



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 22-GSEP-03

November 9, 2022

Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of its 2023 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2023.

On October 31, 2022, Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid” or “Company”) submitted to the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) its 2023 gas system enhancement plan (“GSEP”) to replace aging natural gas pipeline infrastructure. The Company proposes to consolidate the gas system enhancement adjustment factors (“GSEAFs”) for the Boston Gas Division and the former Colonial Gas Company (“Colonial Gas Division”). The Company proposes to collect \$131,457,684 through GSEAFs. The Company states that its proposed revenue requirement does not exceed the three-percent cap. In addition, the Company submitted changes to its local distribution adjustment clause tariff for approval by the Department to reflect the consolidation of the GSEAFs and to comply with the recent amendments to G.L. c. 164, § 145, relating to the definition of “eligible infrastructure.” The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 22-GSEP-03.

According to the Company, its proposed 2023 GSEP is consistent with the requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 145, which allows gas distribution companies to accelerate the replacement of eligible infrastructure to improve public safety or infrastructure reliability, and to reduce or potentially reduce lost and unaccounted for natural gas. The Company states that, for the Boston Gas Division, approval of the GSEAFs will result in a monthly bill increase of \$3.87 or 1.4 percent for the average residential heating customer using 115 therms per month during winter months, and a monthly bill increase of \$0.90 or 1.4 percent for the average residential heating customer using 27 therms per month during summer months. For the Colonial Gas Division, approval of the GSEAFs will result in a monthly bill increase of \$8.21 or 3.4 percent for the average residential heating customer using 107 therms per month during winter months, and a monthly bill increase of \$2.07 or 3.6 percent for the average residential heating customer using 27 therms per month during summer months. Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, on May 1, 2024, the Company will submit to the Department the amount recovered through the GSEAFs for reconciliation with actual 2023 calendar year GSEP costs.

The Company proposes the following GSEAFs by rate class sector for effect May 1, 2023:

Rate Class Sector	Proposed GSEAF (\$/Therm)
Residential (R-1 through R-4)	\$0.1090
Small Commercial & Industrial (“C&I”) (G-41/G-51)	\$0.0990
Medium C&I (G-42/G-52)	\$0.0887
Large C&I (G-43/G-53)	\$0.0771
Extra Large C&I (G-44/G-54)	\$0.0650

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 20, 2022. Written comments from the public may be sent by email to dpu.efiling@mass.gov, carol.pieper@mass.gov, and the Company’s attorney at melissa.liazos@nationalgrid.com. At this time, the Department strongly encourages public comments to be submitted only in electronic format consistent with the Commission’s June 15, 2021 directive related to modified filing requirements. 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.

On November 1, 2022, the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts filed a notice to intervene in this matter pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(a). Any other 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 23, 2022. All petitions for leave to intervene must be submitted by email only to dpu-efiling@mass.gov, carol.pieper@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.

Documents provided to the Department must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 22-GSEP-03); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department’s website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter “22-GSEP-03”) at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Flerom/dockets/bynumber>. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department’s ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov.

Any person desiring further information regarding the Company’s filing should contact counsel for the Company, Melissa G. Liazos, Esq., at melissa.liazos@nationalgrid.com. For further information regarding this notice, please contact Carol Pieper, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at carol.pieper@mass.gov.