



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 24-117

August 22, 2024

Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid, for approval of its Electronic Payment Recovery Factor for effect November 1, 2024.

On August 2, 2024, Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid (“Company”) filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) requesting approval of its first annual Electronic Payment Recovery Factor (“EPRF”) for effect November 1, 2024. The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 24-117.

On August 25, 2022, the Department approved, with certain modifications, proposals by the gas and electric distribution companies to implement a fee-free debit/credit card bill payment option (“Fee-Free Program”) and to collect related costs through an annual reconciling mechanism (i.e., the EPRF). Investigation of Alternative Bill Payment Options, D.P.U. 20-91-A at 49-50 (2022). On September 21, 2022, the Department approved the Company’s proposed revised Local Distribution Adjustment Clause (“LDAC”) tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 60.3, incorporating the EPRF as a component of the LDAC. Investigation of Alternative Bill Payment Options, D.P.U. 20-91, Stamp-Approved 2nd Compliance Filing at 37 (September 21, 2022).

The Company proposes to implement an EPRF of \$0.0010 per therm for effect November 1, 2024. The proposed EPRF is designed to collect: (1) the Company’s actual costs related to the implementation and administration of the Fee-Free Program since its implementation in March, 2023 through December, 2023; (2) net of savings achieved by the Company through the implementation of the FeeFree- Program; and (3) plus costs of a one-time incentive credited to customers who enroll in a recurring automated payment program. Pursuant to the Department’s directives in D.P.U. 20-91-A at 39-41, the Company also submitted a report with supporting documentation addressing certain data related to the implementation of the Fee-Free Program.

If the Department approves the EPRF as proposed, the Company states that customers will experience the following bill impacts:

1. A typical Boston Gas Company residential heating customer (R-3) using 107 therms of gas per month in the winter will experience a monthly bill increase of \$0.11 (0.04 percent).

2. A typical Colonial Gas Customer residential heating customer (R-3) using 107 therms of gas per month in the winter will experience a monthly bill increase of \$0.11 (0.05 percent)
 3. A typical low-income Boston Gas Company residential heating (R-4) customer using 106 therms of gas per month in the winter will experience a monthly bill increase of \$0.11 (0.04 percent)
 4. A typical low-income Colonial Gas Company residential heating (R-4) customer using 106 therms of gas per month in the winter will experience a monthly bill increase of \$0.11 (0.05 percent).
- Commercial and Industrial customers will not experience any bill impacts related to this filing.

Any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **September 30, 2024**. 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 **September 19, 2024**. 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.

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. All documents should be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by email attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and timothy.m.federico@mass.gov. The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 24-117); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. In addition, one copy of all written comments and petitions to intervene should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Christopher Tuomala, Esq. at Christopher.Tuomala@nationalgrid.com. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "24-117") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Flerom/dockets/bynumber>.

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA coordinator at Jenyka.Spitz-Gassnola2@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 Timothy Federico, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at timothy.m.federico@mass.gov.