



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 24-96

August 2, 2024

Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for authorization and approval: (1) to issue long-term debt securities in an amount not to exceed \$50,000,000, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 14; and (2) for an exemption from the advertising requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15.

On June 17, 2024, The Berkshire Gas Company (“Company”) filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”), pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 14, requesting authorization and approval: (1) to issue long-term debt securities in an amount not to exceed \$50,000,000, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 14; and (2) for an exemption from the advertising requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15. The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 24-96.

The Company proposes to issue long-term debt securities through December 31, 2024, in the form of in the form of unsecured notes. The Company further proposes that the debt securities will have maturity dates not to exceed 30 years from the date of issuance an interest rate not to exceed a rate equal to the benchmark U.S. Treasury securities rate plus a credit spread of 2.50 percent. The Company states that the long-term debt will be used to: (1) pay capital expenditures for properly capitalized additions to property, plant and equipment, or pay obligations of the Company incurred for such expenditures; (2) refinance any short-term debt outstanding at the time of issuance of the notes; (3) provide general working capital; and (4) pay fees and expenses related to the issuance of the notes.

The Department will conduct a public hearing on **Tuesday, August 27, 2024, beginning at 2:00 p.m.** to receive comments on the Company’s filing. The public hearing will be immediately followed, if necessary, by an evidentiary hearing. Attendees can join by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89065485176>, from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only access to the hearings, attendees can dial in at 646-931-3860 (**not toll free**) and then enter the **Meeting ID# 890 6548 5176**. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, please send an email by **Friday, August 23, 2024**, to jennifer.cargill@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address. If you anticipate commenting by telephone, please leave a voicemail message by **Friday, August 23, 2024**, at 617-305-3732 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address.

Alternatively, any person interested in commenting on this matter also may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, August 28, 2024**. The Department strongly encourages public comments to be submitted by email as

specified 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.

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. **Wednesday, August 21, 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.

All comments and petitions to intervene should be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by email attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and jennifer.cargill@mass.gov. The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 24-96); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. In addition, one copy of all written comments and petitions to intervene should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Kevin Penders, Esq. at kpenders@keeganwerlin.com and Assistant Attorney General Julian Aris, at Julian.Aris@mass.gov.

All comments submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "24-96") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>. 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.

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA coordinator at Jenyka.Spitz-Gassnola2@mass.gov. For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's attorney, Kevin Penders, Esq., at kpenders@keeganwerlin.com. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Jennifer Cargill, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at jennifer.cargill@mass.gov.