



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 23-78

August 30, 2023

Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2023 Peak Period, November 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024.

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On August 3, 2023, Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid (“Company”) filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) for approval of its revenue decoupling adjustment factors (“RDAFs”), for effect November 1, 2023. This filing was made pursuant to: Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company, D.P.U. 17-170 (2018); Boston Gas Company, D.P.U. 20-120 (2021); and the Company’s revenue decoupling adjustment clause (“RDAC”) tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 62.3. In 2008, the Department developed revenue decoupling by establishing a mechanism through the RDAC that allows the Company to modify, on a semi-annual basis, its base distribution rates as a result of changes in customer usage. Revenue decoupling severs the link between sales and revenues, and instead provides gas and electric utility companies with a target revenue level, thus removing the disincentive of implementation of energy efficiency and demand reduction programs that encourage customers to lower energy usage and demand. See generally Revenue Decoupling, D.P.U. 07-50-A (2008); see also Boston Gas Company/Essex Gas Company/Colonial Gas Company, D.P.U. 10-55, at 40-42 (2010). The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 23-78.

The Company states that its revenue decoupling reconciliation amount (“RDA”) exceeds the three percent revenue decoupling cap (“RDC”) pursuant to Section 5.0 of its RDAC tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 62.3 by 3.39 percent. The total RDA includes the prior period reconciliation, deferral amounts, and all carrying charges. The Company is requesting a waiver from the three percent RDC cap to recover the full RDA amount, which would result in the Company billing \$109,086,511 through the RDAFs. Absent Department approval of the waiver of the RDC, the Company would bill \$51,255,864 through the RDAFs, and defer recovery of the \$57,860,647 that exceeds the RDC. The Company proposes the following charges, effective November 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024:

<b>Boston Gas Company</b>	
<b>Customer Class</b>	<b>RDAF charges (\$ per therm)</b>
Residential (R-1, R-2, R-3B, R-3C, R-4B, R-4C)	0.1274
Small Commercial and Industrial (“C&I”) (G-41B, G-41C, G-41E, G-51B, G-51C, G-51E)	0.0888
Medium C&I (G-42B, G-42C, G-42E, G-52B, G-52C, G-52E)	0.0835
Large C&I (G-43B, G-43C, G-43E, G-53B, G-53C)	0.0701
	<b>RDAF charges (\$ per maximum daily contract quantity in therms)</b>
X-Large C&I (G-44B)	1.0160
X-Large C&I (G-54B, G-53E)	1.1811

As a result of the proposed changes to the RDAF, the average residential heating customer in the Boston service area (customer class R-3B) using on average 112 therms per month during the peak period will experience a bill increase of \$8.36 or 3.32 percent from the previously effective peak period RDAF. The average residential heating customer (customer class R-3C) in the former Colonial service area using on average 112 therms per month will experience a bill increase of \$8.36 or 3.63 percent from the previously effective peak period RDAF. The Company states that the average monthly bill impact during the peak season for all rate classes at each class’s average usage will range from increases between 2.37 percent and 3.63 percent as compared to the previously effective peak period RDAFs.

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 20, 2023. Written comments from the public may be sent by email to [dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov), [julianne.desmet@mass.gov](mailto:julianne.desmet@mass.gov), and the Company’s attorneys, Andrea G. Keefe, Esq., at [andrea.keeffe@nationalgrid.com](mailto:andrea.keeffe@nationalgrid.com), Joseph F. Dorfler, Esq., at [jdorfler@richmaylaw.com](mailto:jdorfler@richmaylaw.com), and Ashley M. Berger, Esq., at [aberger@richmaylaw.com](mailto:aberger@richmaylaw.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.

All documents should be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by email attachment to [dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov) and [julianne.desmet@mass.gov](mailto:julianne.desmet@mass.gov). The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 23-78); (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 "23-78") 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 attorneys, Andrea G. Keefe, Esq., at [andrea.keefe@nationalgrid.com](mailto:andrea.keefe@nationalgrid.com), Joseph F. Dorfler, Esq., at [jdorfler@richmaylaw.com](mailto:jdorfler@richmaylaw.com), and Ashley M. Berger, Esq., at [aberger@richmaylaw.com](mailto:aberger@richmaylaw.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](mailto: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 Julianne Desmet, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at [julianne.desmet@mass.gov](mailto:julianne.desmet@mass.gov).