



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 25-175

December 10, 2025

Joint Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of Revised Model Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Program Provisions.

On November 21, 2025, 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 ("NSTAR Electric") (individually "Distribution Company," collectively "Distribution Companies") submitted to the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") for review and approval of a joint filing ("Filing") with (1) revisions to the current model Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target ("SMART") tariff ("SMART Provision") and (2) a proposed "SMART 3.0" tariff ("SMART 3.0 Provision").

This Filing is intended to implement the changes to the SMART program ("SMART Program") instituted by the Department of Energy Resources ("DOER") effective September 12, 2025, with its revised SMART Regulations promulgated at 220 CMR 20.00 and its new regulations at 225 CMR 28.00 ("SMART 3.0 Regulations"). DOER issued the SMART 3.0 Regulations to update its SMART Regulations at 225 CMR 20.00 after a multi-year programmatic review.

DOER established the SMART Program as a voluntary statewide solar incentive program to implement an Act Relative to Solar Energy, St. 2016, c. 75 ("Act"). DOER designed the SMART Program to create a stable, long-term incentive for developing solar energy in the Commonwealth and supporting clean energy goals. In 2018, the Department first approved the model SMART Provision for the Distribution Companies to carry out their responsibilities under the SMART Program. The Department approved revisions to the model SMART Provision in 2021 and 2024 pursuant to 225 CMR 20.00, a programmatic update commonly referred to as "SMART 2.0." The Distribution Companies included both "SMART 2.0" and "SMART 3.0" tariffs in the Filing. The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 25-175.

SMART 3.0 is designed as the "successor" to the initial SMART Program. SMART 3.0 replaces the structure of the Initial SMART Program -- a declining block incentive program with an overall capacity target of 3,200 megawatt ("MW") -- with a program that contains capacity

targets and incentive rates adjusted by the DOER annually. SMART 3.0 Program incentives will vary based on a project's category and capacity.

The Distribution Companies propose that the Department review the filing in phases to support timely implementation of DOER's SMART Program revisions. Specifically, the Distribution Companies propose that in Phase I of this proceeding, the Department review and approve the model SMART Provision and SMART 3.0 Provision, at which time each Distribution Company would submit its individual tariff for approval. In Phase II of this proceeding, the Distribution Companies would propose additional revisions to the model SMART Provision not included in Phase I. These proposed Phase II changes will be limited and may include, among other things, recovery for the value of energy from behind-the-meter qualified facilities participating in the SMART Program. For now, however, the Distribution Companies propose only changes necessary to begin to offer the revised initial SMART Program and the SMART 3.0 Program as soon as possible, in addition to some formatting or other clarifying changes that the Distribution Companies state are non-controversial.

The Department notes that the Distribution Companies are not seeking approval of specific costs at this time and, as such, the Filing does not include estimated bill impacts. The Distribution Companies estimate the cost of the SMART 3.0 Program to be \$6.7 billion over 20 years for projects that enroll in the SMART 3.0 Program in the 2025 and 2026 program years if the full SMART Program capacity is subscribed. The Distribution Companies recover SMART Program costs from all distribution customers through the SMART factor, which is set forth in the SMART Provision and is updated annually.

The Department will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the petition using Zoom videoconferencing on **January 15, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.** The Department seeks comments on the proposed SMART Provisions, as well as whether a phased approach is appropriate for this proceeding. Attendees can join by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87818446214>, from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only access to the hearings, attendees can dial in at + 1 646-558-8656, (not toll free) and then enter the Meeting ID# 878 1844 6214. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, please send an email by **January 8, 2026**, to krista.hawley@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address. If you anticipate commenting by telephone, please leave a voicemail message by **January 8, 2026**, at 617-305-3620 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address.

Alternately, any person interested commenting on this matter may also submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **January 16, 2026**. 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 Peter A. Ray, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 3rd Floor, 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 the close of business

(5:00 p.m.) on **January 8, 2026**. 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 to intervene must be filed by the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the second business day after the petition to intervene was filed.

All documents must be submitted to the Department in **pdf format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and krista.hawley@mass.gov. In addition, all documents should be emailed to the Distribution Companies' attorneys: Alice Davey, Esq. at daveya@unitil.com; Joseph F. Dorfler, Esq. at jdorfler@richmaylaw.com; John K. Habib, Esq. at jhabib@keeganwerlin.com; Ashley S. Marton, Esq. at amarton@keeganwerlin.com; and Laura C. Bickel, Esq. at Laura.bickel@NationalGrid.com. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 25-175); (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 "25-175") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>. 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.

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 Filing, please contact the Distribution Companies' attorneys as follows:

- for Unitil, Alice Davey, Esq. at daveya@unitil.com;
- for National Grid, Joseph F. Dorfler, Esq. at jdorfler@richmaylaw.com and Laura C. Bickel, Esq. at Laura.bickel@NationalGrid.com; and
- for NSTAR Electric, John K. Habib, Esq. at jhabib@keeganwerlin.com; Ashley S. Marton, Esq. at amarton@keeganwerlin.com.

For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Krista Hawley, Senior Counsel, Department of Public Utilities, at krista.hawley@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.

(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

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

ខ្មែរ (Khmer)

ជូនចំពោះ៖ សេវាកម្មប្រែក្លាយ និង/ឬអ្នកបកប្រែផ្ទាល់ គឺមានតាមការស្នើសុំ។ សូមផ្ញើសំបុត្រទៅ Kaylee Burgess តាម dpu.ej@mass.gov ដើម្បីស្នើសុំសេវាកម្មបកប្រែ/បកស្រាយ 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.

中文 (Simplified Chinese)

提醒您：您可依需要申請提供筆譯和/或口譯服務。請發送電子郵件給 Kaylee Burgess (dpu.ej@mass.gov) 來申請語言服務要求，並注明您的首選語言和聯繫信息。

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.

한국 (Korean)

주의: 요청 시 번역 및/또는 통역 서비스가 제공됩니다.

Kaylee Burgess에게 dpu.ej@mass.gov로 이메일을 보내 선호하는 언어와 연락처 정보를 명시하여 언어 서비스를 요청하십시오.