



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 20-140

December 9, 2020

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, 2020, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid ("Company") submitted its annual cost recovery and reconciliation filing with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") involving the recovery of \$7,715,736 in costs incurred by the Company associated with its enhanced vegetation management pilot program ("EVM Pilot"). The Company also proposes to revise the scope of pilot work performed on targeted circuits. The Company submitted the filing pursuant to its vegetation management pilot provision tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 1435. The Department has docketed the matter as D.P.U. 20-140.

The Department approved the EVM Pilot in Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 17-92 (2018). On December 4, 2020, the Department approved the Company's first annual EVM Pilot cost recovery filing and directed the Company to submit a supplemental filing in D.P.U. 20-140 within 30 days of that Order's issuance, with additional information outlined in the Order. Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 19-144-A.

In the instant proceeding, the Company requests recovery of actual and estimated incremental operations and maintenance costs incurred for implementation of the EVM Pilot through December 31, 2020, totaling \$8,285,114, less \$569,378 to reconcile the actual versus estimated expenses incurred for the period October through December 2019. The Company requests recovery for these costs through the following proposed vegetation management pilot factors ("VMFs") effective March 1, 2021:

Rate Class	Proposed VMFs (\$/kWh)
R-1/R-2	\$0.00054
G-1	\$0.00055
G-2	\$0.00047
G-3	\$0.00020
Streetlighting	\$0.00076

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 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 an increase of \$0.18 or 0.1 percent. Bill impacts for all other rate classes will vary. These customers should contact the Company for specific bill information.

Additionally, the Company proposes to narrow the scope of EVM Pilot work performed on targeted circuits. For the final two years of the pilot, beginning in 2021, the Company proposes to focus the majority of work on the sections of targeted circuits that have experienced the most tree-related interruptions. The Company states that the proposed revision will permit it to work on more circuits and improve reliability for more customers throughout the year.

Due to the COVID-19 state of emergency issued by Governor Baker on March 10, 2020, and certain ongoing restrictions and safety measures relating to in-person events, the Department will conduct a virtual public hearing to receive comments on the Company's filing. The Department will conduct the hearing using Zoom videoconferencing on **Monday, January 11, 2021**, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Attendees can join by entering the link, <https://zoom.us/j/93714994812>, 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# 937 1499 4812**. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, please send an email by **Thursday, January 7, 2021**, to kerri.phillips@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address. If you anticipate commenting by telephone, please leave a voicemail message by **Thursday, January 7, 2021**, at (617) 305-3611 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address.

Any person interested in commenting on the Company's filing may also submit written comments to the Department no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Monday, January 11, 2021**. At this time, all filings will be submitted only in electronic format in recognition of the difficulty that parties and the Department may have filing and receiving original copies due to the state of emergency and ongoing limitations related to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 **Wednesday, December 30, 2020**. 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 fifth business day after the petition to intervene is filed.

All documents must be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to peter.ray@mass.gov and kerri.phillips@mass.gov. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 20-140); (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 "20-140") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Flerom/dockets/bynumber>. In addition, one copy of all written comments and petitions to intervene should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Meabh Purcell, Esq., meabh.purcell@nationalgrid.com. To the extent 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.

At this time, a paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Company's offices or the Department due to the state of emergency. 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 Company's filing, please contact National Grid's counsel, Meabh Purcell, Esq., at (781) 907-1789 or meabh.purcell@nationalgrid.com.

For further information regarding this notice, please contact Kerri DeYoung Phillips, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at kerri.phillips@mass.gov.