



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 23-56

June 27, 2023

Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for review and approval of a Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan for effect October 1, 2023.

On June 15, 2023, Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid ("Boston Gas" or "Company") submitted its annual performance-based ratemaking ("PBR") plan with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") seeking approval to recover the increase in base distribution revenue requirement associated with its PBR Mechanism through the proposed PBR adjustment ("PBRA") for effect October 1, 2023. This filing was made pursuant to Boston Gas Company, D.P.U. 20-120 (2021) and the Company's PBR Tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 93.1. The Department docketed this petition as D.P.U. 23-56.

Boston Gas proposes an increase in base distribution revenue of \$57,391,816 or 6.48 percent associated with its proposed PBRA. The Company proposes to implement a one-time customer impact mitigation plan to moderate bill impacts due to the circumstances currently affecting the nation's economy. In the absence of the customer impact mitigation plan, the Company states that it would seek an increase in base distribution revenue of \$71,376,418 or 8.05 percent.

To recover these costs, the Company proposes to increase the Boston Gas Division and Colonial Gas Division residential non-heating rates for regular and low-income customers from \$1.1597 per therm during the peak period to \$1.2890 per therm and from \$1.0370 per therm during the off-peak period to \$1.1526 per therm for effect October 1, 2023. Further, the Company proposes to increase the Boston Gas Division residential heating rate for regular and low-income customers from \$0.7743 per therm during the peak period to \$0.8263 per therm and from \$0.4477 per therm during the off-peak period to \$0.4778 per therm for effect October 1, 2023. The Company also proposes to increase the Colonial Gas Division residential heating rate for regular and low-income customers from \$0.6654 per therm during the peak period to \$0.7532 per therm and from \$0.3429 per therm during the off-peak period to \$0.3882 per therm for effect October 1, 2023.

Boston Gas also seeks approval to establish an Exogenous Event Recovery Factor (“EERF”) in its Local Distribution Adjustment Clause (“LDAC”) Tariff to recover costs associated with increases to its property taxes for fiscal years 2021, 2022, and 2023 (proposed M.D.P.U. No. 60.7). The Company proposes to recover \$7,234,353 each year through the EERF over a three-year period beginning November 1, 2023.

In addition, Boston Gas provides a progress report on its PBR scorecard metrics and proposes changes to its damage prevention metric and its emission reduction baseline.

If the Department approves the Company’s proposed PBRAs for effect October 1, 2023, and the proposed EERF for effect November 1, 2023, a Boston Gas Division residential heating customer with a typical usage of 111 therms per month during the peak period and 24 therms during the off-peak period would experience a monthly bill increase of \$6.53 or 2.6 percent and \$0.87 or 2.1 percent, respectively, as compared to current rates. A Boston Gas Division residential heating low-income customer with a typical usage of 108 therms per month during the peak period and 26 therms during the off-peak period would experience a monthly bill increase of \$4.77 or 2.6 percent and \$0.72 or 2.1 percent, respectively, as compared to current rates.

A Colonial Gas Division residential heating customer with a typical usage of 111 therms per month during the peak period and 24 therms during the off-peak period would experience a monthly bill increase of \$10.51 or 4.5 percent and \$1.23 or 3.3 percent, respectively, as compared to current rates. A Colonial Gas Division residential heating low-income customer with a typical usage of 108 therms per month during the peak period and 26 therms during the off-peak period would experience a monthly bill increase of \$7.68 or 4.5 percent and \$1.02 or 3.4 percent, respectively, as compared to current rates.

The Company states that the bill impacts for all customers, including commercial and industrial customers, vary depending on rate class and usage. For specific bill impacts, contact the Company as shown below.

Any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Monday, July 24, 2023**. Written comments from the public may be sent by email to dpu.efiling@mass.gov, Scott.Seigal@mass.gov, and the Company’s attorneys, Melissa Liazos, Esq., at melissa.liazos@nationalgrid.com, and Andrea Keeffe, Esq., at Andrea.Keeffe@nationalgrid.com. Please note that, in the interest of transparency, any comments will be posted to our website as received and without redacting personal information, such as addresses, telephone numbers, or email addresses. As such, consider the extent of information you wish to share when submitting comments. 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, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110.

Any person who desires to participate otherwise in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall file a petition for leave to intervene no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Monday, July 17, 2023**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. Receipt by the Department 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 the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the second business day after the petition to intervene was filed.

All documents should be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and Scott.Seigal@mass.gov. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 23-56); (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 "23-56") 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 attorneys, Melissa Liazos, Esq., at melissa.liazos@nationalgrid.com, and Andrea Keeffe, Esq., at Andrea.Keefe@nationalgrid.com.

The filing and all subsequent related documents submitted to the Department 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 Gabriella.Knight@mass.gov.

For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's attorneys, identified above. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Scott Seigal, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at Scott.Seigal@mass.gov.