



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING, PUBLIC HEARING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 24-91

July 19, 2024

Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (electric) for Approval of a Mid-Term Modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan.

On June 11, 2024, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (electric) (“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. 21-127, 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. 24-91.

The Company proposes to modify its Three-Year Plan to increase its Department-approved energy efficiency budget in the Residential and the Income-Eligible sectors. Specifically, the Company seeks to increase the budget for its Residential Hard-to-Measure program by \$500,000 (or 32 percent) and increase the budget for its Income-Eligible Existing Buildings program by \$371,000 (or 10 percent).

For the Residential Hard-to-Measure program, the Company maintains that the proposed budget increase is necessary because it experienced the following with respect to the Mass Save HEAT Loan initiative: (1) a greater than anticipated number of customers participating in the initiative; (2) a higher than anticipated amount financed per participant; and (3) higher than forecasted interest rates. The Company states that it will use the increased budget to fund costs related to HEAT loan financing. The Company further indicates that it experienced higher than planned assessment by the Department of Energy Resources (“DOER”) related to DOER’s oversight and coordination of the energy efficiency programs. The Company anticipates, however, that it will be able to offset this increased assessment through reductions in other in other Hard-to-Measure program line items.

For the Income-Eligible Existing Buildings program, the Company maintains that the proposed increase is driven by: (1) higher than planned single-family weatherization projects; and (2) a greater than anticipated number of heat pumps replacing electric resistance heating in multi-family properties. The Company states that it will use the increased budget to fund single- and multi-family weatherization and heating systems.

On May 17, 2024, the Department approved a prior mid-term modification request that increased the Company's energy efficiency budget for the Residential sector. Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, D.P.U. 23-144, Stamp Approval (May 17, 2024).

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 residential customer (R-1) using 587 kilowatt-hours ("kWh") of electricity per month will experience a monthly bill increase of \$2.75 (1.6 percent).
- A low-income residential assistance (R-2) customer using 587 kWh of electricity per month will experience a monthly bill increase of \$1.79 (1.6 percent).
- Commercial and Industrial customers will experience a monthly bill increase ranging from 0.2 percent to 0.4 percent depending on the rate class.

The Department will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the Company's petition on **Tuesday, August 6, 2024, beginning at 2:00 p.m.** The hearing will be virtual and use Zoom videoconferencing. Attendees can join the public meeting by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82616248745>, 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# 826 1624 8745**. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, please send an email by **Friday, August 2, 2024**, to stephanie.mealey@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, August 6, 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 **Friday, August 2, 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 stephanie.mealey@mass.gov. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 24-91); (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, Molly Karg Agostinelli, Esq., at magostinelli@keeganwerlin.com and Kevin Penders, Esq., at kpenders@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 "24-91") 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 Stephanie Mealey, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at stephanie.mealey@mass.gov.