



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 21-03

January 20, 2022

Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for recovery of incremental operations and maintenance expenses associated with eight qualifying weather events that occurred between January 2019 and December 2019.

On February 26, 2021, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid (“Company”) submitted a storm fund cost recovery filing with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) involving storm preparation and response costs associated with eight storm fund-eligible storm events that occurred between January 2019 through December 2019 (“Storm Events”). The Company made the filing pursuant to Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 18-150 (2019), Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 15-155-A (2017), and D.P.U. 15-155 (2016). For Storm Events that occurred prior to October 1, 2019, the storm fund parameters established in D.P.U. 15-155 apply. For the Storm Events that occurred on or after October 1, 2019, the storm fund parameters established in D.P.U. 18-150 apply. The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 21-03.

The Company requests approval to recover \$55,313,675 in incremental operations and maintenance (“O&M”) costs associated with the Storm Events through its Storm Fund Recovery Factor (“SFRF”). The amount requested for recovery excludes \$1.5 million or \$1.55 million, as applicable, in per-storm deductibles totaling \$12,200,000; \$2,351,038 in storm-related capital costs; \$817,562 in storm-related removal/other costs; and \$645,174 charged to Verizon for the Storm Events. The costs submitted for recovery also exclude carrying charges. The Company states that the filing is a final accounting of the costs for the Storm Events and does not affect current rates. Further, the Company states that its filing demonstrates that its incremental O&M costs proposed for recovery are storm-related, incremental, prudently incurred, and greater than the applicable per-storm deductible and less than \$30 million (exclusive of Verizon costs) as established by the Department in D.P.U. 18-150 and D.P.U. 15-155. For these reasons, the Company states that its proposed recovery of costs through its SFRF is appropriate and warranted.

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 Companies' 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.

Any person interested in commenting on the Company's filing or on the Attorney General's notice of intent to retain experts and consultants in this matter shall submit written comments to the Department no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, March 9, 2022**. Any person who desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall file a written petition for leave to intervene no later than close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, March 2, 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.

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. The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 21-03); (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 "21-03") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>. In addition, one copy of all written comments and petitions to intervene should be emailed to the Company's attorneys, Meabh Purcell, Esq., at meabh.purcell@nationalgrid.com, or Andrea Keeffe, Esq., andrea.keeffe@nationalgrid.com. 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.

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 certain ongoing safety measures and precautions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 intervention petitions 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 the Company's attorneys, identified above. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Kerri DeYoung Phillips, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at kerri.phillips@mass.gov.