



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND PUBLIC HEARING

D.P.U. 22-107

September 9, 2022

Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Authorization by the Department of Public Utilities to Distribute Gas in the Town of Douglas, Massachusetts, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 164, § 30.

On August 19, 2022, NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy ("NSTAR Gas" or "Company") filed a petition for authority to distribute gas in the Town of Douglas ("Douglas" or "Town"), pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 30. The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 22-107.

On May 4, 2021, Douglas' Select Board unanimously resolved to request NSTAR Gas to supply natural gas to the Town. Currently, a local natural gas distribution company does not serve Douglas. The Town's request to the Company for expansion of natural gas services was motivated by economic-development projects planned in the Lackey Dam/Gilboa Street area of Douglas and the requests of other existing businesses in the Town.

If the Company's petition is approved as filed, NSTAR Gas plans to install 8,750 feet of eight-inch plastic main to serve the prospective commercial and industrial customers. Douglas and the developer will pay about \$1.5 million toward the cost of the main, which the Company estimates will cost about \$3.6 million in total. The Company states that with the payment from Douglas and the developer, the estimated revenues over the life of the main will exceed the estimated total cost.

On August 29, 2022, the Attorney General of the Commonwealth ("Attorney General") filed a notice of intervention pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(a). The Attorney General has the right to represent and advocate on behalf of ratepayers in proceedings involving changes to rates, charges, prices, and tariffs of a gas company.

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. During the public hearing, any member of the public will be able to provide comments. The Department will conduct the public hearing using Zoom videoconferencing on **September 29, 2022, beginning at 2:00 p.m.** Attendees can join by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81765178950>, from a computer,

smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only access to the hearings, attendees can dial in at 301-715-8592 (not toll free) and then enter the Webinar ID number: 817 6517 8950. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, please send an email by **September 26, 2022**, to katie.zilgme@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address.

Alternatively, any person who desires to provide written comment on this matter may submit their comments to the Department no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **September 30, 2022**. To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit written comments in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission, as detailed below, is sufficient.

At this time, all filings will be submitted only in electronic format in recognition of the difficulty that parties and the Department may have filing and receiving original copies. 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.

All written comments or other documents must be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by email attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and katie.zilgme@mass.gov. In addition, one copy of all written comments should be emailed to the Company's attorneys, Kevin F. Penders, Esq at kpenders@keeganwerlin.com and Steven Frias, Esq. at sfrias@keeganwerlin.com. The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 22-107); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The email must also include the name, title, and telephone number of the person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. 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 20MB**.

Any person who desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall file a petition for leave to intervene no later than close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **September 23, 2022**. 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.

The Company's 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 soon as is practicable at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber> (enter "22-107"). To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission, as detailed above, is sufficient. To request materials in accessible formats (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@state.ma.us.

For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's attorneys, Kevin F. Penders, Esq at kpenders@keeganwerlin.com or Steven Frias, Esq. at sfrias@keeganwerlin.com or 617-951-1400. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Katie Zilgme, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at katie.zilgme@mass.gov.