



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

D.P.U. 17-164

October 10, 2018

Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, and NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of a proposed revision of Section 3.4.1 of the Standards of Interconnection of Distributed Generation Tariff.

I. INTRODUCTION

On October 20, 2017, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, and NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (collectively, "Companies") filed a joint proposed revision of Section 3.4.1 of the Standards of Interconnection of Distributed Generation Tariff ("Interconnection Tariff"), known as Group Study. If approved, the proposed revision would replace the Group Study pilot, which took place from June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016. The Department docketed this filing as D.P.U. 17-164.

The purpose of Group Study is to allow the Companies to simultaneously study multiple interconnection applications for proposed facilities in the same area on a company's electric power system that may require a common modification or may have a cumulative impact on a company's electric power system. The Companies propose to continue with Group Study on a permanent basis, with modifications to the original pilot provisions including, but not limited to, modified and new definitions, changes to when a Group Study commences, and consensus requirements for instances including extensions of deadlines and project changes.

Following the receipt of initial comments on January 19, 2018, and responses to the Department's first set of information requests, the Department has determined it will hold a technical conference on November 8, 2018, at 10 a.m. at the Department's offices, One South Station, 5th Floor, Hearing Room A, Boston, Massachusetts.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the technical conference is to engage interested persons in a discussion regarding the Companies' proposed Interconnection Tariff revisions. Specifically, Department staff is looking to engage in discussion regarding the following:

1. Enforcement
 - a. Instituting penalty authority, including individual group timeframe enforcement and penalties
2. Pre-Application Reports
 - a. Establishing a uniform pre-application report across all companies
3. Cost Estimates
 - a. Establishing a uniform level of detail for construction cost estimates
4. Timeframes
 - a. Challenges of establishing timeframes by mutual agreement
 - b. Establishing a timeframe during which facilities can be added to a group study
 - c. Communicating timeframes

III. FORMAT AND LOGISTICS

The technical conference is intended to foster discussion regarding the topics identified above. To initiate such a discussion, Department staff intends to walk through the Companies' proposed Interconnection Tariff revisions and seek alternative revision recommendations from stakeholders that oppose the Companies' revisions. While Department staff will facilitate a focused discussion and does not intend for any stakeholder to make a formal presentation, stakeholders are strongly encouraged to work together in advance of the technical conference to prepare jointly proposed alternative revisions. In order to accurately record discussions and proposed solutions, there will be a stenographic record of this technical conference.

The Department will allow remote listening via conference call. The Department's technology limits callers from actively participating and does not guarantee that all comments will be audible. For individuals that seek to actively participate in the discussion, the Department expects such individuals to attend the technical conference in person. To listen to the technical conference remotely, dial: 1-877-820-7831, then enter the participant access code: 647933. Please note that all conference call listeners may mute their lines, but should not use the "hold" function, as it will cause listeners to hear music and disrupt the technical conference. If one or more conference call listeners disrupt the technical conference, the Department may terminate the conference call connection prior to the end of the technical conference.

Reasonable accommodations at technical conferences for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need, including as much detail as you can. Also include a way for the Department to 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. Contact the Department's ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@state.ma.us or (617) 305-3642.

IV. AGENDA

- A. Introduction
- B. Walk Through Proposed Interconnection Tariff Revisions
- C. Discussion by Topic
 - 1. Enforcement
 - 2. Pre-Application Reports
 - 3. Cost Estimates
 - 4. Time Frames
- D. Next Steps
- E. Adjourn

For further information regarding this memorandum or to request addition to or removal from the electronic distribution list, please contact Kate S. Tohme, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at (617) 305-3500.