



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Katherine Stock, Hearing Officer

RE: Attorney General Notice of Retention of Experts and Consultants—Request for Comments

DATE: January 19, 2022

CC: Mark Marini, Secretary

On October 22, 2020, the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) opened this inquiry to investigate (1) distributed energy resource planning and (2) the associated assignment and recovery of costs related to the distributed generation process and infrastructure modifications needed to interconnect distributed generation to a Distribution Company’s electric power system (“EPS”). This inquiry was opened pursuant to the Department’s ratemaking authority under G.L. c. 164, § 94 and its superintendence authority under G.L. c. 164, § 76. On November 24, 2021, the Department issued an Order establishing a new, provisional framework for Distribution Companies’ planning and for the funding of essential upgrades to the EPS to foster timely and cost-effective development and interconnection of distributed generation (“DG”). Distributed Energy Resource Planning and Cost Assignment, D.P.U. 20-75-B (2021). The Department established the provisional framework while it examines possible long-term planning solutions for the interconnection of DG while ensuring a safe and reliable electric distribution system. D.P.U. 20-75-B at 1.

On January 18, 2022, the Attorney General of the Commonwealth (“Attorney General”), pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), filed with the Department a Notice of Retention of Experts and Consultants for funds in the amount of \$150,000 (“Attorney General’s Notice”)(copy attached). Any person interested in commenting on the Attorney General’s Notice may submit written comments to the Department no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, February 2, 2022**.

At this time, all filings will be submitted only in electronic format consistent with the Commission's June 15, 2021 directive related to modified filing requirements. Ordinarily, all parties would follow Sections B.1 and B.4 of the Department's Standard Ground Rules (D.P.U. 15-184-A, App. 1)(March 4, 2020)); however, until further notice, parties must retain the original paper version and the Department will later determine when the paper version must be filed with the Department Secretary.

All written comments or other documents must be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and katherine.e.stock@mass.gov. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 20-75); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The e-mail must also include the name, title, and telephone number of the person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. The electronic file name should identify the document but should not exceed 50 characters in length. Importantly, all large files submitted must be broken down into electronic files that **do not exceed 20 MB**.

At this time, a paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Department's office due to certain ongoing safety measures and precautions relating to in-person events as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "20-75") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fleroom/dockets/bynumber>. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA coordinator DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov.

For further information regarding this memorandum or to request addition to or removal from the electronic distribution list, please contact Katherine Stock, Hearing Officer, at katherine.e.stock@mass.gov.