



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND PROCEDURAL CONFERENCE

D.P.U. 15-80

June 29, 2015

Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company (Electric Division) d/b/a Unitil, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94, and 220 C.M.R. § 5.00 et seq. for approval of a general increase in electric base distribution rates and implementation of a capital cost adjustment mechanism to become effective July 1, 2015.

On June 16, 2015, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil (“Company”) filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) for a \$3.8 million increase to its electric base distribution rates, which represents a 5.6 percent increase of test year total electric operating revenues. The Department has docketed the filing as D.P.U. 15-80 and has suspended the effective date of the proposed rate increase until May 1, 2016, to investigate the propriety of the Company’s request. The Company’s last electric base distribution rate case concluded in 2014. See Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, D.P.U. 13-90 (2014).

The Company states that if its petition is approved as requested, the proposed rates will have the following effects:

- A residential customer receiving service under Rate RD-1 that uses on average 587 kWh of electricity per month will experience a monthly bill increase of \$4.88 (a 3.5 percent increase in current rates); and
- A residential low-income customer receiving service under Rate RD-2 that uses on average 587 kWh of electricity per month will experience a monthly bill increase of \$3.67 (a 3.5 percent increase in current rates).

Bill impacts for commercial and industrial customers will vary. Individual customers may contact the Company as shown below for specific bill impact information.

As part of the filing, the Company also seeks approval of a capital cost adjustment mechanism effective January 1, 2017, to provide for annual revenue increases in between base distribution rate proceedings to reflect an amount the Company states is its cost of providing safe and reliable service.

The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (“Attorney General”) has filed a notice to intervene in this matter pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(a). Further, pursuant to

G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), the Attorney General has filed a notice of retention of experts and consultants to assist in her investigation of the Company's filing and has requested Department approval to spend up to \$150,000 in this regard. Pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), the costs incurred by the Attorney General relative to her retention of experts and consultants may be recovered in the Company's rates.

The Department has scheduled the following public hearing to receive comments on the Company's petition:

Wednesday, August 12, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

Fitchburg Memorial Middle School
615 Rollstone Street
Fitchburg, Massachusetts 01420

Any person interested in commenting on this matter may appear at the public hearing or file written comments with the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Wednesday, August 12, 2015.

Any person interested in participating in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding must file a written petition for leave to intervene or to participate in the proceeding not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Monday, July 13, 2015. A procedural conference will be held at the Department's offices on Friday, July 17, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. A petition 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 a 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.

Any person who seeks to intervene in this matter and also desires to comment on the Attorney General's notice of retention of experts and consultants must file the comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Monday, July 13, 2015.

All comments or petitions to intervene or participate in the proceeding must be filed with the Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110, as follows: an original and two copies with Mark D. Marini, Secretary. In addition, one copy of all comments or petitions to intervene must be sent to counsel for the Company, Gary Epler, Chief Regulatory Counsel, Unitil Service Corp., 6 Liberty Lane West, Hampton, New Hampshire, 03842-1720.

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 the hearing officer, carol.pieper@state.ma.us; or (2) on a 3.5" disk or CD-ROM. The text of the e-mail, disk label, or CD-ROM must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 15-80); (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://www.mass.gov/dpu>.

A copy of the Company's filing is available for inspection during regular business hours at the following locations: Fitchburg Public Library, Auditorium, 610 Main Street, Fitchburg, Massachusetts, and at the Department's offices, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts. The filing is also available on the Department's website, <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>. For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's counsel, Gary Epler, Chief Regulatory Counsel, at 603-773-6440 or by email at epler@unitil.com.

Any person desiring further information regarding this notice may contact Carol Pieper, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110, 617-305-3500.