


COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Inquiry of the Department of Public Utilities)
into Establishing Policies and Practices for)
Electric and Gas Companies Regarding Customer)
Assistance and Ratemaking Measures in)
Connection to the State of Emergency)
Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19))
Pandemic.)

GRANTED

Rachel Cottle JULY 28, 2020
Hearing Officer

D.P.U. 20-58

JOINT MOTION FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME

Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unutil (“Unutil”), Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company, each d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid”), and NSTAR Gas Company and NSTAR Electric Company, each d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource”), Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts (“CMA”), Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (“Liberty”), and The Berkshire Gas Company (“Berkshire”)(together, the “Distribution Companies”) pursuant to 220 C.M.R. 1.02(5) hereby request an extension to file a consensus ratemaking proposal by the Working Group.

On May 11, 2020, the Department of Public Utilities issued a Notice of Inquiry into establishing policies and practices for electric and gas companies regarding customer assistance and ratemaking measures in connection to the State of Emergency regarding the novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) Pandemic (“NOI”). The NOI directed the Working Group to create a Customer Assistance Report followed by a consensus ratemaking proposal to support customer assistance initiatives and to maintain the financial integrity of the utilities in response to COVID-19. The Working Group submitted the Customer Assistance report on May 29, 2020 and the Distribution

Companies submitted a joint ratemaking proposal to the Working Group on June 9, 2020. The deadline for the consensus ratemaking proposal was June 29, 2020. However, the Office of the Attorney General filed two Motions for an Extension of Time moving the deadline to July 24, 2020.

The Working Group is working collaboratively to develop a consensus ratemaking proposal and progress to completion is underway. Given the time needed to coordinate amongst the Distribution Companies and the Working Group and to develop consensus language, the Distribution Companies respectfully request an extension of eight business days to submit the consensus ratemaking proposal to the Department. This extension will result in moving the current deadline from Friday, July 24, 2020 to Wednesday, August 5, 2020. The Working Group contemplates that this will be the final extension that is needed and a filing will be made on that date.

Respectfully Submitted,

DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES

By their attorneys,

**FITCHBURG GAS AND ELECTRIC
LIGHT COMPANY d/b/a UNITIL**

Gary Epler (AT)

Gary Epler, Esq.
Unitil Service Corp
6 Liberty Lane West
Hampton, NH 03842
(603) 773-6440

**LIBERTY UTILITIES (NEW
ENGLAND NATURAL GAS
COMPANY) CORP. D/B/A LIBERTY**

R. J. Ritchie

Ronald J. Ritchie, Esq.
Liberty Utilities
36 Fifth Street
Fall River, MA 02721

EVERSOURCE ENERGY

John K. Habib

John K. Habib, Esq.
Ashley S. Wagner, Esq.
Keegan Werlin LLP
99 High Street, Ste. 2900
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 951-1400

THE BERKSHIRE GAS COMPANY

Daniel P. Venora

Daniel P. Venora, Esq.
Keegan Werlin LLP
99 High Street, Ste. 2900
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 951-1400

NATIONAL GRID

Meabh Purcell

Meabh Purcell, Esq.
National Grid
40 Sylvan Road
Waltham, MA 02451

**BAY STATE GAS COMPANY d/b/a
COLUMBIA GAS OF
MASSACHUSETTS**

Kenneth W. Christman

Kenneth Christman
NiSource Corporate Services Company
121 Champion Way, Suite 100
Canonsburg, PA, 15317

Dated: July 24, 2020