



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 25-78

August 20, 2025

2024 Annual Report of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid regarding the Geothermal Energy Demonstration Program

On July 1, 2025, Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid ("Company" or "Boston Gas") filed with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") its 2024 Annual Report on the Company's Geothermal Energy Demonstration Program ("Geothermal Program"), pursuant to Boston Gas Company, D.P.U. 21-24 (2021), Boston Gas Company, D.P.U. 22-62, (2022), and Section 12.7 of the Company's Local Distribution Adjustment Factor tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 60.9 ("LDAC Tariff"). On August 20, 2025, 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. The Department has docketed this petition as D.P.U. 25-78.

In December 2021, the Department approved the Company's Geothermal Program, in which the Company will oversee the installation, operation, and maintenance of up to four geothermal shared-loop systems that consist of ground-source heat pumps connected to a network of underground pipes. The Geothermal Program is designed to study the ability of these systems to: (1) reduce emissions resulting from customer energy use; (2) promote non-pipeline alternatives; (3) encourage the development of sustainable heating options; and (4) develop new technologies to advance low-carbon heating solutions. The Department approved a budget for the Geothermal Program of \$15.6 million.

Pursuant to the Company's LDAC Tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 60.9, Boston Gas must submit annual filings related to its Geothermal Program for the Department's review on or before July 1 of each year. The Geothermal Program annual filings include the capital project documentation for projects recorded as in-service during the prior program year and other documentation supporting eligible operations and maintenance ("O&M") expenses incurred. The annual report shall also include progress and results of the Geothermal Program, including progress against goals, construction progress, outreach and education efforts, data collected and analyzed, interim lessons learned, and financial performance against the budget.

The Department previously approved the Company's requests in its first and second annual filings to delay review of the calendar year ("CY") 2022 and CY 2023 costs. Accordingly, this proceeding will address Boston Gas's proposed costs for CY 2022, 2023, and 2024. The Company seeks to recover \$440,975 in incremental O&M expenses associated with

its Geothermal Program through its proposed 2024 Geothermal District Energy Program Factors for effect November 1, 2025.

In addition to cost recovery, the Company also proposes several changes to the Geothermal Energy Provision of its LDAC tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 60.9, Section 12.0. First, the Company proposes to add prudently incurred costs associated with the termination of projects within the Geothermal Program to the definition of O&M expenses eligible for recovery. The Company also proposes to include costs incurred to provide reasonable and prudent electrification measures for customers who signed a customer agreement to participate in the Lowell project prior to its termination. Second, the Company seeks to revise the participant fee to \$10 per month, per apartment. Third, the Company proposes striking the tariff language prohibiting large and extra-large commercial and industrial customers from participating in the GEP.

If the Department approves the Company's petition as filed, a typical residential heating customer using 106 therms will see an average peak period monthly bill increase of \$0.05. A typical low-income residential heating customer using 106 therms will see an average peak period monthly bill increase of \$0.03. For specific bill impacts for commercial and industrial customers, please contact the Company as shown below.

Any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments to the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Tuesday, September 30, 2025**. 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 otherwise 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 **Tuesday, September 9, 2025**. 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. 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 lauren.macarthur@mass.gov. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 25-78); (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 "25-78") 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, Laura Bickel, Esq., at laura.bickel@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 eeadiversity@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 Lauren MacArthur, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at lauren.macarthur@mass.gov.

Translation and Interpretation Services

English

ATTENTION: Translation and/or interpretation services are available upon request. Please email Kaylee Burgess at dpu.ej@mass.gov to request language services, specifying your preferred language and contact information.

Português (Portuguese)

ATENÇÃO: Disponibilizamos nossos serviços de tradução e/ou interpretação de acordo com a sua demanda. Para solicitar um serviço linguístico, envie um e-mail para Kaylee Burgess através do endereço dpu.ej@mass.gov, informando o idioma desejado e seus dados para contato.

繁體中文 (Traditional Chinese)

提醒您：您可依照需求申請筆譯和/或口譯服務。請以電郵聯絡 Kaylee Burgess (dpu.ej@mass.gov) 來申請語言服務請求，請在電郵內註明需要的語言和聯絡資訊。

Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)

LƯU Ý: Các dịch vụ biên dịch và/hoặc phiên dịch có sẵn theo yêu cầu. Vui lòng gửi email đến Kaylee Burgess theo địa chỉ dpu.ej@mass.gov để yêu cầu dịch vụ ngôn ngữ, nêu rõ ngôn ngữ ưa thích của quý vị và thông tin liên lạc

(Arabic) العربية

يُرجى الانتباه: تتوفر خدمات الترجمة و/أو الترجمة الفورية عند الطلب. لطلب خدمات لغوية يرجى التواصل مع Kaylee Burgess بارسال رسالة إلكترونية إلى العنوان dpu.ej@mass.gov، تحدد فيها اللغة المفضلة لديك وتذكر معلومات الاتصال.

ខ្មែរ (Khmer)

ជូនចំពោះ៖ សេវាកម្មប្រែក្លាយ និង/ឬបកប្រែផ្ទាល់ គឺមានតាមការស្នើសុំ។ សូមផ្ញើអ៊ីមែលទៅ Kaylee Burgess តាម dpu.ej@mass.gov ដើម្បីស្នើសុំសេវាកម្មប្រែក្លាយ ដោយបញ្ជាក់ភាសាដែលអ្នកចង់បាន និងព័ត៌មានទំនាក់ទំនង។

Español (Spanish)

ATENCIÓN: Los servicios de traducción y/o interpretación están disponibles bajo solicitud. Por favor envíe un correo electrónico a Kaylee Burgess en dpu.ej@mass.gov para solicitar los servicios de idiomas, especificando su idioma preferido e información de contacto.

简体中文 (Simplified Chinese)

提醒您：您可依需要申请提供笔译和/或口译服务。请发送电子邮件给 Kaylee Burgess (dpu.ej@mass.gov) 来申请语言服务要求，并注明您的首选语言和联系信息。

Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole)

ATANSYON: Gen sèvis tradiksyon ak/oswa entèpretasyon ki disponib sou demann. Tanpri voye imèl bay Kaylee Burgess nan dpu.ej@mass.gov pou mande sèvis lang, ki enfòm lang ou pi pito a ak enfòmasyon kontak ou.

Français (French)

ATTENTION : Des services de traduction et/ou d'interprétation sont disponibles sur demande. Veuillez envoyer un e-mail à Kaylee Burgess à l'adresse dpu.ej@mass.gov pour demander des services linguistiques, en précisant votre langue préférée et vos coordonnées.

Русский (Russian)

ВНИМАНИЕ!

Услуги письменного и/или устного перевода предоставляются по запросу. Для запроса услуг перевода обращайтесь к Kaylee Burgess по адресу dpu.ej@mass.gov. В запросе укажите язык перевода и контактную информацию.

한국어 (Korean)

주의: 요청 시 번역 및/또는 통역 서비스가 제공됩니다.

Kaylee Burgess에게 dpu.ej@mass.gov로 이메일을 보내 선호하는 언어와 연락처 정보를 명시하여 언어 서비스를 요청하십시오.