



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

MEMORANDUM

TO: Electronic Distribution List in D.P.U. 20-75

FROM: Katie Zilgme, Hearing Officer

RE: Distributed Energy Resource Planning and Cost Assignment, D.P.U. 20-75
Notice of June 3, 2021 Technical Conference Logistics and Agenda

DATE: May 28, 2021

CC: Mark Marini, Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

On October 22, 2020, the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) opened this inquiry, pursuant to its ratemaking authority under G.L. c. 164, § 94 and its superintendence authority under G.L. c. 164, § 76, to investigate distributed energy resource planning and the associated assignment and recovery of costs related to the distributed generation (“DG”) process and infrastructure modifications needed to interconnect DG to a Distribution Company’s electric power system. On May 7, 2021, I issued a Hearing Officer Memorandum announcing a technical conference to be held on June 3, 2021. This memorandum provides logistical information and sets forth a detailed agenda for the technical conference.

II. LOGISTICS

The Department will hold a technical conference in D.P.U. 20-75 on June 3, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. Pre-registration is not necessary; however, the Department seeks to keep this meeting at a reasonable size to allow for productive conversation and, as such, invites only those stakeholders with specialized knowledge of these discrete issues. **For individuals that seek to actively participate in the discussion, the Department expects such individuals to update their Zoom profiles with their name and organization and to have their cameras on when speaking.**

Please use the following Zoom link or one of the numbers to participate in or observe the technical conference:

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/98765267494>

Meeting ID: 987 6526 7494

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,98765267494# US (New York) 13017158592,,98765267494# US
(Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
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+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request.

Include a description of the accommodation you will need, including as much detail as you

can. Also include a way for the Department to contact you if we need more information.

Please provide as much advance notice as possible. Last minute requests will be accepted but may not be able to be accommodated. Contact the Department's ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov.

III. AGENDA

- **Introduction (10:00-11:00 am):¹**
 - Welcome remarks from Chair Matthew Nelson
 - Introduction (process and scope of technical conference)
 - Department presentation (procedural background and summary of straw proposal)
 - Eversource and National Grid presentations (summary of responses to the Department's information requests)
 - Department presentation (summary of stakeholder responses to the Department's information requests)
 - The Department's investigation
- **Discussion Topic #1: Department staff follow-up questions to Eversource and National Grid (11:00-11:30 am)**
 - With the electric distribution companies' ("EDCs") responses to the Department's second round of information requests, Department staff have additional questions for the EDCs.
 - Department staff anticipate taking the full time allotted for this discussion but, if we end early, we will open the floor to stakeholders.
- **Discussion Topic #2: Due process (11:30 am-12:30 pm):**
 - If the Department establishes a provisional system planning program ("Provisional Program"), what procedural steps would be necessary for the Department's review of an EDC's proposal?
 - Discussion of what, when, and how long for each procedural step, and the impacts each procedural step may have on the objectives of a Provisional Program.

¹ Timeframes are estimations and may change depending on how the discussions/presentations progress throughout the day.

- **Lunch (12:30-1:15 pm)**
- **Discussion Topic #3: Construction timelines (1:15-2:15 pm):**
 - Expected construction timelines for a Provisional Program and stakeholder concerns
 - EDCs to open discussion: Can construction timelines be expedited?
- **Discussion topic #4: Where is the breaking point? (2:15-3:15 pm):**
 - Discussion of key questions in the Department's investigation: If a Provisional Program is established:
 - Will DG currently in the queue be able to interconnect?
 - Will ratepayers recoup funding of capital investment projects?
 - Will a Provisional Program be beneficial to the Commonwealth as a whole?
- **Discussion Topic #5: What are we missing? (3:15-3:45 pm)**
 - The Department's straw proposal, Hearing Officer memorandums, Information Requests, and the discussion today should provide a good idea of the key issues that we are considering in the investigation into whether to establish a Provisional Program.
 - Are there other issues or information that the Department should consider in its investigation?
- **Next Steps (3:45-4:00 pm)**
 - Department to present

For further information regarding this memorandum or to request addition to or removal from the electronic distribution list, please contact me, at Katie.Zilgme@mass.gov.