



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND PROCEDURAL CONFERENCE

D.P.U. 16-GSEP-01

November 16, 2016

Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unutil for Approval of its 2016 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2017.

On October 31, 2015, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unutil Company (“Unutil” or “Company”) submitted to the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) its 2017 gas system enhancement plan (“GSEP”) to replace aging natural gas pipeline infrastructure. The Company seeks approval to collect \$1,790,614 through the gas system enhancement adjustment factor (“GSEAF”) to recover the cumulative cost to replace eligible leak-prone infrastructure through the end of calendar year 2017. In addition, the Company seeks a waiver of the 1.5 percent cap on annual changes in the revenue requirement eligible for recovery. The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 16-GSEP-01.

According to the Company, its proposed 2017 GSEP is consistent with the requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 145, which allows gas distribution companies to accelerate the replacement of eligible infrastructure in order to improve public safety or infrastructure reliability, and to reduce or potentially reduce lost and unaccounted for natural gas. The Company states that approval of the GSEAF will result in a monthly bill increase of \$5.94 or 3.18 percent for the average residential heating customer using 114 therms per month during winter months, and a monthly bill increase of \$1.24 or 2.47 percent for the average residential heating customer using 24 therms per month during summer months. Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, on May 1, 2018, the Company will submit to the Department the amount recovered through the GSEAF for reconciliation with actual 2017 calendar year GSEP costs. The Company proposes that the following rates for each customer class take effect on May 1, 2017:

Residential	\$0.0997 per therm
Small Commercial and Industrial (“C&I”)	\$0.1012 per therm
Medium C&I	\$0.0449 per therm
Large C&I	\$0.0406 per therm

The Department will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on Unitil's petition. The hearing will take place on **Thursday, December 15, 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, December 15, 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 **Friday, December 9, 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. 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.

An original and one (1) copy 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 attorneys, Gary Epler, Chief Regulatory Counsel, and Patrick H. Taylor, Senior Counsel, both at 6 Liberty Lane West, Hampton, New Hampshire, 03842.

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 Carol Pieper, Hearing Officer, carol.pieper@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-GSEP-01; (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-GSEP-01").

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 Patrick H. Taylor, Esq., Unitil, 6 Liberty Lane West, Hampton, New Hampshire 03842. Any person desiring further information regarding Unitil's petition should contact counsel for the Company, Patrick H. Taylor, at 603-773-6440. Any person desiring further information

regarding this notice should contact Carol Pieper, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at 617-305-3561.