



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 20-51

February 1, 2021

Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for recovery of incremental operations and maintenance expenses associated with nine qualifying weather events that occurred between September 2017 and December 2018.

On May 29, 2020, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid (“Company”) submitted a storm cost recovery filing with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) involving storm preparation and response costs associated with nine storm events that occurred between September 19, 2017, and December 21, 2018 (“Storm Events”). The Company made the filing pursuant to Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 15-155 (2016), and D.P.U. 15-155-A (2017). The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 20-51.

The Company requests approval to recover \$37,858,491 in incremental operations and maintenance (“O&M”) costs associated with the Storm Events through its Storm Fund Recovery Factor (“SFRF”). The amount requested for recovery excludes \$1.5 million in per-storm deductibles totaling \$13,500,000; \$2,704,360 in storm-related capital costs; \$552,731 in storm-related removal/other costs; and \$558,219 charged to Verizon for the Storm Events. The costs submitted for recovery also exclude carrying charges. The Company states that the filing is a final accounting of the costs for the Storm Events and does not affect current rates. Further, the Company states that its filing demonstrates that its incremental O&M costs proposed for recovery are storm-related, incremental, prudently incurred, and greater than the \$1.5 million per storm deductible and less than \$30 million (exclusive of Verizon costs) as established by the Department in D.P.U. 15-155. For these reasons, the Company states that its proposed recovery of costs through its SFRF is appropriate and warranted.

The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (“Attorney General”) filed a notice to intervene in this matter pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(a). Further, pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), the Attorney General has filed a notice of retention of experts and consultants to assist in her investigation of the Companies’ filing, and has requested Department approval to spend up to \$150,000 in this regard. 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 in the Companies' rates.

Any person interested in commenting on the Company's filing or on the Attorney General's notice of intent to retain experts and consultants in this matter shall submit written comments to the Department no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, March 31, 2021**. Any person who desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall file a written petition for leave to intervene no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 17, 2021**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. Receipt by the Department, not mailing, constitutes filing and determines whether a petition has been timely filed. A petition filed late may be disallowed as untimely, unless good cause is shown for waiver under 220 CMR 1.01(4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 CMR 1.03(1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10.

On March 10, 2020, Governor Baker issued Executive Order No. 591, Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19, which required the closing of certain brick and mortar premises, including the Department's offices, and limited gatherings of people. At this time, all filings will be submitted only in electronic format in recognition of the difficulty that parties and the Department may have filing and receiving original copies due to the state of emergency and ongoing limitations related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ordinarily, all parties would follow Sections B.1 and B.4 of the Department's Standard Ground Rules (D.P.U. 15-184-A, App. 1 (March 4, 2020)); however, until further notice, parties must retain the original paper version and the Department will later determine when the paper version must be filed with the Department Secretary. All documents must be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and kerri.phillips@mass.gov. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 20-51); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic file name should identify the document but should not exceed 50 characters in length. Importantly, all large files submitted must be broken down into electronic files that do not exceed 20 MB. In addition, one copy of all written comments and petitions to intervene should be emailed to the Company's attorneys, Meabh Purcell, Esq., at meabh.purcell@nationalgrid.com, and Andrea Keeffe, Esq., at andrea.keeffe@nationalgrid.com. The Department strongly encourages public comments to be submitted by email. If, however, a member of the public is unable to send written comments by e-mail, a paper copy may be sent to Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110.

The Company's filing and all related documentation submitted to the Department or issued by the Department will be posted on the Department's website as soon as practicable at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber> (enter "20-51"). At this time, a paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Company's offices or the Department due to the state of emergency. To request materials in accessible

formats (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format) for people with disabilities, contact the Department's ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov.

For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's counsel, Meabh Purcell, Esq., at (781) 907-1789 or meabh.purcell@nationalgrid.com; or Andrea Keeffe, Esq., at (781) 907-2123 or andrea.keeffe@nationalgrid.com For further information regarding this notice, please contact Kerri DeYoung Phillips, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at kerri.phillips@mass.gov.