

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 21-BSF-A4

October 8, 2021

Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of Basic Service rates for December 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022, for its small and medium customer groups.

On October 1, 2021, pursuant to Pricing and Procurement of Default Service, D.T.E. 99-60-B (2000), Default Service Procurement, D.T.E. 02-40-C (2003), and G.L. c. 164, § 1B(d), Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil ("Unitil" or "Company") requested that the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") approve the results of the Company's most recent basic service supply solicitation for December 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022, for its small and medium customer groups. The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 21-BSF-A4.

Through this solicitation, the Company sought to procure 100 percent of the basic service load requirements for its small customer (including residential customers) and medium customer groups for the six-month period beginning December 1, 2021; this approach is a departure from the procurement method approved by the Department in D.T.E. 99-60-B where distribution companies must procure their load requirements through two overlapping twelve-month procurements, each for 50 percent of the load requirements.

The Company also seeks approval of basic service rates designed to collect the costs associated with providing basic service supply under this solicitation. The proposed fixed basic service rate for residential and small commercial and industrial customers is \$0.19880 per kilowatt hour ("kWh"). If the Department approves the Company's basic service rates as proposed, a typical residential (R-1) customer using 600 kWh per month will see an average monthly bill increase of \$61.96 (or 37.9 percent). For specific bill impacts, please contact the Company as shown below.

On October 6, 2021, the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("Attorney General") submitted comments with a proposal to mitigate the rate impact of Unitil's basic service solicitation for small and medium customer groups. On October 8, 2021, Unitil submitted, after consultation with the Attorney General, an alternative proposal designed to lower the rate charged to the Company's basic service customers for the upcoming basic service pricing period. The Company represents that the Attorney General supports the Company's October 8, 2021 proposal. Under the October 8, 2021 proposal, unrecovered costs would be collected through the Company's basic service adjustment charge from all distribution customers over the period of June 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

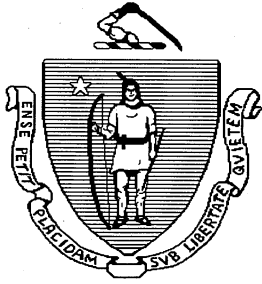
The Department seeks written comments addressing the mitigation proposal submitted by the Company on October 8, 2021. The Department encourages interested stakeholders to provide joint comments on the October 8, 2021 proposal, as well as other possible means to mitigate the effect on customers of the proposed basic service rate increase. The Company is required to provide 30-days notice of changes in the basic service rate. M.D.P.U. No. 282. Therefore, written comments must be filed with the Department no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Monday, October 18, 2021**. To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission, as detailed below, is sufficient.

All comments must be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to [dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov) and [henry.d.kahn@mass.gov](mailto:henry.d.kahn@mass.gov). The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 21-BSF-A4); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. 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.

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)) regarding the filing of documents. However, at this time, all filings will be submitted to the Department only in electronic format, consistent with the Department's June 15, 2021 Memorandum addressing continued modified filing requirements. Until further notice, parties must retain the original paper version of the filing and the Department will later determine when the paper version must be filed with the Department Secretary.

At this time, a paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Company's offices or the Department. The filing and other documents submitted in electronic format will be posted as soon as practicable at on the Department's website through our online File Room at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fleroom/dockets/bynumber> (enter "21-BSF-A4"). To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA coordinator at [DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov](mailto:DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov).

Any person desiring further information regarding the Company's filing should contact Counsel for Unitil, Gary Epler, Esq., at [epler@unitil.com](mailto:epler@unitil.com). Any person desiring further information regarding this notice may contact Henry Kahn, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at [henry.d.kahn@mass.gov](mailto:henry.d.kahn@mass.gov).



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## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### ORDER OF NOTICE

D.P.U. 21-BSF-A4

October 8, 2021

Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of Basic Service rates for December 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022, for its small customer and medium customer groups.

Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil ("Company"), is required to serve a copy of the attached Notice of Filing and Request for Comments ("Notice") on or before **October 12, 2021**, on: (1) the Mayors, the Chairs of Select Boards, the Town Clerks, and the City Clerks in its service territory; (2) the service lists in Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, D.P.U. 19-130 (2020); City of Fitchburg, D.P.U. 20-117; Initiatives to Promote and Protect Consumer Interests in the Retail Electric Competitive Supply Market, D.P.U. 19-07; Provision of Basic Service, D.P.U. 15-40; and (3) any person who has filed a request for notice with the Company. The Company's service may be by electronic distribution, which the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") finds reasonable and consistent with the public interest.

In addition, the Company shall prominently display the Notice on its website from one business days following receipt of the Notice from the Department through **October 18, 2021**.

The Company shall provide a return of service and evidence of the required website posting) to the Department by **October 18, 2021**.

By Order of the Department,

/s/  
Mark D. Marini, Secretary

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CLERK