



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 22-171

January 13, 2023

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, 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"). The Company submitted the filing pursuant to its vegetation management pilot provision ("VMP") tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 1435. The Department docketed the matter as D.P.U. 22-171.

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 (2019). 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), and Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 20-140-A (2021). The EVM Pilot concludes on March 31, 2023.

In the instant proceeding, the Company proposes the following VMFs and VMRFs for effect March 1, 2023, for implementation of the EVM Pilot through December 31, 2022:

Rate Class	Proposed VMFs (\$/kWh)	Proposed VMRFs (\$/kWh)
R-1/R-2	\$0.00049	\$(0.00002)
G-1	\$0.00052	\$(0.00002)
G-2	\$0.00047	\$(0.00002)
G-3	\$0.00019	\$(0.00001)
Streetlighting	\$0.00084	\$(0.00004)

The proposed VMFs are designed to recover \$7,703,435 in pilot costs, consisting of \$4,572,605 in actual O&M costs incurred for the period January 2022 through September 2022, and \$3,130,829 in estimated O&M costs for the period October 2022 through December 2022. The proposed VMRFs include a reconciliation adjustment credit of \$398,516, consisting of a true-up of costs of \$15,631 for the period October 2021 through December 2021, less prior-period over-recovery and interest totaling \$414,147.

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 impact 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 increase of \$0.12. Bill impacts for all other rate classes will vary. These customers should contact the Company for specific bill information.

The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("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 Company's 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 Company's rates.

The Department will accept written comments on the Company's filing and on the Attorney General's notice of intent to retain experts and consultants until close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Tuesday, February 14, 2023**. 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 **Tuesday, February 7, 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.

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](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov) and [kerri.phillips@mass.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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 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](mailto:Gabriella.Knight@mass.gov).

For further information regarding the Company's 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](mailto:kerri.phillips@mass.gov).