



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 24-196

January 8, 2025

Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval of a mid-term modification to its Phase III Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program.

On December 19, 2024, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid” or “Company”), filed with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) a petition for approval of a mid-term modification to its 2023-2026 Phase III electric vehicle infrastructure program (“Phase III EV program” or “EV program”), that was approved, with modifications, by the Department in Electric Vehicles, D.P.U. 21-90/D.P.U. 21-91/D.P.U. 21-92 (2022); D.P.U. 21-90-A/D.P.U. 21-91-A/D.P.U. 21-92-A (2023). The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 24-196.

In its filing, National Grid proposes five modifications to its Phase III EV program. Specifically, the Company seeks:

- to eliminate the Department’s requirement that third-party funding be deducted from the combined make-ready and EV supply equipment (“EVSE”) incentives that a program participant is eligible to receive through its EV program. The Company proposes instead that third-party funding designated for a specific purpose (e.g., EVSE) be deducted from only the eligible EV program incentives designated for the same purpose and only if the combined third-party funding and EV program incentives for make-ready, EVSE, or networking would exceed 100 percent of the program participant’s actual and eligible make-ready, EVSE, or networking costs. National Grid maintains that this change will allow the EV program to fund the monetary gap between a program participant’s third-party funding and the EV program’s make-ready, EVSE, and networking incentives. National Grid does not seek an increase to its EV program budget to implement this proposed program modification;
- to extend its off-peak charging rebate program through 2026, eliminate the cap on the number of residential and fleet customers that can participate in its off-peak charging rebate program, and expand the off-peak period to include weekends and holidays. The Company maintains that these programmatic changes will allow for continued growth of its off-peak charging rebate program, support program continuity, reduce customer confusion, and incentivize customers to shift more of their charging to off-peak hours.

National Grid proposes to shift \$5 million from its residential segment budget to fund its off-peak charging rebate program through 2026;

- to adjust the rebate incentive structure for its public and workplace segment to reduce the rebate levels for direct current fast chargers (“DCFC”). National Grid maintains that a reduction to the DCFC rebate levels for its public and workplace segment is necessary to prevent depletion of its public and workplace segment budget at the expense of Level 2 projects and to maximize its remaining EV program budget by spreading it across more projects. The Company does not seek an increase to its EV program budget to implement this proposal;
- to eliminate the 15 percent cap on shifting budget amounts between program segments to allow the Company flexibility to respond to market changes and customer demand; and
- approval of an additional \$34 million for its public and workplace segment to continue progress towards the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’s transportation electrification goals and to support program continuity.

If the Department approves the mid-term modification to the Phase III EV program and the associated \$34 million incremental budget increase as proposed, the Company states that customers will experience the following bill increases on July 1, 2025:

- a typical residential customer (R-1) using an average of 600 kilowatt-hours (“kWh”) of electricity per month will experience a monthly bill increase of \$1.55 or 0.7 percent;
- a typical low-income residential assistance customer (R-2) with a 32 percent discount using an average of 600 kWh of electricity per month will experience a monthly bill increase of \$1.05 or 0.7 percent; and
- bill impacts for commercial and industrial customers will vary. These customers should contact the Company for specific bill impact information.

On December 19, 2024, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy filed with the Department a petition for approval of a mid-term modification to its Phase II EV infrastructure program, which the Department has docketed as D.P.U. 24-195. Also, on December 20, 2024, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil filed with the Department a petition for approval of a mid-term modification to its EV infrastructure program, which the Department has docketed as D.P.U. 24-197. The Department has not consolidated these proceedings; however, the Department seeks to investigate them in parallel to the extent feasible given the overlap of issues.

The Department will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the Company’s petition on **Wednesday, February 5, 2025, beginning at 3:00 p.m.** The hearing will be virtual and use Zoom videoconferencing. Attendees can join the public hearing by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87660410767>, from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only access to the public hearing, attendees can dial in

at **(646) 931-3860 (not toll free)** and then enter the **Meeting ID# 876 6041 0767**. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, please send an email by **Monday, February 3, 2025**, to scott.seigal@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address.

Any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Monday, February 10, 2025**. 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. Therefore, consider the extent of information you wish to share when submitting comments. The Department strongly encourages public comments to be submitted by email using the methods described below. 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 **Monday, February 3, 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 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.

To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments or a petition to intervene in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission is sufficient. All documents must be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and scott.seigal@mass.gov. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 24-196); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. In addition, a copy of all comments or petitions to intervene should be sent to the Company's attorneys, Bonnie Raffetto, Esq., at Bonnie.Raffetto@nationalgrid.com, John Habib, Esq., at jhabib@keeganwerlin.com, and Michael Hershberg, Esq., at mhershberg@keeganwerlin.com. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "24-196") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>.

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), please contact the Department's ADA coordinator, Melixza Esenyie, at eeadiversity@mass.gov or by phone at (617) 626-1282.

For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's attorneys, identified above. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Scott Seigal, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at scott.seigal@mass.gov.