



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF FILING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND PROCEDURAL CONFERENCE

D.P.U. 19-69

June 27, 2019

Joint Petition of Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company, each d/b/a National Grid, to the Department of Public Utilities for approval of a proposed merger, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 96.

On May 31, 2019, Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company, each d/b/a National Grid (collectively, “Joint Petitioners” or “Companies”), filed with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) a joint petition seeking approval to merge Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company to create a single natural gas local distribution company, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 96, with Boston Gas Company as the surviving entity (“Proposed Merger”). The Joint Petitioners further request confirmation that Boston Gas Company, as the surviving corporation of the merger among and between the companies, will retain all of the franchise rights and obligations that were previously held by Colonial Gas Company, and that further action, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 21, is not required to consummate the merger. Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company are affiliated companies operating under a common parent company, National Grid NE Holdings 2 LLC. The Department has docketed the joint petition as D.P.U. 19-69.

On May 29, 2019, the Joint Petitioners entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger. The Joint Petitioners contend that the Proposed Merger is consistent with the public interest under G.L. c. 164, § 96 and will result in “net benefits” to ratepayers. Specifically, the Joint Petitioners claim that the Proposed Merger will promote administrative efficiency by reducing the number of books and records that must be maintained, reconciled, and audited for separate legal entities. Furthermore, the Joint Petitioners state that there will be cost savings from the Proposed Merger because there will only be one bond offering for the merged companies as opposed to two separate bond offerings. The Joint Petitioners also note that the incremental costs of the merger and completion of other non-administrative implementation requirements (such as bank fees) will be borne by shareholders, not customers. The Joint Petitioners add that current base distribution rates for Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company will remain unchanged under the Proposed Merger and will not change unless approved by the Department in a future base-rate proceeding under G.L. c. 164, § 94.

The Department will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the Companies’ petition on **July 22, 2019 at 2:30 p.m.**, immediately followed by a procedural conference at

the Department's offices, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts. Any person who desires to comment may do so at the time and place noted above or submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **July 18, 2019**.

Any person who desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding must file a written petition for leave to intervene or to participate in the proceeding no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **July 18, 2019**. 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.

One original and one copy of all written documents must be filed with Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. In addition, one copy of all written documents should be sent to each of the following: (1) Scott Seigal, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110; (2) the Companies' attorney, Melissa Liazos, Esq., National Grid, 40 Sylvan Road, Waltham, Massachusetts 02451; and (3) Joseph Rogers and Ashley Gagnon, Assistant Attorneys General, Office of Ratepayer Advocacy, One Ashburton Place, Boston, Massachusetts 02108.

Further, in addition to paper filings with the Department, all documents must be submitted to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by email attachment to [dpu.efiling@state.ma.us](mailto:dpu.efiling@state.ma.us) and [scott.seigal@mass.gov](mailto:scott.seigal@mass.gov) or (2) on a USB drive. The text of the email or USB drive must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 19-69); (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://www.mass.gov/dpu>.

Copies of the Companies' filing are available for inspection Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the Department's offices at One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts and through the Department's website at <https://eeonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom> (enter "19-69"). To request materials in accessible formats (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA Coordinator at [DPUADACoordinator@state.ma.us](mailto:DPUADACoordinator@state.ma.us) or (617) 305-3500.

Any person desiring further information regarding the Companies' filing should contact the Companies' attorney, Melissa Liazos, Esq., at (781) 907-2108. Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact Scott Seigal, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at (617) 305-3771.

Reasonable accommodations at public or evidentiary hearings for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need, including as much detail as you can. Also include a way the Department can contact you if we need more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible. Last minute requests will be accepted, but may not be able to be accommodated. Contact the Department's ADA coordinator at [DPUADACoordinator@state.ma.us](mailto:DPUADACoordinator@state.ma.us) or (617) 305-3500.