



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 24-GREC-02

May 10, 2024

Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for review and approval of the reconciliation of its 2023 Gas System Enhancement Plan and Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.

On May 1, 2024, The Berkshire Gas Company (“Berkshire” or “Company”) submitted to the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) a reconciliation of its 2023 gas system enhancement plan (“GSEP”) to replace aging natural gas pipeline infrastructure. Based on the Company’s calculations, Berkshire proposes to refund \$1,307,649 to ratepayers as over-recoveries through the gas system enhancement reconciliation adjustment factors (“GSERAFs”) for the period from November 1, 2024 to October 31, 2025. The Company states that its proposed revenue requirement does not exceed the three-percent GSEP cap. The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 24-GREC-02.

The Company proposes the following GSERAFs by rate class sector for effect November 1, 2024:

Rate Class Sector	Proposed GSERAF (\$/Therm)
Residential (R-1 to R-4)	\$(0.0227)
Small Commercial and Industrial (C&I) (G-41/G-51)	\$(0.0208)
Medium Annual Use C&I (G-42/G-52)	\$(0.0133)
Large Annual Use C&I (G-43/G-53)	\$(0.0079)
Extra Large Annual Use C&I (T-54)	\$(0.0004)

The Company states that approval of the GSERAFs will result in an average monthly bill decrease of \$3.27, or 1.29 percent, for the average residential heating customer using 136 therms per month during the winter months, and an average monthly bill decrease of \$0.70, or 1.40 percent, for the average residential heating customer using 29 therms per month during the summer months.

The Department is providing a written comment period and any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Friday, June 14, 2024. Written comments from the public may be sent by email to dpu.efiling@mass.gov, elyssa.klein@mass.gov, and the Company's attorneys, Brendan Vaughan, at bvaughan@keeganwerlin.com and Daniel Venora, at DVenora@keeganwerlin.com. Please note that in the interest of transparency any comments will be posted to our website as received and without redacting personal information, such as addresses, telephone numbers, or email addresses. As such, consider the extent of information you wish to share when submitting comments. The Department strongly encourages public comments to be submitted by email. If, however, a member of the public is unable to send written comments by email, a paper copy may be sent to Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110.

Any person who desires to participate otherwise in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall file a petition for leave to intervene no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 2024. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. Receipt by the Department 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 CMR 1.01(4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 CMR 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.

On May 8, 2024, the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("Attorney General") filed a notice to intervene in this matter pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E. Further, pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), the Attorney General filed a notice of intent to retain experts and consultants to assist 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. Any person who desires to comment on the Attorney General's notice of intent to retain experts and consultants may submit written comments to the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

All documents should be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by email attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and elyssa.klein@mass.gov. The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 24-GREC-02); (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 through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "24-GREC-02") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>. In addition, one copy of all written comments and petitions to intervene should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Brendan Vaughan, at bvaughan@keeganwerlin.com and Daniel Venora, at DVenora@keeganwerlin.com.

The filing and all subsequent related documents submitted to the Department or issued by the Department will be available on the Department's website as referenced above as soon as is practicable. To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments or intervene in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission, as detailed above, is sufficient. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA coordinator at Andrea.R.Casul@mass.gov.

For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's attorneys, identified above. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Elyssa Klein, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at elyssa.klein@mass.gov.