



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### **NOTICE OF FILING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS**

D.P.U. 25-20

June 13, 2025

Petition of NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Companies' Long-Term System Planning Process Proposal as directed by the Department in Electric Sector Modernization Plans, D.P.U. 24-10/D.P.U. 24-11/D.P.U. 24-12 (2024).

On May 9, 2025, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy ("NSTAR Electric"), Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid ("National Grid"), and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil ("Unitil") (collectively "Distribution Companies") submitted to the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") for review and approval of a Long-Term System Planning Process ("LTSP") proposal. The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 25-20.

In D.P.U. 20-75, the Department investigated the possibility of establishing an optimal long-term system planning framework to serve the public interest, provide benefits to ratepayers, enable effective interconnection of Distributed Energy Resources ("DER"), support the Distribution Companies' infrastructure investment in a safe, reliable, and resilient electric power system ("EPS"), and promote the Commonwealth's energy policies. Electric Distribution Companies' (1) Distributed Energy Resource Planning and (2) Assignment and Recovery of Costs for the Interconnection of Distributed Generation, D.P.U. 20-75, Vote and Order Opening Investigation. The 2022 Clean Energy Act ("An Act Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind"), in which the Legislature enacted a new process and requirements for long-term electric system planning, effectively replaced the Department's investigation in D.P.U. 20-75. St. 2022, c. 179, § 53; G.L. c. 164, § 92B(a). In consideration thereof, the Department determined our investigation of a long-term system planning framework moot, and, therefore, closed our investigation of the framework. D.P.U. 20-75-C, Order Closing Investigation of Long-Term System Planning Program (2022).

In the inaugural Electric Sector Modernization Plan (“ESMP”) filings, the Distribution Companies proposed to work with interested stakeholders to develop LTSPS proposals utilizing the analysis, process, proposals, and comments submitted in D.P.U. 20-75. Electric Sector Modernization Plans, D.P.U. 24-10/D.P.U. 24-11/D.P.U. 24-12, at 335-336 (2024). The Department found the Distribution Companies’ recommendation to develop LTSPS proposals following the seven-month ESMP adjudication to be reasonable and emphasized the need for the Distribution Companies to develop LTSPS proposals following the issuance of the Order in a timely manner so as not to delay progress towards accomplishing the Commonwealth’s energy and climate goals. D.P.U. 24-10/D.P.U. 24-11/D.P.U. 24-12, at 336.

To accomplish certain objectives, the Department directed the Distribution Companies to convene a stakeholder working group and to facilitate a stakeholder process consistent with the directives outlined therein. D.P.U. 24-10/D.P.U. 24-11/D.P.U. 24-12, at 337-338. The Department ordered the Distribution Companies to submit to the Department a final status report, along with final consensus proposals and a detailed summary of areas of disagreement by April 4, 2025. D.P.U. 24-10/D.P.U. 24-11/D.P.U. 24-12, at 337. On April 3, 2025, the Distribution Companies jointly filed a motion for extension of time to further collaborate and finalize the LTSPS Proposal and Report and, to the extent possible, reach further consensus on the LTSPS Proposal. On April 7, 2025, the Department granted this motion extending the filing deadline to Friday, May 9, 2025. On May 9, 2025, the Distribution Companies jointly filed the LTSPS Proposal for review and approval by the Department. The Department has docketed this proceeding as D.P.U. 25-20.

The filing includes the LTSPS Stakeholder Report (“Stakeholder Report”), the Distribution Companies’ Framework for the LTSPS for Distributed Generation (“Framework”), and other supporting attachments. The Framework identifies the LTSPS as the proactive system-level process to safely and reliably facilitate the efficient and cost-effective interconnection of DERs in support of the Commonwealth’s climate energy and climate goals, while also considering the potential impact of long-term electrification load. The proposed LTSPS is intended to replace the Provisional System Planning Program established by the Department in D.P.U. 20-75-B (2021). If the Department approves the LTSPS Proposal, each Distribution Company would file a company-specific LTSPS Proposal to include recovery of costs from ratepayers.

Under the LTSPS Framework, the Distribution Companies propose a cost allocation methodology, modeled after the cost allocation framework established in D.P.U. 20-75, that includes a Proactive Hosting Capacity Fee (“PHC Fee”). The Distribution Companies contend

that the PHC Fee is based on the principles of beneficiary pays, sound development signals, and cost efficiency. It is intended to promote equitable distribution of costs between DER facilities and ratepayers. The Distribution Companies will assess the PHC Fee to applicable DER facilities to reflect that facility's pro-rata share of the necessary common infrastructure costs associated with proactive hosting capacity enablement. To recover the costs of LTSP investments, the Distribution Companies propose the Long-Term System Planning Factor ("LTSPF") as a non-bypassable, reconciling charge. The Distribution Companies state that they will commence stakeholder engagement with the LTSP Subgroup, organized as a subgroup of the Grid Modernization Advisory Council, no later than 60 days following a Department Order establishing an LTSP.

The Department will conduct a virtual public hearing to receive comments on the Distribution Companies' LTSP Proposal. The Department intends to hold an informal, informational session immediately following the public hearing to allow LTSP working group stakeholders the opportunity to provide context for the filing and to allow the Department to ask basic questions. During the public hearing, any member of the public will be able to provide comments. The Department will conduct a public hearing using Zoom videoconferencing on **Tuesday, July 1, 2025**, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Attendees can join by entering the link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87205138686>, from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only access to the hearing, attendees can dial in at 1 (646) 558-8656 (not toll free) and then enter the Webinar ID number: 872 0513 8686. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, please send an email by **Friday, June 27, 2025** to [katherine.e.stock@mass.gov](mailto:katherine.e.stock@mass.gov), [annemarie.belle@mass.gov](mailto:annemarie.belle@mass.gov), and [kristen.lommele@mass.gov](mailto:kristen.lommele@mass.gov) with your name, email address, and mailing address. Alternatively, any person who desires to provide written comment on this matter may submit their comments to the Department no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Tuesday, July 1, 2025** and reply written comments no later than close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Tuesday, July 22, 2025**.

The Department anticipates that a number of persons will be interested in this proceeding and encourages interested persons to present consensus positions and submit comments jointly, when possible. Written comments from the public may be sent by email to [dpufiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpufiling@mass.gov), [katherine.e.stock@mass.gov](mailto:katherine.e.stock@mass.gov), [annemarie.belle@mass.gov](mailto:annemarie.belle@mass.gov), [kristen.lommele@mass.gov](mailto:kristen.lommele@mass.gov) and the Distribution Companies' attorneys, Patrick Taylor, Esq., [taylorp@unitil.com](mailto:taylorp@unitil.com); Nancy D. Israel, Esq., [nancy.israel@nationalgrid.com](mailto:nancy.israel@nationalgrid.com); and John K. Habib, [jhabib@keeganwerlin.com](mailto:jhabib@keeganwerlin.com). Please note that in the interest of transparency any comments will be posted to our website as received and without redacting personal information, such as addresses,

telephone numbers, or email addresses. As such, consider the extent of information you wish to share when submitting comments. The Department strongly encourages public comments to be submitted by email. If, however, a member of the public is unable to send written comments by email, a paper copy may be sent to Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110.

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 **Friday, June 27, 2025**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. Receipt by the Department 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 for leave to intervene must be filed by the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the second business day after the petition for leave to intervene was filed.

The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (“Attorney General”) filed a notice to intervene in this matter pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E. Further, pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), the Attorney General filed a notice of intent to retain experts and consultants to assist her investigation of the Company’s 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 who desires to comment on the Attorney General’s notice of intent to retain experts and consultants may submit written comments to the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Tuesday, June 24, 2025**

All documents should be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by email attachment to [dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov), [katherine.e.stock@mass.gov](mailto:katherine.e.stock@mass.gov), [annemarie.belle@mass.gov](mailto:annemarie.belle@mass.gov), and [kristen.lommele@mass.gov](mailto:kristen.lommele@mass.gov). The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 25-20); (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 “25-20”) 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 Distribution Companies’ attorneys as listed above.

The LTSPP 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 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 [eeadiversity@mass.gov](mailto:eeadiversity@mass.gov), (617) 626-1282.

For further information regarding the Distribution Companies LTSPP filing, please contact the Distribution Companies' attorneys, identified above. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Annemarie Belle, Katherine Stock, Hearing Officers, and Kristen Lommele, Special Policy Advisor on Climate Change, Department of Public Utilities, at [Katherine.E.Stock@mass.gov](mailto:Katherine.E.Stock@mass.gov), [annemarie.belle@mass.gov](mailto:annemarie.belle@mass.gov), and [kristen.lommele@mass.gov](mailto:kristen.lommele@mass.gov).

**TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION SERVICES****English**

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**Português (Portuguese)**

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**(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](mailto: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](mailto: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

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**中文 (Simplified Chinese)**

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**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](mailto:dpu.ej@mass.gov) pou mande sèvis lang, ki enfòm lang ou pi pito a ak enfòmasyon kontak ou.

**Français (French)**

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**العربية (Arabic)**

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](mailto:dpu.ej@mass.gov)، تحدد فيها اللغة المفضلة لديك وتذكر معلومات الاتصال.

**ខ្មែរ (Khmer)**

ជូនចំពោះ: សេវាកម្មបកប្រែឯកសារ និង/ឬអ្នកបកប្រែផ្ទាល់ គឺមានតាមការស្នើសុំ។ សូមផ្ញើអ៊ីមែលទៅ Kaylee Burgess តាម [dpu.ej@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.ej@mass.gov) ដើម្បីស្នើសុំសេវាកម្មបកប្រែឯកសារ ដោយបញ្ជាក់ភាសាដែលអ្នកចង់បាន និងព័ត៌មានទំនាក់ទំនង។

**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](mailto:dpu.ej@mass.gov). В запросе укажите язык перевода и контактную информацию.

**한국 (Korean)**

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