



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 21-107

October 5, 2021

Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's 2021 performance-based ratemaking adjustment for effect November 1, 2021.

In NSTAR Gas Company, D.P.U. 19-120, at 56-98 (2020), the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") approved for NSTAR Gas Company, doing business as Eversource Energy ("Eversource" or "Company") a performance-based ratemaking ("PBR") mechanism, M.D.P.U. No. 411, with a ten-year term. The PBR mechanism allows Eversource to adjust its distribution rates annually through the application of a revenue-cap formula that accounts for, among other factors, inflation and events that have a significant impact on the Company's revenue requirement ("exogenous events").

On September 15, 2021, Eversource filed a petition with the Department seeking approval of the Company's first annual PBR adjustment, effective November 1, 2021. Eversource's proposed PBR adjustment increases its base distribution revenue requirement from \$222,471,110 to \$247,285,143, an increase of \$24,814,033. The proposed increase includes adjustments for the revenue-cap formula, capital investments placed in service in 2019 and 2020, and exogenous events. Further, because the Company proposes to recover capital investments placed in service in 2019 and 2020, it also proposes to update the number of customers and associated sales data from 2018 to 2020. Sales, and as such revenues, declined over this period, resulting in an additional proposed increase to the rate adjustment of \$4,488,665. The Company also states that it proposes tariff changes to: (1) the revenue decoupling adjustment clause, proposed M.D.P.U. No. 409F, to reflect proposed benchmark base revenue per customer targets for the 2021 -2022 gas season and (2) the PBR adjustment tariff, proposed M.D.P.U. No. 411B, to reflect the roll-in of capital investments and to clarify the reconciliation of exogenous costs.

The Company proposes the following charges for effect November 1, 2021:

Rate Class	Customer Charge	Peak	Off -Peak
R-1	\$9.75/month	\$0.8903/therm	\$0.8903/therm
R-2	\$9.75/month	\$0.8903/therm	\$0.8903/therm
R-3	\$10.00/month	\$0.5737/therm	\$0.5737/therm
R-4	\$10.00/month	\$0.5737/therm	\$0.5737/therm
G-41	\$21.00/month	\$0.3752/therm	\$0.3752/therm
G-42	\$46.00/month	\$0.3258/therm	\$0.2241/therm
G-43	\$181.00/month	\$0.2925/therm	\$0.1704/therm
G-51	\$21.00/month	\$0.4139/therm	\$0.2551/therm
G-52	\$46.00/month	\$0.3335/therm	\$0.2072/therm
G-53	\$305.00/month	\$0.0032/therm	\$0.0032/therm

If the Department approves the Company's proposed rate changes for effect November 1, 2021, Eversource states that customers can expect the bill impacts outlined below.

- From November through April, a typical residential non-heating customer who uses on average 14 therms per month would experience an increase of \$3.23 per month or 9.8 percent.
- From May through October, a typical residential non-heating customer who uses on average seven therms per month would experience an increase of \$1.71 per month or 9.6 percent.
- From November through April, a typical residential low-income non-heating customer who uses on average 24 therms per month would experience an increase of \$4.25 per month or 11.3 percent.
- From May through October, a typical residential low-income non-heating customer who uses on average 12 therms per month would experience an increase of \$2.06 per month or 12.1 percent.
- From November through April, a typical residential heating customer who uses on average 120 therms per month would experience an increase of \$9.30 per month or 4.8 percent.
- From May through October, a typical residential heating customer who uses on average 27 therms per month would experience an increase of \$2.08 per month or 5.8 percent.

- From November through April, a typical residential low-income heating customer who uses on average 117 therms per month would experience an increase of \$6.80 per month or 4.8 percent.
- From May through October, a typical residential low-income heating customer who uses on average 28 therms per month would experience an increase of \$1.60 per month or 5.9 percent.
- Bill impacts for commercial and industrial customers will vary depending upon their rate classification and level of usage. For specific impacts, please contact the Company as indicated below.

Due to certain ongoing safety measures and precautions relating to in-person events as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department will conduct a virtual public hearing to receive comments on the Company's filing. The Department will conduct the public hearing using Zoom videoconferencing on **Thursday, October 28, 2021**, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Attendees can join by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87807312954>, from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only access to the hearings, attendees can dial in at **(646) 558-8656 (not toll free)** and then enter the **Meeting ID# 878 0731 2954**.

Any person interested in commenting on the Company's filing may also submit written comments to the Department no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Thursday, October 28, 2021**. At this time, all filings will be submitted only in electronic format consistent with the Commission's June 15, 2021 directive related to modified filing requirements. Ordinarily, all parties would follow Sections B.1 and B.4 of the Department's Standard Ground Rules (D.P.U. 15-184-A, App. 1 (March 4, 2020)); however, until further notice, parties must retain the original paper version and the Department will later determine when the paper version must be filed with the Department Secretary.

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 **October 21, 2021**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. 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 the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the second business day after the petition to intervene was filed.

All documents must be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and kevin.crane@mass.gov. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 21-107); (2) the name of the person or

company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic file name should identify the document but should not exceed 50 characters in length. Importantly, all large files submitted must be broken down into electronic files that do not exceed 20 MB. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "21-107") 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, Danielle C. Winter, Esq., at dwinter@keeganwerlin.com, and Kerri A. Mahoney, Esq., at kmahoney@keeganwerlin.com.

At this time, a paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Company's offices or the Department due to certain ongoing safety measures and precautions relating to in-person events as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The filing and all subsequent related documents, pleadings and/or filings submitted to the Department and/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 DPUADACoordinator@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 Kevin Crane, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at kevin.crane@mass.gov.