



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 23-42

May 10, 2023

Joint Petition of the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of a proposed timetable and method for the solicitation and execution of long-term contracts for offshore wind energy generation, pursuant to Section 83C of An Act Relative to Green Communities, St. 2008, c. 169, as amended.

On May 2, 2023, the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (“DOER”), in coordination with Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (“Unitil”), Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid”), and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource”) (collectively, “Companies” and collectively with DOER “Petitioners”), jointly filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) for approval of a proposed timetable and method for a fourth solicitation of long-term contracts for offshore wind energy generation resources, pursuant to Section 83C of An Act Relative to Green Communities, St. 2008, c. 169 (“Section 83C”), as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12, St. 2018, c. 227, § 21, St. 2021, c. 8 § 91 et seq., St. 2021, c. 24, §§ 69, 72, and St. 2022, c. 179, §§ 60, 61. The Department docketed this petition as D.P.U. 23-42.

Pursuant to St. 2022, c. 179, § 61(b) and subject to Section 83C the Companies, in consultation with DOER, are required to conduct competitive solicitations for offshore wind energy generation and, provided that reasonable proposals are received, to enter into cost effective long-term contracts for offshore wind energy generation for a total 5,600 megawatts of aggregate nameplate capacity not later than June 30, 2027.¹ As a result, DOER, in coordination

¹ This amount includes the capacity authorized pursuant to St. 2018, c. 227, § 21. The Companies, in coordination with DOER, may conduct one or more competitive solicitations through a staggered procurement schedule developed by the DOER. Further, individual solicitations shall seek proposals for not less than 400 megawatts of aggregate nameplate capacity of offshore wind energy generation resources. The staggered procurement schedule shall be developed by DOER and shall specify that any

with the Companies, now proposes to conduct a competitive solicitation for offshore wind energy generation of a least 400 megawatts and up to 3,600 megawatts of aggregate nameplate capacity. In addition, pursuant to Section 83C, DOER and the Attorney General have jointly selected an Independent Evaluator to monitor and report on the solicitation and bid selection process. DOER, in consultation with the Companies and the Attorney General of the Commonwealth (“Attorney General”), proposed a timetable and method for the solicitation and execution of long-term contracts, subject to review and approval by the Department. Finally, the Independent Evaluator has issued a report to the Department analyzing the timetable and method of solicitation.²

The Department will accept written comments regarding the proposed timetable and method for the solicitation on or before the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Monday, May 22, 2023**. Reply comments will be due no later than the close of business on **Wednesday, May 31, 2023**. All documents must be submitted to the Department in **pdf format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@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. 23-42); (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>. All large files submitted must be broken down into electronic files that do not exceed 20 MB.

In addition, all comments should be distributed electronically to the service lists in the following dockets: (1) Investigation Regarding Competitively Solicited Long-Term Contracts for Offshore Wind and Clean Energy Generation Resources, D.P.U. 16-191; (2) Timetable and Method of Solicitation of Long-Term Contracts for Offshore Wind Energy Generation Pursuant to Section 83C, D.P.U. 21-40; and (3) NSTAR Electric Company Long-Term Contracts for Offshore Wind Energy Generation Pursuant to Section 83C, D.P.U. 22-70, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company Long-Term Contracts for Offshore Wind Energy Generation Pursuant to Section 83C, D.P.U. 22-71 and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company Long-Term Contracts for Offshore Wind Energy Generation Pursuant to Section 83C, D.P.U. 22-72.

At this time, a paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Company’s offices or the Department. 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 request

subsequent solicitation shall occur within 24 months of a previous solicitation. This petition is filed pursuant to the above.

² The Department is in the process of updating its current regulations pursuant to St. 2022, c. 179, § 61(e)1.

materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA coordinator at Gabriella.Knight@mass.gov.

For further information regarding the petition please contact: (1) Colin Carroll, at colin.carroll@mass.gov (counsel for DOER); (2) William D. Hewitt, Esq., at whewitt@HewittLegalAdvisors.com (counsel for Unitil); (3) Laura Bickel, Esq., at Laura.Bickel@nationalgrid.com or John K. Habib, Esq., at jhabib@keeganwerlin.com (counsel for National Grid); and (4) Danielle Winter, Esq. at dwinter@keeganwerlin.com (counsel for Eversource). For further information regarding this notice please contact Alice Davey, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities at alice.davey@mass.gov.