



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 24-69

June 20, 2024

Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for review and approval of a Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan.

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On June 14, 2024, Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid” or “Company”) submitted its annual performance-based ratemaking (“PBR”) plan with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) seeking approval to recover the increase in base distribution revenue requirement associated with its PBR Mechanism through the proposed PBR adjustment (“PBRA”) for effect October 1, 2024. This filing was made pursuant to Boston Gas Company, D.P.U. 20-120 (2021) and the Company’s PBR Tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 93.1. The Department docketed this petition as D.P.U. 24-69.

National Grid proposes an increase in base distribution revenue of \$41,368,083 or 4.38 percent associated with its proposed PBRA. To recover these costs, the Company proposes to increase the Boston Gas Division and Colonial Gas Division residential non-heating rates for regular and low-income customers from \$1.2890 per therm during the peak period to \$1.3822 per therm and from \$1.1526 per therm during the off-peak period to \$1.2360 per therm for effect October 1, 2024. Further, the Company proposes to increase the Boston Gas Division residential heating rate for regular and low-income customers from \$0.8263 per therm during the peak period to \$0.9260 per therm and from \$0.4778 per therm during the off-peak period to \$0.5238 per therm for effect October 1, 2024. The Company also proposes to increase the Colonial Gas Division residential heating rate for regular and low-income customers from \$0.7532 per therm during the peak period to \$0.8999 per therm and from \$0.3882 per therm during the off-peak period to \$0.4473 per therm for effect October 1, 2024.

National Grid also seeks approval to update the volumetric billing determinants for its residential heating rate classes from calendar year (“CY”) 2020 billing determinants to CY 2023 billing determinants to reflect in its rate design the lower weather-normalized usage the Company has experienced over the past several years. In addition, National Grid provides a progress report on its PBR scorecard metrics, which includes an update to its methane emissions metric for CY 2022 and a baseline for its Grade 3 leak backlog metric.

If the Company's request is approved as proposed, a Boston Gas Division residential heating customer with a typical usage of 107 therms per month during the peak period and 23 therms during the off-peak period would experience a monthly bill increase of \$10.68 or 4.2 percent and \$1.06 or 2.4 percent, respectively, as compared to current rates. A Boston Gas Division residential heating low-income customer with a typical usage of 106 therms per month during the peak period and 25 therms during the off-peak period would experience a monthly bill increase of \$7.92 or 4.2 percent and \$0.87 or 2.5 percent, respectively, as compared to current rates.

A Colonial Gas Division residential heating customer with a typical usage of 107 therms per month during the peak period and 23 therms during the off-peak period would experience a monthly bill increase of \$15.72 or 6.7 percent and \$1.36 or 3.5 percent, respectively, as compared to current rates. A Colonial Gas Division residential heating low-income customer with a typical usage of 106 therms per month during the peak period and 25 therms during the off-peak period would experience a monthly bill increase of \$11.66 or 6.7 percent and \$1.13 or 3.6 percent, respectively, as compared to current rates.

The Company states that bill impacts for commercial and industrial customers will vary based on rate class and usage. Customers may contact the Company for specific bill impact information.

Any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, July 10, 2024**. Written comments from the public may be sent by email to [dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov), [Scott.Seigal@mass.gov](mailto:Scott.Seigal@mass.gov), and the Company's attorneys, Melissa Liazos, Esq., at [melissa.liazos@nationalgrid.com](mailto:melissa.liazos@nationalgrid.com) and Andrea Keeffe, Esq., at [Andrea.Keeffe@nationalgrid.com](mailto:Andrea.Keeffe@nationalgrid.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.

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 **Wednesday, July 10, 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.

All documents should be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to [dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov) and [Scott.Seigal@mass.gov](mailto:Scott.Seigal@mass.gov). The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 24-69); (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 "24-69") 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, Melissa Liazos, Esq., at [melissa.liazos@nationalgrid.com](mailto:melissa.liazos@nationalgrid.com) and Andrea Keeffe, Esq., at [Andrea.Keeffe@nationalgrid.com](mailto:Andrea.Keeffe@nationalgrid.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 [Jenyka.Spitz-Gassnola2@mass.gov](mailto: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 Scott Seigal, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at [Scott.Seigal@mass.gov](mailto:Scott.Seigal@mass.gov).