

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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Petition of Boston Gas Company, Massachusetts Electric	)	
Company, and Nantucket Electric Company,	)	
each d/b/a National Grid, for Approval of its 2026	)	D.P.U. 26-XX
Targeted Winter Relief Proposal.	)	
	)	

PETITION FOR APPROVAL

Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 76, and 220 C.M.R. §§ 5.00 *et seq.*, Boston Gas Company (“Boston Gas”), Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company (collectively “Mass. Electric”), each d/b/a National Grid (collectively “National Grid” or the “Company”), respectfully requests that the Department of Public Utilities (the “Department”) approve the Company’s Targeted Winter Relief Proposal (the “Proposal”) which consists of a 10 percent reduction of billed charges associated with customer usage in February and March 2026, for both Boston Gas and Mass. Electric residential customers. The Company’s Mass. Electric customers will also receive an additional 15 percent bill reduction funded by the Commonwealth, for an effective discount totaling 25 percent. The Proposal also requests the Department’s authorization to collect the Company’s costs associated with the deferrals, net of the funds provided by the Commonwealth for Mass. Electric Customers. In support thereof, the Company states as follows:

**A. Introduction**

1. Boston Gas is a gas distribution company, pursuant to G.L. c. 164 § 1, with a principal place of business at 170 Data Drive, Waltham, MA 02541. Boston Gas is organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is engaged in the business of selling and distributing gas at retail in Massachusetts.

2. Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company are electric distribution companies, pursuant to G.L. c. 164 § 1, with principal places of business at 170 Data Drive, Waltham, MA 02541. Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company are organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and are engaged in the business of selling and distributing electricity at retail in Massachusetts.

**B. Targeted Winter Relief Proposal**

3. In this proceeding, the Company is requesting Department approval to apply a 10 percent reduction of billed charges associated with customer usage during the months of February and March 2026, for Boston Gas residential customers.

4. The Company is also requesting Department approval for recovery of the deferred cost associated with the bill reduction for its Boston Gas residential customers. The Company proposes that the costs be recovered through the local distribution adjustment factor during the off-peak season (i.e. May through October 2026).

5. The deferred costs of the Boston Gas bill reduction would earn a carrying charge equal to the prime rate, per normal course of Boston Gas operation. See Boston Gas's Local Distribution Adjustment Clause tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 60.12; and Boston Gas's Revenue Decoupling Mechanism Clause tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 62.7. The Company, furthermore, proposes to forgive two months of carrying charges for Boston Gas residential customers, calculated based on the average monthly projected carrying charges through the end of the proposed recovery period.

6. The Company estimates that recovery of the deferred cost associated with the bill reduction for Boston Gas is approximately \$53 million. See Attachment NG-1.

7. Based on initial estimates, for recovery during the off-peak period, the average Boston Gas residential heating customers would experience a monthly bill increase of approximately \$9.<sup>1</sup>

8. For its Mass. Electric residential customers, the Company is requesting approval of a 25 percent reduction in billed charges associated with customer usage during February and March 2026. Of this 25 percent bill reduction, approximately \$94 million will be funded by the Commonwealth, which equates to an approximate 15 percent bill reduction.

9. The Company, furthermore, is requesting Department approval for recovery of the deferred cost associated with the bill reduction, net of the Commonwealth's proceeds for its Mass. Electric residential customers. The Company proposes that the costs be recovered through a future rate mechanism, to be filed with the Department by March 16, 2025, and collected during April 1 through December 31, 2026.

10. The deferred costs of the Mass. Electric bill reduction would earn a carrying charge equal to the customer deposit rate, similar to the Department's approval in D.P.U. 25-02. The Company, furthermore, proposes to forgive two months of carrying charges for its Mass. Electric residential customers, calculated in a similar manner as described above for its Boston Gas customers.

11. The Company estimates that recovery of the deferred cost associated with the bill reduction for Mass. Electric, net of funding received from the Commonwealth, to be approximately \$43 million. See Attachment NG-2. Based on initial estimates, recovery of those costs for an

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<sup>1</sup> The Company is not providing bill impacts on either its Boston Gas or Mass. Electric customers for this filing because the Company's request is not seeking an immediate modification of any existing rate. The Company will provide bill impacts with its future recovery filings, in both the D.P.U. 26-OGAF-GRID filing for its Boston Gas customers, and in a future rate mechanism request docket for its Mass. Electric customers.

average Mass. Electric residential customer would be a monthly bill increase of approximately \$4 over the April 1 through December 31, 2026 recovery period.

12. The Company will effectuate the bill reductions through a total bill discount to be reflected on customer bills as a separate line item, indicated as “MA Winter Bill Relief.” The Company has provided an illustrative bill for its Boston Gas customers in Attachment NG-3; for its Mass. Electric customers, an illustrative bill is provided in Attachment NG-4.

13. The reduction in billed charges associated with customer usage during February and March 2026 will immediately alleviate the impact of higher winter bills on the Company’s residential customers.<sup>2</sup>

14. The Department’s authority to grant the Company’s Proposal, specifically the proposed bill reduction and associated recovery, lies within its general supervisory powers over all gas and electric companies, per G.L. c. 164, § 76.

15. Without approval of the Company’s ability to recover the deferred costs associated with the bill reduction, the Company, unfortunately, will not be able to effectuate its Targeted Winter Relief Proposal.

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<sup>2</sup> The Company reserves the right to file with the Department for an exception request to the Service Quality Plan of Boston Gas and Mass. Electric for exemption from customer complaints to the Consumer Division related to high bills resulting from the proposed Mitigation during the period of the bill deferral through the proposed collection periods.

**WHEREFORE**, for the reasons set forth in this petition, the Company respectfully requests that the Department:

ORDER: Approve the Company's request for a bill reduction of 10 percent for its Boston Gas residential customers for usage during February and March;

ORDER: Approve the Company's request for a bill reduction of 25 percent for its Mass. Electric residential customers for usage during February and March;

ORDER: Approve the Company's request for the deferred cost associated with Boston Gas's 10 percent bill reduction for usage during February and March to be collected through the local distribution adjustment factor during the off-peak season (i.e. May through October 2026);

ORDER: Approve the Company's request for the deferred cost associated with Mass. Electric's 25 percent bill reduction for usage during February and March, net of funds provided by the Commonwealth, to be collected through a future recovery mechanism, to be filed by March 16, 2026, during April 1 and December 31, 2026; and

ORDER: Such other and further orders and approvals as may be necessary or appropriate.

*[signature page to follow]*

Respectfully submitted,

**BOSTON GAS COMPANY  
MASSACHUSETTS ELECTRIC COMPANY  
NANTUCKET ELECTRIC COMPANY  
each d/b/a NATIONAL GRID**

By its attorney,

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