



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 21-40

March 16, 2021

Joint Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unutil, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of a proposed timetable and method for the solicitation and execution of long-term contracts for offshore wind energy generation, pursuant to Section 83C of An Act Relative to Green Communities, St. 2008, c. 169, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12, and Section 21 of the Act to Advance Clean Energy, Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2018.

On March 10, 2021, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unutil (“Unutil”), Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid”), and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource”) (collectively, “Companies”), jointly filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) for approval of a proposed timetable and method for a third solicitation and execution of long-term contracts for offshore wind energy generation resources, pursuant to Section 83C of An Act Relative to Green Communities, St. 2008, c. 169, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12 (“Section 83C”), and the Section 21 of the Act to Advance Clean Energy, Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2018 (“2018 Act”)¹. The Department docketed this petition as D.P.U. 21-40.

¹ The 2018 Act authorized the Department of Energy Resources (“DOER”) to investigate the necessity, benefits and costs of requiring the Companies to jointly and competitively conduct offshore wind generation solicitations and procurements of up to an additional 1,600 MW under Section 83C by 2035. Section 21(b) of the Clean Energy Act required DOER to evaluate previous solicitation and procurement processes and recommend any necessary process improvements to the General Court. DOER’s Offshore Wind Study was published on May 31, 2019 and by letter on that same date DOER advised the General Court that it recommended and would require the Companies to proceed with an additional 1,600 MW of offshore wind generation solicitations with a goal of selecting a cost-effective project or projects in 2022. This petition is filed pursuant to the above.

Pursuant to the 2018 Act and subject to Section 83C, the Companies are now required to conduct competitive solicitations for offshore wind energy generation and, provided that reasonable proposals are received, to enter into cost-effective long-term contracts for offshore wind energy generation equal to approximately 1,600 megawatts (“MW”) of nameplate capacity by December 31, 2035. See also 220 CMR 23.00 et seq. The Companies, in coordination with the DOER, shall consult with the Attorney General of the Commonwealth (“Attorney General”) regarding the choice of solicitation methods. In addition, DOER and the Attorney General shall jointly select an Independent Evaluator to monitor and report on the solicitation and bid selection process. The Companies shall jointly propose a timetable and method for the solicitation and execution of long-term contracts, subject to review and approval by the Department. Finally, the Independent Evaluator shall issue a report to the Department analyzing the timetable and method of solicitation. Section 83C; 220 CMR 23.00 et seq.

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 **Friday, March 26, 2021**. Reply comments will be due no later than the close of business on **Friday, April 2, 2021**. 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. On March 10, 2020, Governor Baker issued a state of emergency related to COVID-19 for the entire Commonwealth. 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. Importantly, all large files submitted must be broken down into electronic files that do not exceed 20 MB.

All documents must be submitted to the Department in **pdf format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and alice.davey@mass.gov. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 21-40); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission, as detailed above, is sufficient. 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@state.ma.us.

In addition, all comments should be distributed electronically to the service lists in the following dockets: (1) Investigation Regarding Competitively Solicited Long-Term Contracts for Offshore Wind and Clean Energy Generation Resources, D.P.U. 16-191; (2) Timetable and Method of Solicitation of Long-Term Contracts for Offshore Wind Energy Generation Pursuant to Section 83C, D.P.U. 19-45; and (3) NSTAR Electric Company Long-Term Contracts with Vineyard Wind for Offshore Wind Energy Generation Pursuant to Section 83C, D.P.U. 20-16, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company Long-Term Contracts with Vineyard Wind for Offshore Wind Energy Generation Pursuant to Section 83C, D.P.U. 20-17, and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company Long-Term Contracts with Vineyard Wind for Offshore Wind Energy Generation Pursuant to Section 83C, D.P.U. 20-18.

The Company's 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 as soon as is practicable at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber> (insert 21-40). 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.

Any person desiring further information regarding the petition should contact: (1) William D. Hewitt, Esq., at whewitt@HewittLegalAdvisors.com (counsel for Unitil); (2) Laura Bickel, Esq., at Laura.Bickel@nationalgrid.com, Matthew S. Stern, Esq. at mstern@keeganwerlin.com or John K. Habib, Esq., at jhabib@keeganwerlin.com (counsel for National Grid); and (3) Danielle Winter, Esq. at dwinter@keeganwerlin.com (counsel for Eversource). Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact Alice Davey, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities at alice.davey@mass.gov.