



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 April 13, 2022 Technical Conference

DATE: February 11, 2022

CC: Mark Marini, Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

On October 22, 2020, the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) opened this inquiry to investigate the electric distribution companies’ (“EDCs”) (1) distributed energy resource planning and (2) assignment and recovery of costs for the interconnection of distributed generation (“DG”), pursuant to its ratemaking authority under G.L. c. 164, § 94 and its superintendence authority under G.L. c. 164, § 76. Distributed Energy Resource Planning and Cost Assignment, D.P.U. 20-75 (2020). In opening the inquiry, the Department issued a straw proposal that outlines distributed energy resource (“DER”) planning requirements and a common system modification fee. D.P.U. 20-75, Att. A (“Straw Proposal”). The Department posed questions to the D.P.U. 20-75 Electronic

Distribution List pertaining to the structure and elements of its proposal and opened an initial and reply comment period. D.P.U. 20-75, Att. A at 12-16.

The Department identified three discrete topics for its investigation:

- (1) Whether the Department should establish a long-term system planning program to include DER planning requirements and common system modification fees;
- (2) If the Department establishes a long-term system planning program, what the EDC's system planning analysis to develop capital investment project proposals would entail; and
- (3) Whether the Department should establish a provisional system planning program to address imminent DG interconnection concerns.

D.P.U. 20-75, Att. A at 12-16; Hearing Officer Memorandum at 2 (March 23, 2021).

Since opening this inquiry, the Department has hosted question-and-answer sessions, a technical conference, and completed numerous rounds of information requests and opportunities for public comment. The Department has also issued two Orders in this proceeding, the most recent of which, [Order on Provisional System Planning Program](#), D.P.U. 20-75-B (November 24, 2021), directs the EDCs to implement the provisional system planning program for DER planning and for the assignment and recovery of associated costs.

The Department has continued work on topics two and three above in parallel with establishment of the provisional system planning program. We also recognize that significant work on topics two and three has already been conducted by many participating stakeholders both in this docket and its predecessor, D.P.U. 19-55. While the Department expects that the provisional program will inform our investigation into a long-term program, we will continue to work in parallel and will not unnecessarily delay our investigation. As we

continue our investigation into whether a long-term system planning program should be established, we require input from stakeholders to clarify a limited scope of remaining issues. As such, this memorandum announces next procedural steps in the form of a technical conference.

II. NOTICE OF TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

To provide further opportunity for comment and discussion, **the Department will hold a technical conference on April 13, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., via Zoom.** The Department will provide additional information, including a Zoom link and a detailed agenda, in advance of April 13, 2022.

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 the Department can 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.

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

katie.zilgme@mass.gov.