



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 24-21

February 28, 2024

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

On January 31, 2024, The Berkshire Gas Company (“Company”) filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) for approval of its off-peak revenue decoupling adjustment factors (“RDAFs”), for effect May 1, 2024. This filing was made pursuant to The Berkshire Gas Company, D.P.U. 18-40 (2019), and the Company’s revenue decoupling adjustment clause (“RDAC”) tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 579. In 2008, the Department developed revenue decoupling by establishing a mechanism through the RDAC that allows the Company to modify, on a semi-annual basis, its base distribution rates as a result of changes in customer usage. Revenue decoupling severs the link between sales and revenues, and instead provides gas and electric utility companies with a target revenue level, thus removing the disincentive of implementation of 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 D.P.U. 09-30, at 25-26, 87. The Department has docketed this petition as D.P.U. 24-21.

The Company proposes the following charges effective May 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024:

The Berkshire Gas Company			
Customer Class	RDAF charges (\$ per therm)	Current Off Peak RDAF (\$/therm)	Change (\$ per therm)
Residential	0.0812	0.1335	(0.0523)
Small Commercial and Industrial (“C&I”)	0.0580	0.1018	(0.0438)
Medium C&I	0.0376	0.0542	(0.0166)
Large C&I	0.0167	0.0237	(0.007)

As a result of the proposed changes to the RDAFs, a residential heating customer (R-3) using on average 29 therms per month during the off-peak period will experience a bill decrease of \$1.52 or 2.23 percent from the previously effective off-peak period RDAF, and a residential non-heating customer (R-1) using on average 11 therms per month during the off-peak period will experience a decrease of \$0.55 or 1.45 percent. The Company states that the average

monthly bill impact for all rate classes at each class's average usage during the off-peak period will range from a decrease of 2.43 percent to a decrease of 0.47 percent as compared to the previously effective off-peak RDAF. For specific bill impacts, please contact the Company as shown below.

Any person who desires to comment on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **March 29, 2024**. At this time, all filings will be submitted only in electronic format consistent with the Commission's June 15, 2021 directive related to modified filing requirements. Ordinarily, all parties would follow Sections B.1 and B.4 of the Department's Standard Ground Rules (D.P.U. 15-184-A, App. 1 (March 4, 2020)); however, until further notice, parties must retain the original paper version and the Department will later determine when the paper version must be filed with the Department Secretary.

All written comments or other documents should be submitted to the Department in **PDF format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and elizabeth.c.mcnamara@mass.gov. In addition, all written comments should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Brendan Vaughan, Esq., at bvaughan@keeganwerlin.com. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 24-21); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The e-mail must also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. The electronic file name should identify the document but should not exceed 50 characters in length. Importantly, all large files submitted must be broken down into electronic files that do not exceed 20 MB. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "24-21") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>.

At this time, a paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Company's offices or the Department due to certain ongoing safety measures and precautions relating to in-person events as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The filing and all subsequent related documents, pleadings and/or filings submitted to the Department and/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 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 attorney, 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.