



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 22-POR-01

April 14, 2022

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, 2022, under the Company's Purchase of Receivables Program.

On March 15, 2022, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid ("Companies") filed with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") their calculation of purchase of receivables ("POR") discount rates by customer class for effect May 1, 2022. The Companies made this filing pursuant to the Companies' POR Program set forth in Terms and Conditions for Competitive Suppliers (M.D.P.U. No. 1420, § 8B) and Terms and Conditions for Municipal Aggregators (M.D.P.U. No. 1421, § 8B). The Department docketed this filing as D.P.U. 22-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 Department lifted Shut-Off Moratorium beginning on July 1, 2021.

On April 30, 2021, and subsequently on February 9, 2022, the Department issued Orders directing that the Companies keep in place the currently effective SCBPs and payment periods

under their POR Program, as approved in Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 20-POR-01 (2020); Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 21-POR-01, at 6 (2021); Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 21-POR-01-A at 7-8 (February 9, 2022). The Department reasoned that the COVID-19 pandemic and the Shut-Off Moratorium created unique circumstances affecting the POR Program, and, as the period affecting the calculation of the SCBPs was not representative of a normal test year, it would be appropriate to investigate the corresponding effects with updated data in the Companies' 2021 POR filing. D.P.U. 21-POR-01, at 5; D.P.U. 21-POR-01-A at 7. The Department also allowed the Companies to propose alternative SCBPs and payment periods, based on the data available at the time. D.P.U. 21-POR-01-A at 7.

In its filing, the Companies propose the following two SCBP calculations for effect May 1, 2022, as compared to the current SCBPs: (1) SCBPs calculated pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 1421, § 8B.2.b and M.D.P.U. No. 1420, § 8B.2.b ("Per Tariff"); and (2) alternatively, SCBPs calculated to amortize the over-recoveries for the residential and commercial customer classes over two years to align with the period over which the over-recoveries accumulated ("Alternative"):

SCBPs			
Customer Class	Current	Per Tariff	Alternative
Residential	3.11%	0.38%	1.35%
Commercial	1.35%	0.01%	0.34%
Industrial	0.12%	0.12%	0.12%

Also, based on the historical average payment periods for the POR Program, the Companies propose the following payment periods: Residential - 57 days; Commercial - 45 days; and Industrial - 38 days.

Any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Friday, April 22, 2022**. Any person who desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall file a petition for leave to intervene no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, April 22, 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.

To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments and/or file a petition to intervene in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission, as detailed above, is sufficient.

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, at this time, all filings will be submitted only in electronic format consistent with the Commission's June 15, 2021

Memorandum related to continued modified filing requirements. Until further notice, parties must retain the original paper version of the filing 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 katherine.e.stock@mass.gov. In addition, all documents should be emailed to the Companies' 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-POR-01); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. Importantly, all large files submitted must be broken down into electronic files that do not exceed 20 MB.

The Companies' 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 22-POR-01). At this time, a paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Companies' offices or the Department. 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.

For further information regarding the Companies' filing please contact counsel for the Companies, Meabh Purcell, Esq., at meabh.purcell@nationalgrid.com. For further information regarding this notice, please contact Katherine Stock, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at katherine.e.stock@mass.gov.