

D.P.U. 25-170 – The Berkshire Gas Company

Tier 1 Proceeding Plain Language Summary and Outreach Plan

Plain Language Summary

Important Notice – Rate Revision Filing – Plain Language Summary

The Berkshire Gas Company (“Berkshire” or the “Company”), as a natural gas distribution company in Massachusetts, is required by law to submit to the Department of Public Utilities (the “Department”) a filing showing all rates, prices, and charges to be charged or collected within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the sale and distribution of natural gas at least once every 10 years. This filing, which is usually called a “rate case”, is a formal process where a utility company, like Berkshire, presents evidence and seeks approval from the Department to adjust the rates it charges its customers to reflect the costs of providing natural gas distribution services. As a result of the required investment it makes in its system and skilled workforce, BGC must file for new rates with the Department and intends to make this filing in November 2025.

Under the Company’s proposal, new rates would go into effect November 2026. In its filing, the Company will propose new customer charges, distribution rates, and reconciling mechanisms to continue providing safe, reliable natural gas to our valued customers. If approved, the average monthly total bill impact for a typical residential heating customer is expected to increase approximately \$24.42, or approximately 18.0 percent.

Please note that this plain language summary is intended to be used for informational purposes only and is subject to revision by the Company. This plain language is intended to supplement, rather than replace, the Department’s Notice of Proceeding issued in the rate case.

To request additional language translations or interpretations of the above statement, please contact kholmes@berkshiregas.com

The above plain language summary¹ was issued on October 14, 2025 by email and October 20, 2025, by separate letter to customers, employees, municipal and legislative officials and other key stakeholders pursuant to the Department’s directives for Tier 1 proceedings in D.P.U. 21-50-A, Appendix A. Specifically, a Tier 1 proceeding requires the Company to:

1. Provide the following publication and outreach efforts: prominent publication on the petitioner’s website; newspaper postings; outreach to interested persons and service lists; and outreach to municipal and community leaders;
2. Work with stakeholders in affected communities to develop outreach plans and determine which platforms or locations to use to publicize notices;

¹ The above plain language summary was calculated based on the Company’s Revenue Requirement Model as of October 14, 2025. Based on refinement to the Company’s model and PBR Plan, the average monthly total bill impact for a typical residential heating customer has been updated to an increase of approximately \$31.42, or 21.6 percent.

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3. Conduct outreach to municipal and community leaders at least 30 days prior to filing a petition with the Department;
4. Conduct outreach through at least two communication channels and must provide customers with the ability to opt out of email or text communications;
5. Make all arrangements and cover all expenses associated with language access services (i.e., translation and interpretation services), and establish a point of contact who is responsible for responding to requests for translation or interpretation;
6. Translate pre-filing materials into the top three languages spoken in the Company's service area as dictated by the Department's Language Access Plan (i.e., Spanish, Mandarin, and Cantonese), such as plain language summaries, and distribute them as part of the outreach efforts at least 30 days prior to filing the petition; and
7. Provide translated notices and interpretation services at the public hearing.

In addition, on April 22, 2025, in D.P.U. 21-50-B at 5-6, the Department directed petitioners to begin:

1. Providing translation and interpretation service in compliance with the LAP.
2. Include with its Tier 1 petition an outreach plan specific to the proceeding that includes:
 - a. A list of municipal and community organizations to which the notice will be provided;
 - b. Plans for translation and interpretation services (including which languages and the justification for those languages);
 - c. the plain language summary; and
 - d. A description of the outreach already conducted and any additional outreach efforts.

The Company's compliance with respect to its stakeholder engagement process is further detailed in the joint testimony of Charlotte B. Ancel and Christopher Farrell as Exhibits BGC-OVERVIEW-1 and BGC-OVERVIEW-2.

The Company's Tier 1 notifications are provided for **informational purposes only** and are not intended to replace any official notice issued by the Department in this matter. Consistent with the Tier 1 Outreach Plan, a copy of the official Notice of Proceeding will be posted to the Company's website upon issuance.