

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF FILING AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

D.P.U. 24-143

November 4, 2024

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2025 through 2027.

On October 31, 2024, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty (“Company”), filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) seeking approval of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2025 through 2027 (“Three-Year Plan”). The proposed Three-Year Plan also incorporates the Company’s Residential Conservation Service filing pursuant to G.L. c. 164, App. § 2-7(h). The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 24-143.

Pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, all Massachusetts electric and gas distribution companies, and municipal aggregators with certified efficiency plans (together, “Program Administrators”), are required to develop, in consultation with the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (“Council”), plans that provide for the acquisition of all available energy efficiency and demand reduction resources that are cost effective or less expensive than supply. In addition, the Three-Year Plans must achieve the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals set by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Statewide, the Program Administrators together propose to invest approximately \$5 billion in energy efficiency and decarbonization efforts over the Three-Year Plan term that they state will deliver \$13 billion in total benefits to Massachusetts customers. The Company’s proposed Three-Year Plan includes energy efficiency programs for residential, low-income, and commercial and industrial (“C&I”) customers.

The Company’s proposed total budget for the 2025-2027 Three-Year Plan Term is \$50,754,006 (i.e., \$15,613,079 in 2025, \$16,770,380 in 2026, and \$18,370,547 in 2027). If the Company’s Three-Year Plan is approved as proposed, the Company states that customers could experience the following bill impacts:

- Residential heating (R-3) customers using 122 therms of gas per month during the peak period could experience a peak monthly bill increase of \$17.35 (or 7.57 percent) in 2025; a peak monthly bill decrease of \$10.42 (or 4.23 percent) in 2026; and a peak monthly bill increase of \$3.04 (or 1.29 percent) in 2027.

- Residential low-income heating (R-4) customers using 110 therms of gas per month during the peak period could experience a peak monthly bill increase of \$11.80 (or 7.53 percent) in 2025; a peak monthly bill decrease of \$7.09 (or 4.21 percent) in 2026; and a peak monthly bill increase of \$2.07 (or 1.28 percent) in 2027.
- Former Blackstone Gas Company residential heating (R-3) customers using 117 therms of gas per month during the peak period could experience a peak monthly bill increase of \$16.73 (or 9.77 percent) in 2025; a peak monthly bill decrease of \$10.05 (or 5.34 percent) in 2026; and a peak monthly bill increase of \$2.94 (or 1.65 percent) in 2027.
- Former Blackstone Gas Company residential low-income heating (R-4) customers using 116 therms of gas per month during the peak period could experience a peak monthly bill increase of \$12.40 (or 9.76 percent) in 2025; a peak monthly bill decrease of \$7.45 (or 5.34 percent) in 2026; and a peak monthly bill increase of \$2.17 (or 1.65 percent) in 2027.
- Bill impacts for C&I customers will vary. These customers should contact the Company as indicated below for specific bill impact information.

The Department will conduct the following public hearings to receive comments on the Company's petition, as follows:

- **In-person hearing on December 3, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in Worcester at the Hogan Campus Center, Suite B/C 4th, College of the Holy Cross, 1 College Street, Worcester, MA 01610. Interpretation services (Spanish, Chinese [Mandarin and Cantonese], and Vietnamese) will be available at this in-person public hearing.**
- **In-person hearing on December 4, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in New Bedford at Keith Middle School, 225 Hathaway Blvd., New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740. Interpretation services (Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Portuguese) will be available at this in-person public hearing.**
- **Virtual public hearing on December 5, 2024, beginning at 2:00 p.m. using Zoom videoconferencing using the link provided below. Interpretation services (Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese [Mandarin and Cantonese], Haitian Creole, and Vietnamese) will be available at this virtual public hearing.**
- **In-person hearing on December 5, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in Boston at the Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts. Interpretation services (Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese [Mandarin and Cantonese], Haitian Creole, Russian, and Vietnamese) will be available at this in-person public hearing.**

Attendees can join the December 5, 2024 virtual public hearing by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89518573642>, from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior

software download is required. For audio-only access to the virtual public hearing, attendees can dial in at **(646) 558-8656 or (309) 205-3325 (not toll free)** and then enter the **Meeting ID# 895 1857 3642**. Interpretation services (Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese [Mandarin and Cantonese], Haitian Creole, and Vietnamese) will be available over the Zoom platform by clicking the “Interpretation” button on the menu at the bottom of the Zoom application screen and selecting your language (i.e., Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese [Mandarin and Cantonese], Haitian Creole, and Vietnamese).

If you anticipate providing comments during any of the public hearings, please send an email by **Friday, November 29, 2024**, to [krista.hawley@mass.gov](mailto:krista.hawley@mass.gov) with your name, email address, and mailing address.

Any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Friday, December 6, 2024**. Please note that in the interest of transparency any comments will be posted to the Department’s website as received and without redacting personal information, such as addresses, telephone numbers, or email addresses. Therefore, consider the extent of information you wish to share when submitting comments. The Department strongly encourages public comments to be submitted by email using the methods described below. 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 must file a written petition for leave to intervene with the Department. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. The Department has established two procedural tracks for review of the Three-Year Plans, referred to as “General Track” and “Alternate Track.” Order Approving Revised Energy Efficiency Guidelines, D.P.U. 20-150-A (2021) (“Guidelines”). Guidelines § 3.7.2(a). A General Track participant is a party whose interests are represented on the Council pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 22(a). An entity that was previously granted intervention as a full party or a limited participant will be considered a General Track participant for future Three-Year Plan proceedings. An Alternate Track participant is any entity found by the Department, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A § 10, to be substantially and specifically affected by these proceedings but: (1) did not participate in or whose interests were not adequately represented in the Council process; and (2) has not previously participated in a Three-Year Plan proceeding as a full party or limited participant.

General Track persons/entities who desire to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding must file a written petition for leave to intervene with the Department not later than the close of business on **Friday, November 1, 2024**. Alternate Track persons/entities and all other persons/entities who desire to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding must file a written petition for leave to intervene with the Department not later than the close of business on **Thursday, November 14, 2024**. 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 General Track Petitions to Intervene must be filed by the close of

business on **Tuesday, November 5, 2024**. All responses to Alternate Track Petitions to Intervene must be filed by the close of business on **Monday, November 18, 2024**.

To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments or a petition to intervene in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission is sufficient. All comments or petitions to intervene must be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to [dpufiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpufiling@mass.gov) and [krista.hawley@mass.gov](mailto:krista.hawley@mass.gov). In addition, all comments or petitions to intervene should be submitted to the Company's attorneys, Molly Karg Agostinelli, Esq., and Kevin Penders, Esq., of Keegan Werlin LLP, and Ronald Ritchie, Esq., of Liberty Utilities, by email attachment to [MAgostinelli@keeganwerlin.com](mailto:MAgostinelli@keeganwerlin.com), [kpenders@keeganwerlin.com](mailto:kpenders@keeganwerlin.com), and [r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com](mailto:r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com). The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 24-143); (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 "24-143") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/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 [eadiversity@mass.gov](mailto:eadiversity@mass.gov) or 617-626-1282. Any person desiring further information regarding the Three-Year Plan should contact counsel for the Company: Molly Karg Agostinelli, Esq., and Kevin Penders, Esq., of Keegan Werlin LLP, and Ronald Ritchie, Esq., of Liberty Utilities, by email at [MAgostinelli@keeganwerlin.com](mailto:MAgostinelli@keeganwerlin.com), [kpenders@keeganwerlin.com](mailto:kpenders@keeganwerlin.com), and [r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com](mailto:r.j.ritchie@libertyutilities.com). For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Krista Hawley, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at [krista.hawley@mass.gov](mailto:krista.hawley@mass.gov) or visit: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/energy-efficiency-dockets-and-filings>.

**This document is an important Notice from Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty. To request translation and/or interpretation services, please contact Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty at: 1-800-544-4944.**

**Este documento es un Aviso importante de Servicios públicos Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., operando bajo el nombre comercial de Liberty ("la Compañía"). Por favor, contacte a la Compañía en: 1-800-544-4944 para solicitar servicios de traducción y/o interpretación.**

**Este documento contém um Aviso importante da Liberty Utilities Corp. (New England Natural Gas Company), que opera sob o nome de fantasia Liberty ("a Companhia"). Por favor, entre em contato com a Companhia pelo link: 1-800-544-4944 para solicitar serviços de tradução e/ou interpretação.**

此文件是 Liberty Utilities 公司（新英格蘭天然氣公司）的重要通知，該公司的營業名稱為 Liberty，簡稱「公司」。請透過 18005444944 聯絡公司來請求翻譯和/或口譯服務。

此文件是 Liberty Utilities 公司（新英格兰天然气公司）的重要通知，该公司的营业名称为 Liberty，简称“公司”。请通过 1-800-544-4944 联系公司来请求翻译和/或口译服务。

Dokiman sa a se yon Anons enpòtan nan men Liberty Utilities New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty (“Konpayi a”). Tanpri kontakte Konpayi a nan: 1-800-544-4944 pou mande sèvis tradiksyon ak/oswa entèpretasyon.

Tài liệu này là một Thông Báo quan trọng của Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company), kinh doanh trong Liberty (“Công Ty”). Xin hãy liên hệ Công Ty tại: 1-800-544-4944 để yêu cầu các dịch vụ biên dịch (viết) và/hoặc thông dịch (nói).

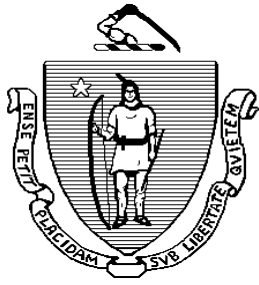
ឯកសារនេះគឺជាសេចក្តីជូនដំណឹងដ៏សំខាន់ ពី Liberty Utilities (សាជីវកម្ម ឧស្ម័នធម្មជាតិ New England) d/b/a សេរីភាព (“ក្រុមហ៊ុន”)។ សូមទាក់ទងក្រុមហ៊ុនតាមរយៈ 1-800-544-4944 ដើម្បីស្នើសុំសេវាបកប្រែឯកសារ និង/ឬសេវាបកប្រែផ្ទាល់។

هذه الوثيقة هي إشعار مهم من شركة Liberty Utilities (شركة الغاز الطبيعي في New England)، التي تعمل تحت اسم Liberty (“الشركة”). يرجى الاتصال بالشركة من خلال: 1-800-544-4944 لطلب خدمات الترجمة و/أو التفسير.

Этот документ содержит важную информацию от компании Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., которая осуществляет свою деятельность под наименованием Liberty («Компания»). Пожалуйста, свяжитесь с компанией: 1-800-544-4944, чтобы запросить письменный и (или) устный перевод.

본 문서는 Liberty Utilities(뉴잉글랜드 천연 가스 회사) Corp., d/b/a Liberty(“회사”)의 중요한 공지입니다. 번역 및/또는 통역 서비스를 요청하시려면 회사(1-800-544-4944)에 문의하시기 바랍니다.

Ce document est un avis important de Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., faisant affaire sous le nom de Liberty (« la société »). Veuillez contacter la société à l'adresse suivante: 1-800-544-4944 pour demander des services de traduction et/ou d'interprétation.



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### ORDER OF NOTICE

D.P.U. 24-143

November 4, 2024

Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2025 through 2027.

Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty (“Company”) is required to publish the attached Notice of Filing and Public Hearings (“Notice”) no later than **November 8, 2024**, in either The Boston Globe or the Boston Herald. In addition, the Company shall publish the attached Notice as soon as possible but no later than **November 12, 2024**, in: (1) The Fall River News; and (2) The Sun Chronicle.

The Company is required serve a copy of the attached Notice no later than **November 8, 2024**, on: (1) the Mayors, the Chairs of Select Boards, the Town Clerks, and the City Clerks in its service territory; (2) the service list in Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities, D.P.U. 21-123 (2022); (3) members of the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council convened pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 22; and (4) any person who has filed a request for notice with the Company. The Company’s service may be by electronic distribution, which the Department finds reasonable and consistent with the public interest.

Finally, the Company shall prominently display the Notice on its website from three business days following receipt of the notice from the Department through the end of the comment period on **December 6, 2024**.

The Company shall make return of service and proof of publication (including evidence of the required website posting) no later than **December 2, 2024**.

By Order of the Department,

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/s/  
Mark D. Marini, Secretary