

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 16-52

May 5, 2016

Petition of Massachusetts Local Distribution Gas Companies to the Department of Public Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 69I and 76 for authorization to plan for a portion of the Winter 2016/2017 gas supply requirements of capacity-exempt transportation customers.

On October 1, 2015, in Emergency Authorization for Gas Capacity Planning, D.P.U. 15-43, at 17-18 (2015), the Department granted the local distribution companies ("LDCs")¹ a limited waiver ("Waiver") for Winter 2015/2016 for procuring resources for capacity-exempt customers. The Department directed the LDCs to provide a detailed report ("Compliance Filing") no later than March 31, 2016, on: (1) the number of capacity-exempt customers who returned to default service during Winter 2015/2016; (2) the amount of incremental resources that each LDC procured for Winter 2015/2016; and (3) how each LDC determined the amount of gas resources as well as the associated costs of these incremental resources.

In addition to providing their Compliance Filings to the Department on or about March 31, 2016, each LDC is seeking approval from the Department to extend the Waiver to plan for up to 30 percent of the Winter 2016/2017 design-day and design-winter gas supply requirements of capacity-exempt transportation customers converting to default service during the period of November 1, 2016, through April 30, 2017. The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 16-52.

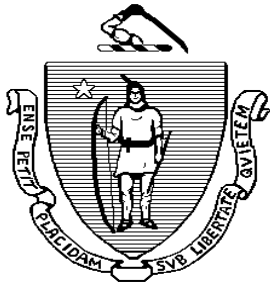
The LDCs' Compliance Filings, including the requests to extend the Waiver, are available for inspection at the Department's offices, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. In addition, the filings are available on the Department's website, <http://web1.env.state.ma.us/DPU/FileRoom/dockets/bynumber> (enter docket number "16-52").

¹ The Berkshire Gas Company; Bay State Gas Company, d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts; Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities; Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company, each d/b/a National Grid; NSTAR Gas Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy; and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil.

Any person who desires to file written comments regarding the LDCs' requests to extend the Waiver shall file an original and two (2) copies of such written comments with Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110, no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, June 3, 2016**. Receipt by the Department, not mailing, constitutes filing. In addition to the above filing requirement, one (1) copy of all materials filed with the Department should be sent to the following: Ladawn S. Toon, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110; and counsel for the Gas Companies, Cheryl Kimball, Esq., Keegan Werlin LLP, 265 Franklin Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110.

In addition to paper filings, all documents should be submitted to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@state.ma.us and the Hearing Officer: ladawn.toon@state.ma.us ; or (2) on CD-ROM. The text of the e-mail or CD-ROM must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 16-52); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website.

Any person desiring further information regarding the Gas Companies' filing should contact counsel for the Gas Companies, Cheryl Kimball, Esq., Keegan Werlin LLP, 265 Franklin Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact Ladawn S. Toon, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at (617) 305-3500.



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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

ORDER OF NOTICE

D.P.U. 16-52

May 5, 2016

Petition of Massachusetts Local Distribution Gas Companies to the Department of Public Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 69I and 76 for authorization to plan for a portion of the Winter 2016/2017 gas supply requirements of capacity-exempt transportation customers.

The Berkshire Gas Company; Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts; Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities; Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company each d/b/a National Grid; NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy; and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (collectively, "Gas Companies") are required to publish the attached Notice of Filing and Request for Comments in either The Boston Globe or the Boston Herald no later than **Friday, May 13, 2016**. In addition, the Gas Companies are required to serve a copy of the attached Notice of Filing and Request for Comments by mail, no later than **Friday, May 13, 2016**, on: (1) the service list in Emergency Authorization for Gas Capacity Planning, D.P.U. 15-43 (2015); (2) the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources; (3) all gas suppliers and retail agents within each Gas Company's service territory; and (4) any person who has filed a request for notice with a Gas Company.

Finally, each Gas Company shall prominently display the notice on its website within three business days following receipt of the notice from the Department through the end of the comment period. Each Gas Company shall make return of service and proof of publication at the end of the comment period.

By Order of the Department,

/s/

Mark D. Marini, Secretary