



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 17-32

February 6, 2017

Joint Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unutil, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, and NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, each d/b/a Eversource Energy, for approval of a proposed timetable and method for the solicitation and execution of long-term contracts for renewable energy, pursuant to Section 83D of An Act Relative to Green Communities, St. 2008, c. 169, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12.

On February 2, 2017, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unutil (“Unutil”), Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid”), and NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, each d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource Energy”) (together, “electric distribution companies”), jointly filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) for approval of a proposed timetable and method for the solicitation and execution of long-term contracts for clean energy generation resources, pursuant to Section 83D of An Act Relative to Green Communities, St. 2008, c. 169, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12 (“Section 83D”).

Section 83D provides that the electric distribution companies are required to jointly and competitively solicit proposals for clean energy generation not later than April 1, 2017; and, provided that reasonable proposals have been received, shall enter into cost-effective long-term contracts for clean energy generation for an annual amount of electricity equal to approximately 9,450,000 megawatt-hours (“MWh”) by December 31, 2022. St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; 220 C.M.R. § 24.00 et seq. In developing the provisions of long-term contracts, the electric distribution companies shall consider long-term contracts for renewable energy certificates (“RECs”), for energy, or for a combination of both RECs and energy, if applicable. St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; 220 C.M.R. § 24.00 et seq. The electric distribution companies, in coordination with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (“DOER”), shall consult with the Attorney General of the Commonwealth (“Attorney General”) regarding the choice of solicitation methods. St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; 220 C.M.R. § 24.00 et seq. The electric distribution companies and DOER shall jointly propose a timetable and method for the solicitation and execution of long-term contracts. St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; 220 C.M.R. § 24.00 et seq. The timetable and method for the solicitation and execution of such contracts is subject to review and approval by the Department. St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; 220 C.M.R. § 24.00 et seq.

The solicitation filed in this docket represents the first solicitation conducted under Section 83D. The electric distribution companies may conduct one or more competitive solicitations through a staggered procurement schedule developed by the electric distribution companies and DOER. St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; 220 C.M.R. § 24.00 et seq. The electric distribution companies shall, in any filing with the Department regarding the timetable and methods for soliciting and contracting consented to by DOER and the Attorney General, describe the proposed methods reviewed and selected, and a solicitation may be coordinated and issued jointly with other New England states or entities designated by those states. St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; 220 C.M.R. § 24.00 et seq.

This solicitation invites bids for incremental clean energy generation and associated environmental attributes and/or RECs under cost-effective long-term contracts, which may include required associated transmission costs. Specifically, the four categories of bids requested are as follows: (1) clean energy generation from incremental hydroelectric generation via long-term contract; (2) clean energy generation from new Class I renewable portfolio standard (“RPS”)-eligible resources via long-term contract; (3) clean energy generation and Class I environmental attributes/renewable energy certificates (“RECs”) via long-term contract from a combination of incremental hydropower generation and new Class I RPS-eligible resources; and (4) clean energy generation from incremental hydropower generation and/or new Class I RPS-eligible resources with Class I environmental attributes and/or RECs via long-term contract with a transmission project under a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission tariff. An electric distribution company may, subject to Department approval, decline to consider proposals having terms and conditions that it determines would require the long-term contract obligation to place an unreasonable burden on the company’s balance sheet. If an electric distribution company deems all proposals to be unreasonable, it may submit a filing to the Department supporting its decision to decline all proposals, which shall be subject to Department approval. Additionally, if DOER, in consultation with the electric distribution companies and the independent evaluator, determines that reasonable proposals were not received pursuant to a solicitation, DOER may terminate the solicitation, and may require additional solicitations to fulfill the requirements of Section 83D.

The Department will accept written comments regarding the proposed timetable and method for the solicitation on or before the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Tuesday, February 21, 2017**. Reply comments will be due no later than the close of business on **Tuesday, February 28, 2017**. An original of all written comments should be filed with Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, and one copy should be filed with the hearing officer, Alan Topalian. The original and copy should be delivered to Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. One copy of all written comments should also be sent to the service list for this proceeding, available on the Department’s website, <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>.

All documents should also 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, alan.topalian@state.ma.us; or (2) on CD-ROM. The text of the e-mail or CD-ROM label must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 17-32); (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>.

In addition, all written comments should be distributed electronically to the service lists in Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, D.P.U. 13-146, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 13-147, NSTAR Electric Company, D.P.U. 13-148, and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, D.P.U. 13-149, Long-Term Contracts for Renewable Energy, D.P.U. 15-84, and Long-Term Contracts for Renewable Energy, D.P.U. 16-191, available on the Department's website, <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>.

A copy of the electric distribution companies' filing is available for public viewing at the Department's offices, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts during business hours. Any person desiring further information regarding the electric distribution companies' petition should contact: William D. Hewitt, Esq., at 207-747-4870 (counsel for Unitil); Laura Bickel, Esq., at 781-907-1846 and John K. Habib, Esq., at 617-951-1400 (counsel for National Grid); Danielle Winter, Esq. and Jessica Buno Ralston, Esq., at 617-951-1400 (counsel for Eversource Energy). Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact Alan Topalian, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities at (617) 305-3647.