



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 21-GSEP-03

November 10, 2021

Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of its 2022 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2022.

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On October 29, 2021, Boston Gas Company (“Boston Gas Division”) d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid” or “Company”) submitted to the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) its 2022 gas system enhancement plan (“GSEP”) to replace aging natural gas pipeline infrastructure. The Company proposes to collect \$74,605,816 through the gas system enhancement adjustment factor (“GSEAF”) for the Boston Gas Division and \$7,473,862 through the GSEAF for the former Colonial Gas Company (“Colonial Gas Division”). The Company states that its proposed revenue requirement does not exceed the 3.0 percent cap. The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 21-GSEP-03.

According to the Company, its proposed 2022 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 decrease of \$2.38 or 1.0 percent for the average residential heating customer using 121 therms per month during winter months, and a monthly bill decrease of \$0.51 or 1.3 percent for the average residential heating customer using 26 therms per month during summer months for the Boston Gas Division and a monthly bill decrease of \$3.01 or 1.6 percent for the average residential heating customer using 109 therms per month during winter months, and a monthly bill decrease of \$0.72 or 1.8 percent for the average residential heating customer using 26 therms per month during summer months for the Colonial Gas Division. Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, on May 1, 2022, the Company will submit to the Department the amount recovered through the GSEAF for reconciliation with actual 2022 calendar year GSEP costs.

The Company proposes, for the Boston Gas Division, the following GSEAFs by rate class sector for effect May 1, 2022:

Rate Class Sector	Proposed GSEAF (\$/Therm)
Residential (R-1 through R-4)	\$0.0754
Small Commercial & Industrial (“C&I”) (G-41/G-51)	\$0.0686
Medium C&I (G-42/G-52)	\$0.0605
Large C&I (G-43/G-53)	\$0.0561
Extra Large C&I (G-44/G-54)	\$0.0470

The Company proposes, for the Colonial Gas Division, the following GSEAFs by rate class sector for effect May 1, 2022:

Rate Class Sector	Proposed GSEAF (\$/Therm)
Residential (R-1 through R-4)	\$0.0322
Small Commercial & Industrial (“C&I”) (G-41/G-51)	\$0.0279
Medium C&I (G-42/G-52)	\$0.0251
Large C&I (G-43/G-53)	\$0.0129

Due to certain ongoing safety measures and precautions relating to in person events as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department will provide 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 21, 2021**. 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.

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 24, 2021**. 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 [dpu-efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu-efiling@mass.gov), [alice.davey@mass.gov](mailto:alice.davey@mass.gov), and the Company’s attorney at [melissa.liazos@nationalgrid.com](mailto: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).

All 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 [alice.davey@mass.gov](mailto:alice.davey@mass.gov). The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 21-GSEP-03); (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. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "21-GSEP-03") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>. In addition, one copy of all written comments and petitions to intervene should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Melissa Liazos, [melissa.liazos@nationalgrid.com](mailto:melissa.liazos@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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:alice.davey@mass.gov).