



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND PROCEDURAL CONFERENCE

D.P.U. 16-79

July 14, 2016

Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of a Natural Gas Customer Expansion Pilot Program.

On June 10, 2016, pursuant to Chapter 149, § 3 of the Acts of 2014, NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (“NSTAR Gas” or “Company”) filed with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”), a petition for approval of a natural gas customer expansion pilot program. The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 16-79.

Under the proposed pilot program, the Company requests that the Department approve an alternate payment option for customers’ contribution in aid of construction (“CIAC”) in order to expand access to natural gas service for certain eligible customers. The alternative CIAC payment option would allow eligible gas customers to make installment payments over a ten-year period instead of a single upfront payment. The Company maintains that all costs of the pilot program would be borne by participating customers and, therefore, no changes in distribution rates are necessary. NSTAR Gas proposes to limit the initial scope of the pilot program to \$1.0 million in CIAC. Finally, the Company proposes certain revisions to its existing General Terms and Conditions tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 400C, in order accommodate the terms of the pilot program.

The Department will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the Company’s petition. The hearing will take place on **Thursday, August 11, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.**, at the Department’s offices, One South Station – 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. A procedural conference will take place immediately following the public hearing. Any person who desires to comment may do so at the time and place noted above, or submit written comments to the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Thursday, August 11, 2016.**

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 **Thursday, August 4, 2016.** A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 C.M.R. § 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 C.M.R. § 1.01(4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 C.M.R. § 1.03(1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10.

An original and two (2) copies of all written comments or petitions to intervene must be filed with Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station – 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the dates noted above. One copy of all written comments or petitions to intervene should also be sent to the Company’s attorney, Danielle C. Winter, Esq., Keegan Werlin LLP, 265 Franklin Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110.

All documents should also 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 to Shane Early, Hearing Officer, shane.early@state.ma.us; or (2) on a CD-ROM. The text of the e-mail or CD-ROM must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 16-79); (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: <http://web1.env.state.ma.us/DPU/FileRoom/dockets/bynumber> (enter “16-79”).

Copies of the Company’s petition are on file at the Department’s offices, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 for public viewing during business hours, and on the Department’s website. A copy is also on file for public viewing at the office of NSTAR Gas, 800 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts. Any person desiring further information regarding the Company’s petition should contact counsel for NSTAR Gas, Danielle C. Winter, (617) 951-1400. Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact Shane Early, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at (617) 305-3500.