



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 24-105

August 29, 2024

Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for Approval of Interim Adjustments to its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2024 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024.

On July 18, 2024, The Berkshire Gas Company (“Company”) filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) for approval of interim adjustments, to be effective August 1, 2024, to its revenue decoupling adjustment factors (“RDAFs”) for the 2024 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024. The Department approved the currently effective RDAFs for the 2024 Off-Peak Period in The Berkshire Gas Company, D.P.U. 24-21 (April 30, 2024). This filing was made pursuant to New England Gas Company, D.P.U. 12-50-A (2013) and the Company’s revenue decoupling adjustment clause (“RDAC”) tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 579, § 1.8. The Department has docketed this petition as D.P.U. 24-105.

In 2008, the Department instituted revenue decoupling by establishing a mechanism through the RDAC that allows an electric or gas company (“Distribution Company”) to modify, on a semi-annual basis, its base distribution rates due to changes in customer usage. Revenue decoupling severs the link between sales and revenues, and instead provides Distribution Companies with a target revenue level, thus removing a disincentive to implement energy efficiency and demand reduction programs that encourage customers to lower energy usage and demand. See generally Revenue Decoupling, D.P.U. 07-50-A (2008); see also Bay State Gas Company, D.P.U. 09-30, at 25-26 (2009) (describing rate setting pursuant to RDAC).

Distribution Companies must petition the Department for an interim adjustment to their RDAF when actual revenues are ten percent above or below target revenues. D.P.U. 07-50-A at 63. The Company’s RDAC tariff requires the Company to file for an interim adjustment to its RDAFs if the actual revenue exceeds a threshold of ten percent above or below its benchmark revenue level. M.D.P.U. No. 579, § 1.8.

The Company proposes, for effect August 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024, the following interim adjustments to its customer classes’ 2024 Off Peak Period RDAFs, as compared to currently effective Off-Peak Period RDAFs:

Customer Class	Current Off-Peak RDAF (\$/therm)	Proposed Interim Off-Peak RDAF (\$/therm)	Decrease (\$/therm)
Residential (R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4)	\$0.0812	(\$0.0409)	(\$0.1221)
Small Commercial and Industrial (“C&I”) (G-41, G-51)	\$0.0580	(\$0.0200) ¹	(\$0.0780)
Medium C&I (G-42, G-52)	\$0.0376	(\$0.0177)	(\$0.0553)
Large C&I (G-43, G-53)	\$0.0167	(\$0.0074)	(\$0.0241)

If the Department approves the proposed interim adjustments to the RDAFs, customers will experience the following bill impacts:

- average residential Heating customers (R-3) using on average 29 therms per month during the peak period will experience a decrease of approximately \$1.93 per month (or 2.83 percent);
- average residential non-Heating customers (customer class R-1) using on average 10.5 therms per month during the peak period will experience a decrease of approximately \$0.63 per month (or 1.67 percent);
- C&I customers will experience bill decreases ranging from 0.89 percent to 2.18 percent.

For specific bill impacts, please contact the Company as shown below.

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, September 20, 2024**. 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. Therefore, consider the extent of information you wish to share when submitting comments. The Department strongly encourages public comments to be submitted by email using the methods described below. 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.

¹ Note: the Company’s Cover Letter incorrectly states the Proposed Interim Off-Peak RDAF for the Small C&I Class at (\$0.200) per therm, rather than (\$0.0200) per therm as stated on Schedule A, and as supported by its following Schedules.

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 **Friday, September 13, 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.

To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments or a petition to intervene in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission is sufficient. All documents must be submitted to the Department in .pdf format by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and elizabeth.c.mcnamara@mass.gov. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 24-105); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. In addition, a copy of all comments or petitions to intervene should be sent to the Company's attorney, Brendan Vaughan, Esq., at bvaughan@keeganwerlin.com. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "24-105") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Flerom/dockets/bynumber>.

For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's attorney, Brendan Vaughan, Esq., at bvaughan@keeganwerlin.com or (617) 951-1400. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Elizabeth McNamara, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at elizabeth.c.mcnamara@mass.gov.