 1, 2021:

Rate Class Sector	Proposed GSEAF (\$/Therm)
Residential (R-1 through R-4)	\$0.0952
Small Commercial & Industrial ("C&I") (G-41/G-51)	\$0.0819
Medium C&I (G-42/G-52)	\$0.0822
Large C&I (G-43/G-53)	\$0.0751
Extra Large C&I (G-44/G-54)	\$0.0635

The Company proposes, for the former Colonial Gas, the following GSEAFs by rate class sector for effect May 1, 2021:

Rate Class Sector	Proposed GSEAF (\$/Therm)
Residential (R-1 through R-4)	\$0.0599
Small Commercial & Industrial ("C&I") (G-41/G-51)	\$0.0432
Medium C&I (G-42/G-52)	\$0.0394
Large C&I (G-43/G-53)	\$0.0373

On March 10, 2020, Governor Baker issued Executive Order No. 591, Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19, which required the closing of certain brick and mortar premises, including the Department's offices. Because of the State of Emergency, in lieu of a public hearing and to allow for public participation, the Department is providing an extended written comment period and any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Tuesday, December 22, 2020**. Written comments from the public may be sent by email to peter.ray@mass.gov, alice.davey@mass.gov, and the Company's attorney, Melissa Liazos, melissa.liazos@nationalgrid.com. 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, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110.

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 **Wednesday, November 25, 2020**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. Because the State of Emergency limits access to the Department's office, all petitions for leave to intervene must be submitted by email only to peter.ray@mass.gov, alice.davey@mass.gov, and the Company's attorney at melissa.liazos@nationalgrid.com. 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 CMR 1.01(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 to intervene must be filed by email not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the second business day after the petition to intervene was filed. The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts filed a notice to intervene in this matter pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(a).

Documents provided to the Department must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 20-GSEP-03); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; (3) a brief descriptive title of the document; and (4) the name, title, email address, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing.

The Company's filing and all related documents submitted to the Department or issued by the Department will be available on the Department's website as soon as is practicable at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber> (enter "20-GSEP-03"). A paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Company's offices or the Department due to the State of Emergency. To request materials in accessible formats (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format) for people with disabilities, contact the Department's ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov.

Any person desiring further information regarding the Company's filing or to request a paper copy of the filing should contact counsel for the Company, Melissa Liazos, at melissa.liazos@nationalgrid.com or (781) 907-2108. For further information regarding this notice, please contact Alice Davey, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at alice.davey@mass.gov.