

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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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. )  
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**GRANTED**  
  
Rachel Cottle JULY 31, 2020  
Hearing Officer

D.P.U. 20-58

**JOINT MOTION FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME**

Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (“Unitil”), 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 an update to the Working Group’s Customer Assistance Report.

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. On June 26, 2020,

the Department issued D.P.U. 20-58-A directing the Working Group to update the Customer Assistance Report “identify such information as additional details, specific timelines, revisions, and any new approaches, including plans to progress to a new phase of the four-phase general plan at least ten business days prior to each progression” by July 30, 2020 (D.P.U. 20-58-A Order at 8).

The Distribution Companies, with the support or lack of objection from other members of the Working Group, has adhered to the directive through recent communications to the Department regarding the progression of communication phases and the need for advance notification to commercial customers regarding the potential for discontinuation of service (see D.P.U. 20-58 (July 10, 2020 and July 29, 2020 correspond to the Department, respectively)). The Working Group currently is continuing to work collaboratively to develop a Report with additional customer communications information, as contemplated by the directive. Given the time needed to coordinate, the Distribution Companies respectfully request an extension of three business days to submit the update to the Working Group’s Customer Assistance Report to the Department. This extension will result in moving the current deadline from Thursday, July 30, 2020 to Tuesday, August 4, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

**DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES**

By their attorneys,

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

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**LIBERTY UTILITIES (NEW  
ENGLAND NATURAL GAS  
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**THE BERKSHIRE GAS COMPANY**

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**NATIONAL GRID**

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

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Dated: July 30, 2020