



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 19-POR-04

September 24, 2019

Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unutil pursuant to the Company's Tariffs M.D.P.U. No. 314, § 8B for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's Standard Complete Billing Percentages for effect December 1, 2019, under the Company's Purchase of Receivables Program.

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On August 29, 2019, Fitchburg Gas and Electric light Company d/b/a Unutil ("Company") filed with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") its calculation of purchase of receivables ("POR") discount rates by customer class for effect December 1, 2019. The Company made this filing pursuant to the Company's POR Program set forth in Terms and Conditions for Competitive Suppliers tariff M.D.P.U. No. 314, § 8B. The Department has docketed this filing as D.P.U. 19-POR-04.

The Company's POR Program provides for the Company to purchase, at a discounted rate, the billing accounts receivable of competitive suppliers operating in the Company's service territory that take standard complete billing service from the Company. The discounted rate, called the standard complete bill percentage ("SCBP"), is set annually for effect December 1 for a 12-month period. The SCBP is comprised of the following: (1) the uncollectible percentage, which is calculated for each customer class based on actual uncollectible expense data for all distribution customers in that class; (2) administrative costs incurred by the Company in implementing the POR Program; and (3) the reconciliation of projected and actual uncollectible expenses experienced during the previous year. M.D.P.U. No. 314, § 8B.2.b. In calculating the uncollectible percentage, the Company included an adjustment of \$325,000 to account for write-offs during 2018 that the Company delayed recording while it implemented a new billing system.

In its filing, the Company proposes the following SCBPs for effect December 1, 2019:

SCBPs	
Customer Class	SCBP %
Residential	3.38%
Small/ Regular General Service	0.71%
Total	2.65%

A copy of the petition and accompanying exhibits are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Department's offices. In addition, the filing is also available on the Department's website at <http://web1.env.state.ma.us/DPU/FileRoom/dockets/bynumber> (enter "19-POR-04"). To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA Coordinator at [DPUADACoordinator@state.ma.us](mailto:DPUADACoordinator@state.ma.us) or (617) 305-3642.

Any persons wishing to submit written comments on this filing must do so no later than close of business (5:00 p.m.) **Friday, October 25, 2019**. One original and one copy of all written documents must be filed with Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. In addition, one copy of all written comments should be sent to the Company's attorney, Gary Epler, Unitil, 6 Liberty Lane West, Hampton, NH 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](mailto:dpu.efiling@state.ma.us) and [janine.vargas@state.ma.us](mailto:janine.vargas@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. 19-POR-04); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website: <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>.

Any person desiring further information regarding the Company's filing should contact Gary Epler at (603) 773-6440. Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact Janine Vargas, Hearing Officer at (617) 305-3500.