



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 21-144

December 30, 2021

Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval of the Company's annual vegetation management factor compliance filing and cost recovery pursuant to the Company's Vegetation Management Pilot Provision tariff.

On December 1, 2021, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid ("Company") submitted its annual cost recovery and reconciliation filing with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") involving the costs incurred by the Company associated with implementing its enhanced vegetation management pilot program ("EVM Pilot"). The Company submitted the filing pursuant to its vegetation management pilot provision ("VMP") tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 1435. On December 15, 2021, the Company submitted a supplemental filing to address a discrepancy between its VMP tariff and the rate factors proposed for cost recovery. The Department docketed the matter as D.P.U. 21-144.

Pursuant to its VMP tariff, the Company recovers EVM Pilot costs through two rate factors: the vegetation management factor ("VMF") and the vegetation management reconciliation factor ("VMRF"). EVM Pilot costs are allocated to each rate class through allocation percentages established in the Company's most recent base distribution rate proceeding, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 18-150. The VMF recovers actual and estimated incremental operations and maintenance ("O&M") expenses incurred for implementing the pilot. The VMRF is the reconciliation adjustment that recovers from or credits to customers the difference between the actual incremental O&M and the billed revenue from the prior period VMF. The Department approved the EVM Pilot and original VMP tariff in Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 17-92 (2018), and modified the pilot parameters and annual filing requirements in Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 19-144-A (2020).

In the instant proceeding, the Company proposes the following VMFs and VMRFs for effect March 1, 2022, for implementation of the EVM Pilot through December 31, 2021:

Rate Class	Proposed VMFs (\$/kWh)	Proposed VMRFs (\$/kWh)
R-1/R-2	\$0.00028	\$0.00000
G-1	\$0.00030	\$0.00000
G-2	\$0.00026	\$0.00000
G-3	\$0.00011	\$0.00000
Streetlighting	\$0.00042	\$0.00000

The proposed VMFs are designed to recover \$4,478,027 in pilot costs, consisting of \$2,788,027 in actual O&M costs incurred for the period January 2021 through September 2021, and \$1,690,000 in estimated O&M costs for the period October 2021 through December 2021. The proposed VMRFs, in contrast, are effectively zero. The Company states that the reconciliation adjustment credit of \$99,588, consisting of a true-up of costs of \$52,971 for the period October 2020 through December 2020, less over-recovery of \$152,559 through the VMFs for the period March 2020 through February 2021, is not large enough to result in rate class VMRFs once allocated to rate classes. As a result, the Company states that it will carry forward the balance, accruing interest at the customer deposit rate, to next year's EVM Pilot filing. The Company proposes that this reconciliation credit be combined with the reconciliation adjustment to be submitted in that filing.

If the Company's request is approved as proposed, and based on the rates in effect at the time of the Company's filing, the monthly bill for a typical Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company residential basic service customer using 600 kilowatt-hours ("kWh") of electricity per month would result in a monthly bill decrease of \$0.16 or 0.1 percent. Bill impacts for all other rate classes will vary. These customers should contact the Company for specific bill information.

The Department will accept written comments on the Company's filing until close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, February 2, 2022**. Any person who otherwise desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall file a petition for leave to intervene no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, January 26, 2022**. 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.

At this time, all filings will be submitted only in electronic format consistent with the Commission's June 15, 2021 directive related to modified filing requirements. 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. 21-144); (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. The filing and all subsequent related documents, pleadings, and/or filings submitted to the Department and/or issued by the Department will be available on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "21-144") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>. In addition, one copy of all written comments and petitions to intervene should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Meabh Purcell, Esq., at meabh.purcell@nationalgrid.com.

To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments or intervene in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission, as detailed above, is sufficient. 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 certain ongoing safety measures and precautions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), please contact the Department's ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov.

For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's attorney, identified above. For information regarding this Notice, please contact Kerri DeYoung Phillips, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at kerri.phillips@mass.gov.