



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

D.P.U. 25-170

December 17, 2025

Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.00, for Approval of a General Increase in Base Distribution Rates for Gas Service and a Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan.

On November 14, 2025, The Berkshire Gas Company ("Berkshire Gas" or "Company"), filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") for an increase in gas distribution rates. The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 25-170 and has suspended the effective date of the proposed rate increase until October 1, 2026, to investigate the propriety of the Company's request. The Company was last granted an increase in base distribution rates through an approved settlement in The Berkshire Gas Company, D.P.U. 22-20 (2020).

Berkshire Gas seeks to increase its gas rates to generate \$27,968,238 in additional revenues. The Company's revenue deficiency includes the transfer of \$5,739,738 from its gas system enhancement program ("GSEP") to base distribution rates and the recovery of \$6,576,070 in non-GSEP investments completed from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. Net of these adjustments, the proposed overall increase to revenues is \$22,228,500, which represents an 18 percent increase in total revenue. The proposed base distribution rate increase is in addition to changes to other rates, such as supply rates and reconciling mechanisms that occur during the year.

As part of its filing, Berkshire Gas proposes to implement a five-year performance-based ratemaking ("PBR") plan, which would allow the Company to adjust its base distribution rates on an annual basis using a revenue-per-customer benchmark that accounts for operations and maintenance costs through a mathematical formula and a forecast of allowed capital costs over the term of the plan. The proposed PBR plan also includes a consumer dividend; a provision to recover or return exogenous costs outside of the Company's control, including significant cost changes arising as a result of new or modified regional pipeline safety requirements imposed after the start date of the PBR; and a provision to share excessive earnings. Further, Berkshire Gas proposes several individual performance metrics to gauge the Company's progress on its PBR commitments, and the Company proposes to develop two performance incentive metrics during the first year of the PBR term that would apply to the remainder of the PBR term.

The Company's filing also includes proposed adjustments to certain revenue and expense categories, as well as the recovery of certain capital investments, including those made in 2025. Berkshire Gas also seeks to implement a "fee free" program for all customers, allowing them to pay their utility bills via credit card, debit card, or automated clearing house without incurring a transaction fee. The filing also includes the Company's proposal to hire additional employees to address gas safety and reliability concerns and regulatory compliance, and a proposal to recover costs associated with a new training facility and new equipment. Further, the Company's filing addresses rate design proposals, including updating existing reconciling mechanisms.

The foregoing is not intended to be an exhaustive list of issues set forth in the Company's filing. Additional information regarding the foregoing proposals, and all other proposals set forth by Berkshire Gas, can be found in the Company's filing, which is located on the Department's website as noted below.

Berkshire Gas states that if its petition is approved as requested customers can expect the following bill impacts:

- A residential heating customer receiving service under Rate R-3 that uses on average 121 therms of gas per month during the winter season will experience a monthly bill increase of \$53.96 (23.0 percent);
- A residential non-heating customer receiving service under Rate R-1 that uses on average 15 therms of gas per month during the winter season will experience a monthly bill increase of \$12.01 (25.2 percent);
- A residential low-income heating customer receiving service under Rate R-4 that uses on average 113 therms of gas per month during the winter season will experience a monthly bill increase of \$37.79 (22.9 percent);
- A residential low-income non-heating customer receiving service under Rate R-2 that uses on average 16 therms of gas per month during the winter season will experience monthly bill increase of \$9.59 (25.6 percent); and
- Commercial and industrial ("C&I") customers can expect bill impacts to vary depending on usage and rate class. According to the Company, the monthly bill impacts will range from an increase of between 11.7 percent and 25.9 percent, depending on usage and rate class.

Additional bill impact information and additional detail about the filing can be found at: <https://mass.gov/info-details/berkshire-gas-2025-base-distribution-rate-case..>

The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("Attorney General") has filed a notice of intervention in this matter pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(a). Further, pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), the Attorney General has filed a notice of retention of experts and consultants to assist in her investigation of the Company's filing and has requested Department

approval to spend up to \$300,000 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.

The Department will conduct public hearings to receive comments on the Company's petition as follows:

- **The Department will conduct an in-person public hearing on January 29, 2026, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Greenfield Middle School, Auditorium, 195 Federal Street, Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301.**
- **The Department will conduct an in-person public hearing on February 5, 2026, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Berkshire Community College, Boland Theatre (Koussevitzky Building), 1350 West Street, Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201.** Interpretation services (Spanish) will be available at the in-person public hearing.
- **The Department will conduct a virtual public hearing using Zoom videoconferencing on February 4, 2026. The session will begin at 7:00 p.m.** Attendees can join either session by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88691149217>, from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only access to the public hearing, attendees can dial in at 1 305 224 1968 (not toll free) and then enter the Webinar ID: 886 9114 9217. Interpretation services (Spanish, Mandarin) will be available over the Zoom platform by clicking the "Interpretation" button on the menu at the bottom of the Zoom application screen and selecting your language (i.e., English, Spanish, Mandarin).

The Department will accept written comments on the Company's filing until the close of business **(5:00 p.m.) on February 27, 2026**. Written comments from the public may be sent by email to dpu.efiling@mass.gov, the Hearing Officer at lauren.morris@mass.gov, and the Company's attorney, Brendan P. Vaughan, Esq. at bvaughan@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 Peter A. Ray, 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 January 16, 2026**. 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 5:00 p.m. on the second business day after the petition to intervene was filed. Any person who seeks to intervene in this matter and desires to comment on the Attorney General's notice of retention of experts and consultants must file the comments no later than **5:00 p.m. on January 12, 2026**.

All documents should be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov, and to the Hearing Officer and the Company's attorney at the above email addresses. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 25-170); (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 "25-170") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>. 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), please contact the Department's ADA coordinator at eeadiversity@mass.gov or (617) 626-1282 by **March 1, 2026**.

For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's attorney, identified above. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Lauren Morris, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at lauren.morris@mass.gov or visit: <https://mass.gov/info-details/berkshire-gas-2025-base-distribution-rate-case>.

Translation and Interpretation Services

English

ATTENTION: Translation and/or interpretation services are available upon request. Please email Kaylee Burgess at dpu.ej@mass.gov to request language services, specifying your preferred language and contact information.

Português (Portuguese)

ATENÇÃO: Disponibilizamos nossos serviços de tradução e/ou interpretação de acordo com a sua demanda. Para solicitar um serviço linguístico, envie um e-mail para Kaylee Burgess através do endereço dpu.ej@mass.gov, informando o idioma desejado e seus dados para contato.

繁體中文 (Traditional Chinese)

提醒您：您可依照需求申請筆譯和/或口譯服務。請以電郵聯絡 Kaylee Burgess (dpu.ej@mass.gov) 來申請語言服務請求，請在電郵內註明需要的語言和聯絡資訊。

Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)

LƯU Ý: Các dịch vụ biên dịch và/hoặc phiên dịch có sẵn theo yêu cầu. Vui lòng gửi email đến Kaylee Burgess theo địa chỉ dpu.ej@mass.gov để yêu cầu dịch vụ ngôn ngữ, nêu rõ ngôn ngữ ưa thích của quý vị và thông tin liên lạc

(Arabic) العربية

يُرجى الانتباه: تتوفر خدمات الترجمة و/أو الترجمة الفورية عند الطلب. لطلب خدمات لغوية يُرجى التواصل مع Kaylee Burgess بإرسال رسالة إلكترونية إلى العنوان dpu.ej@mass.gov، تحدد فيها اللغة المفضلة لديك وتذكر معلومات الاتصال.

ខ្មែរ (Khmer)

ជូនចំពោះ៖ សេវាកម្មប្រែក្លាយ និង/ឬអ្នកបកប្រែផ្ទាល់ គឺមានតាមការស្នើសុំ។ សូមផ្ញើអ៊ីមែលទៅ Kaylee Burgess តាម dpu.ej@mass.gov ដើម្បីស្នើសុំសេវាកម្មប្រែក្លាយ ដោយបញ្ជាក់ភាសាដែលអ្នកចង់បាន និងព័ត៌មានទំនាក់ទំនង។

Español (Spanish)

ATENCIÓN: Los servicios de traducción y/o interpretación están disponibles bajo solicitud. Por favor envíe un correo electrónico a Kaylee Burgess en dpu.ej@mass.gov para solicitar los servicios de idiomas, especificando su idioma preferido e información de contacto.

简体中文 (Simplified Chinese)

提醒您：您可依需要申请提供笔译和/或口译服务。请发送电子邮件给 Kaylee Burgess (dpu.ej@mass.gov) 来申请语言服务要求，并注明您的首选语言和联系信息。

Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole)

ATANSYON: Gen sèvis tradiksyon ak/oswa entèpretasyon ki disponib sou demann. Tanpri voye imèl bay Kaylee Burgess nan dpu.ej@mass.gov pou mande sèvis lang, ki enfòm lang ou pi pito a ak enfòmasyon kontak ou.

Français (French)

ATTENTION : Des services de traduction et/ou d'interprétation sont disponibles sur demande. Veuillez envoyer un e-mail à Kaylee Burgess à l'adresse dpu.ej@mass.gov pour demander des services linguistiques, en précisant votre langue préférée et vos coordonnées.

Русский (Russian)

ВНИМАНИЕ! Услуги письменного и/или устного перевода предоставляются по запросу. Для запроса услуг перевода обращайтесь к Kaylee Burgess по адресу dpu.ej@mass.gov. В запросе укажите язык перевода и контактную информацию.

한국어 (Korean)

주의: 요청 시 번역 및/또는 통역 서비스가 제공됩니다. Kaylee Burgess에게 dpu.ej@mass.gov로 이메일을 보내 선호하는 언어와 연락처 정보를 명시하여 언어 서비스를 요청하십시오.