



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: Request for Information From Electric Distribution Companies

DATE: January 28, 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 an electric distribution company’s (singularly “Distribution Company”, collectively “Distribution Companies”)¹ 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. The Department issued three sets of information requests to Distribution Companies in this docket. The information requests were deemed continuing and require further supplemental responses if a Distribution Company or its witnesses receive or generate additional information within the scope of the request between the time of the original response and the close of the record in this proceeding.

¹ The Distribution Companies are 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 (“Eversource”).

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. The Department set forth eligibility criteria for the filing of capital investment project ("CIP") proposals with the Department. D.P.U. 20-75-B at 34-40. In addition, the Department set forth a timeline for advance notification to the Department and affected interconnecting customers for filing a CIP proposal with the Department for an associated eligible group study and for the filing date for an eligible CIP proposal. D.P.U. 20-75-B at 30-31.

In this memorandum, the Department requests certain information from the Distribution Companies concerning the timeline for CIP proposal submission set forth in D.P.U. 20-75-B.² Responses to the requests set forth herein supersede the Distribution Companies' prior obligation to supplement responses to information requests issued in this docket. The Distribution Companies shall, however have a continuing obligation to supplement the information provided in response to these requests if a Distribution Company receives or generates additional information within the scope of the request between the time of the original response and the filing of an associated CIP proposal, or a determination that a CIP proposal will not be filed for an associated eligible group study. The Department expects those responding to these requests will not delay the Distribution Companies' work toward relevant "Completion Dates" or CIP proposal preparation.

- I. Requests:** The Department seeks responses from the Distribution Companies to the below requests by close of business on **February 4, 2022**.
1. Provide the timeline for each eligible group study identified in D.P.U. 20-75-B to reach the "Completion Date" as defined in D.P.U. 20-75-B. As part of your response, provide a detailed explanation for the determination of each "Completion Date" including

² The Department understands that, at this time, Unitil does not have any group studies in its service territory that are eligible for the provisional program. As such, the below requests are directed at Eversource and National Grid and Unitil is not required to file responses.

why the “Completion Date” meets the requirements set forth in D.P.U. 20-75-B.

2. Provide the expected timeline for submission of a CIP for each eligible group study, including a final deadline in compliance with the requirements of D.P.U. 20-75-B.³ As part of your response, provide a detailed explanation for the determination of each timeline including why the timeline meets the requirements set forth in D.P.U. 20-75-B.
3. For each eligible group study identified in D.P.U. 20-75 provide a list of the facilities included in the group, identifying the developer, location of the proposed facility (city/town only), and facility size. If possible, also identify whether a facility is front-of-the-meter or behind-the-meter.⁴ Do not include any personal identifiable information.
4. Provide the Distribution Company’s plan for notifications to affected interconnecting customers from the date of the response to this request through the conclusion of any associated adjudicatory proceeding.
5. Provide the Distribution Company’s plan for engaging with the other Distribution Companies, the Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Energy Resources, and solar and energy storage stakeholders during the CIP proposal preparation process.

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

³ The Department recognizes that the Distribution Companies may not yet know whether an eligible group study will have an associated eligible CIP for submission to the Department. For the purpose of their response, however, the Distribution Companies may assume each group study will have an eligible CIP.

⁴ For the purpose of this memorandum, the Distribution Companies shall use the definitions of front-of-the-meter and behind-the-meter as defined in Net Metering, SMART Provision, and the Forward Capacity Market, D.P.U. 17-146-B at 13 (2019).

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 katie.zilgme@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/Flerom/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 Katie Zilgme, Hearing Officer, at katie.zilgme@mass.gov.