



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF SUPPLEMENTAL FILING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 22-171

February 1, 2023

Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval of the Company's: (1) annual vegetation management factor compliance filing and cost recovery pursuant to the Company's Vegetation Management Pilot Provision tariff; (2) supplemental filing requesting to extend the term of the pilot until September 30, 2024; and (3) proposed revisions to its EVM Pilot tariff for effect April 1, 2023, to reflect the requested pilot extension date and permit cost recovery for that period.

On December 1, 2022, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid ("National Grid" or "Company") submitted its annual cost recovery and reconciliation filing with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") involving the costs incurred by National Grid associated with the Company's implementation of its enhanced vegetation management pilot program ("EVM Pilot"), which is scheduled to conclude on March 31, 2023. Through its filing, the Company proposed rate factors for effect March 1, 2023, for implementation of the EVM Pilot through December 31, 2022. The Department docketed the matter as D.P.U. 22-171, and issued a Notice of Filing and Request for Comments ("Notice of Filing") on January 13, 2023. In accordance with that Notice of Filing, the Department will accept written comments on the Company's filing until **February 14, 2023**, and established a February 7, 2023 intervention deadline. The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts filed a notice of intervention in this matter pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(a).

On January 27, 2023, National Grid submitted a supplemental filing in this proceeding: (1) requesting to extend the term of the pilot by 18 months until September 30, 2024; and (2) proposing revisions to its EVM Pilot tariff for effect April 1, 2023, to reflect the requested pilot extension date and permit cost recovery for that period. National Grid maintains that the EVM Pilot has provided significant system reliability benefits and states that it intends to present a proposal to implement the pilot as a reliability improvement program in its next base distribution rate case filing anticipated to be submitted in November 2023. Further, the Company explains that EVM Pilot work is in progress on several circuits, with additional work planned for 2023, and that an extension will provide a continuation of cost information upon which to determine and support a representative level of EVM Pilot costs that the Company would propose to continue to be recovered in new base

distribution rates beginning October 1, 2024. The Company states that an extension will also allow National Grid to recover the ongoing costs of implementing the EVM Pilot until that same date. The Company anticipates that expenditures of EVM Pilot work will remain at approximately the same level as calendar year 2022, around \$7 million annually, or approximately \$10 million over the proposed 18-month extension.

Due to certain ongoing safety measures and precautions relating to in-person events put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department will conduct a virtual public hearing to receive comments on the Company's supplemental filing. The Department will conduct the hearing using Zoom videoconferencing on **Wednesday, March 1, 2023**, beginning at **2:00 p.m.** Attendees can join by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82798602663>, from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only access to the hearings, attendees can dial in at **(312) 626-6799 (not toll free)** and then enter the **Meeting ID# 827 9860 2663**. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, please send an e-mail by **Friday, February 24, 2023**, to kerri.phillips@mass.gov with your name, e-mail address, and mailing address. If you anticipate commenting by telephone, please leave a voicemail message by **Friday, February 24, 2023**, at (617) 305-3690 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address.

Alternatively, any person interested in commenting on the Company's supplemental filing may also submit written comments to the Department no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, March 1, 2023**. Additionally, the Department extends the intervention deadline for this docket. As a result, any person who otherwise desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall now file a petition for leave to intervene no later than close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Friday, February 24, 2023**. 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 5:00 p.m. on the second business day after the petition to intervene was filed.

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. 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. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 22-171); (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. 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. If 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.

All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted to the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "22-171") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>. At this time, a paper copy of the supplemental filing will not be available for public viewing at the Company's offices or the Department. 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 Gabriella.Knight@mass.gov.

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