



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 25-59

May 16, 2025

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 Energy Storage Systems, pursuant to Section 83E of An Act Relative to Green Communities, St. 2008, c. 169, as amended by St. 2024, c. 239, § 98.

On May 5, 2025, 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, “Joint Petitioners”), jointly filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) for approval of a proposed timetable and method for the solicitation and execution of long-term contracts for energy storage systems and associated environmental attributes, pursuant to Section 83E of An Act Relative to Green Communities, St. 2008, c. 169 as amended by St. 2024, c. 239, § 98 (“Section 83E”). The Department docketed this petition as D.P.U. 25-59.

Pursuant to St. 2024, c. 239, § 98 and subject to Section 83E, the Companies, in consultation with DOER, are required to jointly and competitively solicit proposals for energy storage systems and, provided that reasonable proposals are received, enter into cost-effective long-term contracts for energy storage systems equal to approximately 5,000 megawatts (“MW”) not later than July 31, 2030.¹ As a result, DOER, in coordination with the Companies, now proposes to conduct a competitive solicitation for energy storage systems equal to approximately

¹ Section 83E requires that the Companies enter into cost-effective long-term contracts for energy storage systems equal to approximately 5,000 MW of energy storage systems by July 31, 2030, of which: (i) approximately 1,500 MW of mid-duration storage shall be procured by July 31, 2025, and shall be for environmental attributes only; (ii) approximately 1,000 MW of mid-duration storage shall be procured by July 31, 2026; (iii) approximately 1,000 MW of mid-duration storage shall be procured by July 31, 2027; and (iv) all remaining energy storage systems capacity shall be procured by July 31, 2030. Section 83E(b).

1,500 MW of mid-duration energy storage² for environmental attributes only.³ In addition, pursuant to Section 83E, DOER and the Attorney General of the Commonwealth (“Attorney General”) have selected an Independent Evaluator to monitor and report on the solicitation and bid selection process. DOER, in coordination with the Companies, and in consultation with the Attorney General and the Independent Evaluator, have 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.

As this is the first of the required solicitations under Section 83E, the Joint Petitioners also request that the Department confirm how to interpret the provisions of Section 83E(a), namely whether a bid associated with an existing energy storage system is required to demonstrate that a contract under Section 83E is necessary to facilitate the financing of that existing energy storage system.⁴

The Department will accept written comments regarding this filing on or before the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Friday, May 30, 2025**. Reply comments will be due no later than the close of business on **Friday, June 6, 2025**. All documents should be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by email attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and to the Hearing Officers susan.geiser@mass.gov and timothy.m.federico@mass.gov. The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 25-59); (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 through our online [File Room](#) as soon as practicable (enter “25-59” on the line for “Docket No.”).

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; (3) NSTAR Electric Company Long-Term Contracts for Offshore

² A mid-duration energy storage system is an energy storage system, as defined in G.L. c. 164, § 1, that is capable of dispatching energy at its full-rated capacity for a period equal to or greater than four hours and up to ten hours. St. 2024, c. 239, § 97.

³ Environmental Attributes are all present and future attributes under any and all international, federal, regional, state, or other law or market, including, but not limited to, all credits or certificates that are associated, either now or by future action, with clean energy generation, including, but not limited to, those attributes authorized and created by programs developed under G.L. c. 21N, § 3(c) and G.L. c. 25A §§ 11F and 17. St. 2024, c. 239, § 95.

⁴ The Department will be initiating a rulemaking to promulgate energy storage systems regulations pursuant to St. 2024, c. 239, § 98.

Wind Energy Generation Pursuant to Section 83C, D.P.U. 22-70; (4) Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company Long-Term Contracts for Offshore Wind Energy Generation Pursuant to Section 83C, D.P.U. 22-71; (5) Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company Long-Term Contracts for Offshore Wind Energy Generation Pursuant to Section 83C, D.P.U. 22-72; and (6) Department of Energy Resources, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, and NSTAR Electric Company Long-Term Contracts for Offshore Wind Energy Generation Pursuant to Section 83C, D.P.U. 23-42.

The filing and all subsequent related documents submitted to the Department 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 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 eeadiversity@mass.gov or (617) 626-1282.

For further information regarding the filing, please contact: (1) Colin P. Carroll, Esq. 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, John K. Habib, Esq., at jhabib@keeganwerlin.com, and Ashley Marton, Esq. at amarton@keeganwerlin.com (counsel for National Grid); and (4) Danielle Winter, Esq. at dwinter@keeganwerlin.com and Jessica Ralston, Esq. at jralston@keeganwerlin.com (counsel for Eversource). For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Susan Geiser and Timothy Federico, Hearing Officers, Department of Public Utilities, at susan.geiser@mass.gov and timothy.m.federico@mass.gov

Translation and Interpretation Services

English

ATTENTION: Translation and/or interpretation services are available upon request. Please email Kaylee Burgess at dpu.ej@mass.gov to request language services, specifying your preferred language and contact information.

Português (Portuguese)

ATENÇÃO: Disponibilizamos nossos serviços de tradução e/ou interpretação de acordo com a sua demanda. Para solicitar um serviço linguístico, envie um e-mail para Kaylee Burgess através do endereço dpu.ej@mass.gov, informando o idioma desejado e seus dados para contato.

繁體中文 (Traditional Chinese)

提醒您：您可依照需求申請筆譯和/或口譯服務。請以電郵聯絡 Kaylee Burgess (dpu.ej@mass.gov) 來申請語言服務請求，請在電郵內註明需要的語言和聯絡資訊。

Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)

LƯU Ý: Các dịch vụ biên dịch và/hoặc phiên dịch có sẵn theo yêu cầu. Vui lòng gửi email đến Kaylee Burgess theo địa chỉ dpu.ej@mass.gov để yêu cầu dịch vụ ngôn ngữ, nêu rõ ngôn ngữ ưa thích của quý vị và thông tin liên lạc

(Arabic) العربية

يُرجى الانتباه: تتوفر خدمات الترجمة و/أو الترجمة الفورية عند الطلب. لطلب خدمات لغوية يرجى التواصل مع Kaylee Burgess بإرسال رسالة إلكترونية إلى العنوان dpu.ej@mass.gov، تحدد فيها اللغة المفضلة لديك وتذكر معلومات الاتصال.

ខ្មែរ (Khmer)

ជូនចំពោះ៖ សេវាកម្មប្រែក្លាយ និង/ឬបកប្រែផ្ទាល់ គឺមានតាមការស្នើសុំ។ សូមផ្ញើអ៊ីមែលទៅ Kaylee Burgess តាម dpu.ej@mass.gov ដើម្បីស្នើសុំសេវាកម្មប្រែក្លាយ ដោយបញ្ជាក់ភាសាដែលអ្នកចង់បាន និងព័ត៌មានទំនាក់ទំនង។

Español (Spanish)

ATENCIÓN: Los servicios de traducción y/o interpretación están disponibles bajo solicitud. Por favor envíe un correo electrónico a Kaylee Burgess en dpu.ej@mass.gov para solicitar los servicios de idiomas, especificando su idioma preferido e información de contacto.

简体中文 (Simplified Chinese)

提醒您：您可依需要申请提供笔译和/或口译服务。请发送电子邮件给 Kaylee Burgess (dpu.ej@mass.gov) 来申请语言服务要求，并注明您的首选语言和联系信息。

Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole)

ATANSYON: Gen sèvis tradiksyon ak/oswa entèpretasyon ki disponib sou demann. Tanpri voye imèl bay Kaylee Burgess nan dpu.ej@mass.gov pou mande sèvis lang, ki enfòm lang ou pi pito a ak enfòmasyon kontak ou.

Français (French)

ATTENTION : Des services de traduction et/ou d'interprétation sont disponibles sur demande. Veuillez envoyer un e-mail à Kaylee Burgess à l'adresse dpu.ej@mass.gov pour demander des services linguistiques, en précisant votre langue préférée et vos coordonnées.

Русский (Russian)

ВНИМАНИЕ!

Услуги письменного и/или устного перевода предоставляются по запросу. Для запроса услуг перевода обращайтесь к Kaylee Burgess по адресу dpu.ej@mass.gov. В запросе укажите язык перевода и контактную информацию.

한국어 (Korean)

주의: 요청 시 번역 및/또는 통역 서비스가 제공됩니다.

Kaylee Burgess 에게 dpu.ej@mass.gov 로 이메일을 보내 선호하는 언어와 연락처 정보를 명시하여 언어 서비스를 요청하십시오.