



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 21-POR-01

April 6, 2021

Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid pursuant to the Company's Tariffs M.D.P.U. Nos. 1420 and 1421, § 8B, for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's Standard Complete Billing Percentages for effect May 1, 2021, under the Company's Purchase of Receivables Program.

On March 15, 2021, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid ("Companies") filed with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") its calculation of purchase of receivables ("POR") discount rates by customer class for effect May 1, 2021. The Companies made this filing pursuant to the Companies' POR Program set forth in Terms and Conditions for Competitive Suppliers tariffs, M.D.P.U. Nos. 1420, § 8B and Terms and Conditions for Municipal Aggregators M.D.P.U. No. 1421, § 8B. The Department has docketed this filing as D.P.U. 21-POR-01.

The Companies' POR Program provides for the Companies to purchase, at a discounted rate, the billing accounts receivable of competitive suppliers operating in the Companies' service territory that take standard complete billing service from the Companies. The discounted rate, called the standard complete bill percentage ("SCBP"), is set annually for effect May 1 for a 12-month period. The SCBP is comprised of the following: (1) the uncollectible percentage ("UP"), which is calculated for each customer class based on actual uncollectible expense data for all distribution customers in that class; (2) administrative costs incurred by the Company in implementing the POR Program; and (3) the reconciliation of projected and actual uncollectible expenses experienced during the previous year. M.D.P.U. No. 1421, § 8B.2.b; M.D.P.U. No. 1420, § 8B.2.b.

On March 10, 2020, Governor Baker issued a state of emergency related to the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") for the entire Commonwealth. On March 24, 2020, the Department issued an Order prohibiting investor-owned gas, electric, and water distribution companies from shutting off utility service, or threatening to shut off utility service, to any customers for non-payment of bills until the state of emergency in the Commonwealth related to COVID-19 is lifted or further communication is provided by the Department ("Shut-Off Moratorium"). The Company states that the Shut-Off Moratorium caused a significant decline in bad debt expense from not terminating service for nonpayment, which, combined with the UPs in effect during the calendar year 2020, resulted in over-discounted accounts receivables purchased from competitive suppliers.

In its filing, the Company proposes the following SCBPs for effect May 1, 2021, as compared to the current 2020 SCBPs:

SCBPs		
Customer Class	2020	2021
Residential	3.11%	(0.05)%
Commercial	1.35%	0.77%
Industrial	0.12%	0.21%

Also, the Companies propose to use a single payment period of 54 days for all customer classes until the payment periods return to a more typical length and are consistent with the revenue lag included in the Companies' cash working capital study.

The Department will accept written comments on the Companies' Petition. Any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **April 23, 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. 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.

In addition, one copy of all written comments should be emailed to the Companies' attorney, Meabh Purcell, Esq. at Meabh.Purcell@nationalgrid.com.

All documents must be submitted to the Department in **pdf format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and henry.d.kahn@mass.gov. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 21-POR-01); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website as soon as practicable at <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>. 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 Department's ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@state.ma.us.

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 \(insert 21-POR-01\)](https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber(insert%2021-POR-01)). 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 Company's filing or a paper copy of the filing should contact Meabh Purcell, Esq., at Meabh.Purcell@nationalgrid.com. For further information regarding this notice, please contact Henry Kahn, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at henry.d.kahn@mass.gov.