

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 20-GSEP-06

November 10, 2020

Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of its 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2021.

On October 30, 2020, NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (“NSTAR Gas” or “Company”) submitted to the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) its 2021 gas system enhancement plan (“GSEP”) to replace aging natural gas pipeline infrastructure. The Company proposes to collect \$30,622,403 through the gas system enhancement adjustment factor (“GSEAF”) to recover the cost to replace eligible leak-prone infrastructure through the end of calendar year 2021. The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 20-GSEP-06.

According to the Company, its proposed 2021 GSEP is consistent with the requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 145, which allows gas distribution companies to accelerate the replacement of eligible infrastructure in order to improve public safety or infrastructure reliability, and to reduce or potentially reduce lost and unaccounted for natural gas. The Company states that approval of the GSEAF will result in a monthly bill decrease of \$4.97 or 2.7 percent for the average residential heating customer using 128 therms per month during winter months, and a monthly bill decrease of \$1.07 or 3.7 percent for the average residential heating customer using 27 therms per month during summer months. Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, on May 1, 2022, the Company will submit to the Department the amount recovered through the GSEAF for reconciliation with actual 2021 calendar year GSEP costs. The Company proposes the following GSEAFs by rate class sector for effect May 1, 2021:

Rate Class Sector	Proposed GSEAF (\$/Therm)
Residential (R-1 through R-4)	\$0.0773
Small Commercial & Industrial ("C&I") (G-41/G-51)	\$0.0638
Medium C&I (G-42/G-52)	\$0.0426
Large C&I (G-43/G-53/T-1)	\$0.0356

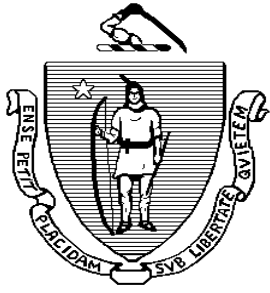
On March 10, 2020, Governor Baker issued Executive Order No. 591, Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19, which required the closing of certain brick and mortar premises, including the Department's offices. Because of the State of Emergency, in lieu of a public hearing and to allow for public participation, the Department is providing an extended written comment period and any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Tuesday, December 22, 2020**. Written comments from the public may be sent by email to peter.ray@mass.gov, sarah.smegal@mass.gov, and the Company's attorneys, Danielle C. Winter and Kerri A. Mahoney, Keegan Werlin LLP, dwinter@keeganwerlin.com and kmahoney@keeganwerlin.com. 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, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110.

Any person who desires 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 (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, November 25, 2020**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. Because the State of Emergency limits access to the Department's office, all petitions for leave to intervene must be submitted by email only to peter.ray@mass.gov, sarah.smegal@mass.gov, and the Company's attorneys at dwinter@keeganwerlin.com and kmahoney@keeganwerlin.com. 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 petitions to intervene must be filed by email not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the second business day after the petition to intervene was filed. The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts filed a notice to intervene in this matter pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(a).

Documents provided to the Department must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 20-GSEP-06); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; (3) a brief descriptive title of the document; and (4) the name, title, email address, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing.

The Company's filing and all related documents submitted to the Department or issued by the Department will be available on the Department's website as soon as is practicable at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber> (enter "20-GSEP-06"). A paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Company's offices or the Department due to the State of Emergency. To request materials in accessible formats (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format) for people with disabilities, contact the Department's ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov.

Any person desiring further information regarding the Company's filing or to request a paper copy of the filing should contact counsel for the Company, Danielle C. Winter and Kerri A. Mahoney, at dwinter@keeganwerlin.com and kmahoney@keeganwerlin.com, or (617) 951-1400. For further information regarding this notice, please contact Sarah Smegal, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at sarah.smegal@mass.gov.



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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

ORDER OF NOTICE

D.P.U. 20-GSEP-06

November 10, 2020

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NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy ("Company") shall publish the attached Notice of Filing and Request for Comments ("Notice") in either The Boston Globe or the Boston Herald not later than **Wednesday, November 18, 2020**. Within the same time frame, the Company shall also (a) electronically distribute a copy of the attached Notice to all persons on the service list in NSTAR Gas Company, D.P.U. 19-GSEP-06; and (b) serve a copy of the attached Notice by mail to any person who has filed a request for notice with the Company. Finally, the Company shall prominently display the Notice on its website from three business days following receipt of the Notice through **Tuesday, December 22, 2020**.

The Company is directed to make proof of publication and return of service not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, December 30, 2020**.

By Order of the Department,

/s/

Mark D. Marini, Secretary