



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING, PUBLIC HEARING AND EVIDENTIARY HEARING

D.P.U. 17-25

February 23, 2017

Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unutil for authorization and approval to issue long-term debt in the principal amount of up to \$30,000,000, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §14; and for an exemption from the competitive solicitation and advertising requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15.

On January 30, 2016, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unutil (“Company”) filed with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”), a petition for approval and authorization to issue long-term, unsecured debt in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$30,000,000, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 14. The Company proposed to use the proceeds of financing for: (1) repayment of short-term debt; (2) payment of the capital expenditures incurred for utility plant and properties; (3) payment of sinking funds associated with long-term notes; and (4) other general working capital needs. The Company proposed to issue the new debt at a fixed interest rate not exceeding an effective rate of five and a half percent per annum. The Company seeks to issue new debt before October 2, 2017 and anticipates issuing notes for terms of between 10 and 30 years. The Company also seeks an exemption from the competitive solicitation and advertising requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15. The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 17-25.

The Department will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the Company’s petition. The hearing will take place on **Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Department’s offices, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. An evidentiary hearing 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 **April 13, 2017**.

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 **March 23, 2017**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 C.M.R. § 1.03, including a description of the manner in which the petitioner is substantially and specifically affected by this proceeding. 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.

One original and three (3) copies of all written documents must be filed with Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. In addition, one (1) copy of written documents should be sent to the Company's attorney, Paul Connolly, Jr., Esq., Pierce Atwood LLP, 100 Summer Street, Suite 2250, 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 the Hearing Officer caroline.conti@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. 17-25; (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 (insert docket number 17-25) at: <http://web1.env.state.ma.us/DPU/FileRoom/Dockets/DocketbyNumber>.

The Company's petition is available at the Department's offices, One South Station - 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 for public viewing during business hours and on the Department's website as referenced above. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact Theresa Kelly at Theresa.Kelly@state.ma.us or (617) 305-3642. A copy is also on file for public view during regular business hours at Company's offices, 6 Liberty Lane West, Hampton, New Hampshire 03842. Any person desiring further information regarding the petition should contact counsel for the Company, Paul Connolly, Jr., Esq, at (617) 488-8126. Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact Caroline Conti, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at (617) 305-3500.

Reasonable accommodations at public or evidentiary hearings for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need, including as much detail as you can. Also include a way the Department can contact you if we need more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible. Last minute requests will be accepted, but may not be able to be accommodated. Contact Theresa Kelly at Theresa.Kelly@state.ma.us or (617) 305-3642.