

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 25-74

June 26, 2025

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

On June 13, 2025, Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid ("National Grid" 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, 2025. This filing was made pursuant to <u>Boston Gas</u> <u>Company</u>, 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. 25-74.

National Grid proposes an increase in base distribution revenue of \$40,857,100 or 4.148 percent associated with its proposed PBRA. The proposed distribution revenue increase includes the recovery of \$6,651,180 in exogenous costs to comply with pipeline safety regulations pursuant to D.P.U. 22-100. To recover these costs, the Company proposes to increase all Boston Gas Division and Colonial Gas Division residential non-heating rates during the peak period from \$1.3822 per therm to \$1.4743 per therm and during the off-peak period from \$1.2360 per therm to \$1.3183 per therm for effect October 1, 2025. Further, the Company proposes to increase the legacy Boston Gas Division residential heating rate, including the residential low-income heating rate, during the peak period from \$0.8060 per therm to \$0.8959 per therm and during the off-peak period from \$0.4976 per therm to \$0.5039 per therm for effect October 1, 2025. The Company also proposes to increase the former Colonial Gas Division residential heating, including the residential low-income heating rate, during the off-peak period from \$0.8275 per therm during the peak period to \$0.8959 per therm and during the off-peak period to \$0.8959 per therm and during the off-peak period from \$0.4265 per therm to \$0.5039 per therm for effect October 1, 2025.

The Company is proposing to change some of the scorecard metrics used to monitor the Company's progress towards meeting the terms of the PBR plan. These are reporting-only metrics that do not influence the revenue requirement or allow additional incentive to be earned. Specifically, the Company is proposing two changes. The first is a replacement of the First

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Contact Resolution metric with the First Call Resolution metric. The second is to simplify the Damage Prevention metric scorecard, and remove the cost of not-at-fault damages and the percentage of the cost recovered for not-at-fault damages from the Damage Prevention metric.

If the Company's request is approved as proposed, a legacy Boston Gas Division residential heating customer with a typical usage of 106 therms per month during the peak period and 22 therms during the off-peak period would experience a monthly bill increase of \$3.74 or 1.4 percent and \$0.14 or 0.3 percent, respectively, as compared to current rates. A Boston Gas Division residential heating low-income customer with a typical usage of 106 therms per month during the peak period and 24 therms during the off-peak period would experience a monthly bill increase of \$2.81 or 1.4 percent and \$0.11 or 0.3 percent, respectively, as compared to current rates.

A former Colonial Gas Division residential heating customer with a typical usage of 106 therms per month during the peak period and 22 therms during the off-peak period would experience a monthly bill increase of \$7.26 or 2.9 percent and \$1.74 or 4.0 percent, respectively, as compared to current rates. A former Colonial Gas Division residential heating low-income customer with a typical usage of 106 therms per month during the peak period and 24 therms during the off-peak period would experience a monthly bill increase of \$5.44 or 2.9 percent and \$1.41 or 4.1 percent, respectively, as compared to current rates.

The Company states that bill impacts for commercial and industrial customers will vary based on rate class and usage. Customers may contact the Company for specific bill impact information.

Any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Wednesday, July 16, 2025. Written comments from the public may be sent by email to <u>dpu.efiling@mass.gov</u>, <u>Mathieu.Cunha@mass.gov</u>, and the Company's attorneys, Melissa Liazos, Esq., at <u>melissa.liazos@nationalgrid.com</u> and Stacey Donnelly, Esq., at <u>Stacey.Donnelly@nationalgrid.com</u>. 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 Wednesday, July 16, 2025. 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

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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 <u>second</u> business day after the petition to intervene was filed.

All filings must be submitted to the Department in electronic format by e-mail attachment to <u>dpu.efiling@mass.gov</u> and the Hearing Officer, <u>Mathieu.Cunha@Mass.Gov</u>. All materials shall be deemed to be filed or received on the date on which the email containing the material is received by the Department. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 25-74); (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 online <u>File Room</u> (enter "25-74" on the line for Docket No.). In addition, one copy of all written comments and petitions to intervene should be emailed to the Company's attorneys, Melissa Liazos, Esq., at <u>melissa.liazos@nationalgrid.com</u> and Stacey Donnelly, Esq., at <u>Stacey.Donnelly@nationalgrid.com</u>.

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 (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA coordinator at <u>eeadiversity@mass.gov</u> or (617) 626-1282.

For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's attorneys, identified above. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Mathieu Cunha, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at <u>Mathieu.Cunha@mass.gov</u>.