



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 24-127

August 19, 2024

Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of a Mid-Term Modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan.

On August 13, 2024, Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy ("Company") filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") seeking approval of a mid-term modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan ("Three-Year Plan"), which was filed in D.P.U. 21-121 and approved by the Department in 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plans, D.P.U. 21-120 through D.P.U. 21-129 (2022). The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 24-127.

The Company proposes to modify its Three-Year Plan to increase its Department-approved energy efficiency budget in the Income-Eligible sector. Specifically, the Company seeks to increase the budgets in:

- its Income-Eligible Existing Buildings program by \$28,956,063 (or 56 percent). The Company maintains that the proposed increase in the Income-Eligible Existing Buildings program budget is driven by: (1) increased demand for heat pumps related to a change in the way the program is delivered to customers; and (2) the removal of health and safety barriers in the Company's housing stock that had created a historical backlog of projects; and
- its Income-Eligible Hard to Measure program by \$157,665 (or 13 percent). The Company states that the main drivers of this increase are due to higher-than-expected costs in the workforce development core initiative and the Department of Energy Resources Assessment core initiative.

On May 30, 2024, the Department approved a mid-term modification request that: (1) increased the Company's energy efficiency budget for the Residential sector; and (2) decreased the Company's energy efficiency budget for the Commercial and Industrial ("C&I") sector. Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts, D.P.U. 23-149, Stamp-Approved Initial Filing.

If the Department approves the budget increases as proposed for this latest mid-term modification, the Company states that customers will experience the following additional bill impacts:

- A typical residential heating customer (R-3) using 132 therms of gas per month in the winter will experience a monthly bill increase of \$8.04 (3.39 percent).
- A typical low-income residential heating (R-4) customer using 126 therms of gas per month in the winter will experience a monthly bill increase of \$5.74 (3.38 percent).
- Bill impacts for C&I customers will vary. These customers should contact the Company for specific bill impact information.

The Department will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the Company's petition on **Monday, September 9, 2024, beginning at 2:00 p.m.** The hearing will be virtual and use Zoom video conferencing. Attendees can join the public meeting by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86890443767>, 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 **(646) 558-8656 or (309) 205-3325 (not toll free)** and then enter the **Meeting ID# 868 9044 3767**. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, please send an email by **Thursday, September 5, 2024**, to elizabeth.c.mcnamara@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address.

Any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Tuesday, September 10, 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.

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 **Thursday, September 5, 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. 24-127); (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 attorneys, John K. Habib, Esq., and Ashley Marton, Esq. at jhabib@keeganwerlin.com and amarton@keeganwerlin.com, respectively. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "24-127") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>.

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 attorneys, identified above. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Elizabeth McNamara, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at elizabeth.c.mcnamara@mass.gov.