



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

D.P.U. 17-90

May 18, 2017

Petition of Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts, Inc., pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94, and G.L. c. 165, § 2, for Approval of a General Rate Increase as set forth in M.D.P.U. No. 3.

On April 13, 2017, Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts, Inc. (“Aquarion” or “Company”) filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) for a general rate increase of \$2,346,708, which represents an overall increase of 14.70 percent in the Company’s currently effective rates. Aquarion last received a general rate increase in April 2012. See Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts, D.P.U. 11-43 (2012). The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 17-90 and has suspended the effective date of the proposed rate increase until March 1, 2018, to investigate the propriety of the Company’s request.

If the Company’s petition is approved as presented, a typical residential customer in Cohasset, Hingham, or Hull using 735 cubic feet per month would receive an increase of approximately \$9.01 per month, or 14.2 percent. A typical residential customer in Millbury or Oxford using 4,333 gallons per month would receive an increase of approximately \$5.70 per month, or 16.7 percent. Bill impacts for non-residential customers will vary. Individual customers may contact the Company as shown below for specific bill impact information.

On May 1, 2017, the Attorney General submitted a notice of intervention on behalf of the Company’s ratepayers in this case. Further, pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), the Attorney General filed a notice of retention of experts and consultants to assist in her investigation of the Company’s filing. The Attorney General has requested Department approval to spend up to \$150,000. 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 by the Company in rates.

The Department has scheduled the following public hearings to receive comment on the Company’s petition:

July 13, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Hull High School
Auditorium
180 Main Street
Hull, Massachusetts 02045

July 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Oxford High School
Auditorium
100 Carbuncle Drive
Oxford, Massachusetts 01540

Any person interested in commenting on this matter may appear at the public hearings or file written comments with the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Friday, July 21, 2017**.

Reasonable accommodations at public or evidentiary hearings for people with disabilities are available upon request. Contact Theresa Kelly at Theresa.Kelly@state.ma.us or (617) 305-3642 to make such request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need, including as much detail as you can. Also include a way the Department can contact you if we need more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible. Last minute requests will be accepted, but may not be able to be accommodated.

Any person who desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding must file a written petition for leave to intervene or to participate in the proceeding no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Friday, July 7, 2017**. A petition filed late may be disallowed as untimely, unless good cause is shown for waiver under 220 C.M.R. § 1.01(4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 C.M.R. § 1.03(1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10.

Any person who seeks to intervene in this matter and also desires to comment on the Attorney General's notice of retention of experts and consultants must file such comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Friday, July 7, 2017**.

Written comments, petitions for leave to intervene or to participate, and comments on the Attorney General's notice of retention of experts and consultants should be addressed to: Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. Receipt by the Department, not mailing, constitutes filing.

In addition to the above filing requirement, one (1) copy of all materials filed with the Department should be sent to each of the following: (1) David J. Gold, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110; (2) Eric J. Krathwohl, Esq., Rich May, P.C., 176 Federal Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 (counsel for the Company); and (3) John J. Geary, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Ratepayer Advocacy, One Ashburton Place, Boston, Massachusetts 02108.

Further, in addition to paper filings with the Department, all documents also must be submitted to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@state.ma.us and the Hearing Officer, david.j.gold@state.ma.us; or (2) on a CD-ROM. The text of the e-mail or CD-ROM must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 17-90); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website: <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>.

A copy of the Company's filing and the Attorney General's notice of retention of experts and consultants is available for inspection during regular business hours at the following locations: (1) the Company's office, 900 Main Street, Hingham, Massachusetts 02043; (2) Hingham Public Library, 66 Leavitt Street, Hingham, Massachusetts 02043; (3) Hull Public Library, 9 Main Street, Hull, Massachusetts 02045; (4) Millbury Public Library, 128 Elm Street, Millbury, Massachusetts 01527; (5) Oxford Public Library, 339 Main Street, Oxford, Massachusetts 01540; and (6) the Department's offices at One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. These filings also are available on the Department's website, <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>. To request materials in accessible formats (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact Theresa Kelly at Theresa.Kelly@state.ma.us or (617) 305-3642.

Any person desiring further information regarding the Company's petition should contact the Company's counsel, Eric J. Krathwohl, Esq., Rich May, P.C., 176 Federal Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 at (617) 556-3857. Any person desiring further information regarding the Attorney General's notice of retention of experts and consultants should contact John J. Geary, Assistant Attorney General, at (617) 727-2200. Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact David J. Gold, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at (617) 305-3500.