



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 22-71

June 3, 2022

Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of two long-term contracts for procurement of offshore wind energy generation, pursuant to St. 2008, c. 169, § 83, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; St. 2021, c. 8 § 91 et seq.; and St. 2021, c. 24, §§ 69, 72; and 220 CMR 23.00.

On May 25, 2022, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid (together “National Grid” or “Companies”) filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) seeking approval of two long-term contracts to purchase offshore wind energy generation with Mayflower Wind LLC (“Mayflower Wind”) and Commonwealth Wind LLC (“Commonwealth Wind”). The Companies filed the long-term contracts pursuant to An Act Relative to Green Communities, St. 2008, c. 169, § 83, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; St. 2021, c. 8 § 91 et seq.; and St. 2021, c. 24, §§ 69, 72 (“Section 83C”) and the Department’s regulations at 220 CMR 23.00.

National Grid proposes to acquire its pro rata share of offshore wind energy generation (i.e., 45.04 percent based on distribution load share) and associated renewable energy credits produced by the Mayflower Wind 480 megawatt (“MW”) and Commonwealth Wind 1,232 MW offshore wind electric generation facilities. The proposed contracts with Mayflower Wind and Commonwealth Wind are based on 405 MW and 1,200 MW, respectively, of their total nameplate capacity. In addition, National Grid proposes to recover annual remuneration of 2.75 percent of the annual payments under the long-term contracts, through its renewable energy recovery provision tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 1361.

Section 83C requires the three electric distribution companies to solicit proposals jointly and competitively for offshore wind energy generation, and, if the proposals received are reasonable, to enter into cost-effective long-term contracts for offshore wind energy generation equal to 1,600 MW of aggregate nameplate capacity through a staggered procurement schedule. St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; 220 CMR 23.00. Offshore wind energy generation means offshore electric generating resources derived from wind that: (1) are Class I renewable energy generating sources, as defined in section 11F of chapter 25A of the General Laws; (2) have a commercial operations date on or after January 1, 2018, that has been verified by the Department of Energy Resources (“DOER”); and (3) operate in a designated wind energy area for which an initial federal lease was issued on a competitive basis after January 1, 2012. St. 2016, c. 188,

§ 12; 220 CMR 23.00. All proposed long-term contracts are subject to the review and approval of the Department prior to becoming effective. As part of its review and approval process for any proposed long-term contracts, the Department must take into consideration recommendations from the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (“Attorney General”), which must be submitted to the Department within 45 days following the filing of contracts with the Department. St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; 220 CMR 23.00. Section 83C provides that the Department shall consider both the potential costs and benefits of such contracts and shall approve a contract only upon a finding that it is a cost-effective mechanism for procuring reliable renewable energy on a long-term basis. St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; 220 CMR 23.00.

In accordance with Section 83C, the electric distribution companies and DOER jointly developed a request for proposals (“RFP”) for the second solicitation of offshore wind energy generation. On May 5, 2021, the Department approved the method of soliciting and executing long-term contracts, as well as the timetable, contained in the RFP. Long-Term Offshore Wind Contracts, D.P.U. 21-40 (2021). On May 7, 2021, the electric distribution companies jointly issued the RFP in coordination with the DOER. National Grid states that the long-term contracts are a cost-effective mechanism for procuring reliable renewable energy on a long-term basis.

According to National Grid’s analysis, illustrative bill impacts demonstrate a bill decrease as a result of the proposed contracts, beginning after the first year of generation in 2029. For instance, National Grid estimates that the bill of an average residential customer (R-1 rate class) using approximately 500 kilowatt hours of electricity per month may decrease by approximately \$0.41, or 0.3 percent, per month in 2029. Bill impacts for commercial and industrial customers will vary depending on rate class and usage. These customers should contact National Grid for specific bill information.

On June 2, 2022, the Attorney General filed a notice of intervention 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.

Due to certain ongoing safety measures and precautions relating to in-person events as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department will conduct a virtual public hearing to receive comments on the Companies’ filing. The Department will conduct the hearing using Zoom videoconferencing on **Thursday, June 23, 2022**, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Attendees can join by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81281211817>, from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only access to the hearings, attendees can dial in at **(646) 558-8656 (not toll free)** and then enter the **Meeting ID# 812 8121 1817**. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, please send an email by **Tuesday, June 20, 2022**, to kevin.crane@mass.gov and alice.davey@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address. If you anticipate

commenting by telephone, please leave a voicemail message by **Monday, June 19, 2022**, at (617) 305-3539 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address.

Any person interested in commenting on the Companies' filing may also submit written comments to the Department no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Thursday, June 30, 2022**. 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.

Any person who desires to participate otherwise in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall file a petition for leave to intervene no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Thursday, June 16, 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. All responses to petitions to intervene must be filed by the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the second business day after the petition to intervene was filed. Any person who seeks to intervene in this matter and also desires to comment on the Attorney General's notice of retention of experts and consultants must file the comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **June 16, 2022**.

All documents must be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov, kevin.crane@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. 22-71); (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. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "22-71") 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 Companies' attorney, John K. Habib, Esq., at jhabib@keeganwerlin.com.

At this time, a paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Companies' offices or the Department due to certain ongoing safety measures and precautions relating to in-person events as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 as referenced above as soon as is practicable. 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. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov.

For further information regarding the Companies' filing, please contact the Companies' counsel, John K. Habib at (617) 951-1400. For further information regarding this notice, please contact the Department Hearing Officers assigned to this case, Kevin Crane and Alice Davey, kevin.crane@mass.gov and alice.davey@mass.gov.