



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 22-62

June 14, 2022

Geothermal Energy Demonstration Project Implementation Plan submitted by Boston Gas Company doing business as National Grid.

On December 15, 2021, the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) approved a geothermal energy demonstration project (“Geothermal Project”) proposed by Boston Gas Company doing business as National Grid (“Company”) in Boston Gas Company, D.P.U. 21-24, at 15-32 (2021). The Department directed the Company to submit an implementation plan for the Department’s review prior to enrolling participants in the demonstration project that included the following: (1) a standard customer participation agreement; (2) a detailed description of how the Company will prioritize the participation of existing gas customers; and (3) updated bill impacts.

On May 16, 2022, the Company submitted an implementation plan for its Geothermal Project for the Department’s review and approval. The implementation plan details how the Company will develop the Geothermal Project. The Company states that the Geothermal Project will assist it in determining the most effective way to connect homes and businesses to the shared loops or geothermal pipes underground. As a demonstration project, the Geothermal Project will fund the installation of geothermal facilities, geothermal equipment, and certain electric appliances to customers accepted into the program. The Company’s filing includes standard customer and easement agreement terms and conditions and a description of key project milestones, the evaluation process, the Company’s procurement of consulting and contractor services, stakeholder outreach and coordination, project timing, participant recruiting, potential sites, bill impacts, and budget and cost tracking.

The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (“Attorney General”) filed a notice to intervene in this matter pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(a). The Department has docketed the Company’s implementation plan as D.P.U. 22-62.

According to the Company’s analysis, firm distribution customers will experience the following bill impacts over the five-year project.

- A typical residential non-heating customer (R-1 B and R-1 C) will experience a bill increase between \$0.00 and \$0.66 per year compared to current rates, depending on service territory and the year of the demonstration program.

- A typical low-income residential non-heating customer (R-2 B and R-2 C) will experience a bill increase between \$0.04 and \$0.63 per year compared to current rates, depending on service territory and the year of the demonstration program.
- A typical residential heating customer (R-3 B and R-3 C) will experience a bill increase between \$0.24 and \$3.48 per year compared to current rates, depending on service territory and the year of the demonstration program.
- A typical low-income residential heating customer (R-4 B and R-4 C) will experience a bill increase between \$0.18 and \$2.57 per year compared to current rates, depending on service territory and the year of the demonstration program.
- Commercial and industrial bill impacts will vary. For specific bill impacts, please contact the Company.

Any person interested in commenting on the Company's implementation plan may submit written comments to the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Friday, July 29th, 2022**. Any of the parties granted intervenor status in D.P.U. 21-24 that wish to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding may do so by filing an appearance of counsel by **Friday June 24, 2022**. Any other person that desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall file a petition for leave to intervene no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Friday June 24, 2022**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 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 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.

At this time, all filings will be submitted only in electronic format consistent with the Commission's June 15, 2021 directive related to modified filing requirements. Ordinarily, all parties would follow Sections B.1 and B.4 of the Department's Standard Ground Rules (D.P.U. 15-184-A, App. 1 (March 4, 2020)); however, until further notice, parties must retain the original paper version and the Department will later determine when the paper version must be filed with the Department Secretary.

All documents should also be submitted to the Department in **PDF format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and kevin.crane@mass.gov. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 22-62); (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. In addition, one copy of all written comments should be emailed to the Company's attorneys, Bess B. Gorman, Esq. at bess.gorman@nationalgrid.com and Andrea G. Keefe, Esq. at andrea.keefe@nationalgrid.com.

At this time, a paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Company's offices or the Department due to certain ongoing safety measures and precautions relating to in-person events as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The filing and all subsequent related documents, pleadings and/or filings submitted to the Department and/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 DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov.

For further information regarding the Company's filing please contact the Company's attorneys, Bess B. Gorman, Esq. at bess.gorman@nationalgrid.com and Andrea G. Keeffe, Esq. at andrea.keeffe@nationalgrid.com. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Kevin Crane, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at kevin.crane@mass.gov.