



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 Logistics and Agenda

DATE: April 6, 2022

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 (“DER”) 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 February 11, 2022, I issued a Hearing Officer Memorandum announcing a technical conference to be held on April 13, 2022. This memorandum provides logistical information and sets forth a detailed agenda for the technical conference.

As you may recall, the Department identified three discrete topics for its investigation in this docket:

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 are the key elements of the electric distribution companies' ("Distribution Companies")¹ system planning analysis to develop capital investment project proposals; and
3. Whether the Department should establish a provisional system planning program ("Provisional Program") to address imminent DG interconnection concerns.

D.P.U. 20-75-B at 6 (2021).²

Since the Department directed the Distribution Companies to implement the Provisional Program in D.P.U. 20-75-B, our focus for the April 13th technical conference will be on the first two topics identified above: whether the Department should establish a long-term

¹ The Distribution Companies are Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unital ("Unital"), 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").

² 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, Provisional System Planning Program, D.P.U. 20-75-B (2021), directs the Distribution Companies 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 one and two in parallel with establishment of the provisional system planning program. We also recognize that significant work on these topics has already been conducted by many participating stakeholders both in this docket and its predecessor, Distributed Generation Interconnection, D.P.U. 19-55.

system planning program and, if so, what the key elements of the Distribution Companies' system planning analysis should be.

II. LOGISTICS

The Department will hold a technical conference in D.P.U. 20-75 on April 13, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. Pre-registration is not necessary; however, 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://us06web.zoom.us/j/89292766297?pwd=Tnp6M05CNngxK2JhVjJjMG1sZXNYZz09>

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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

The Department offers the following detailed agenda to allow stakeholders to prepare for the technical conference. The questions listed below are examples and may be revised or elaborated to ensure narrow scope topical discussions.

- **Introduction**
 - Welcome remarks from Chair Matthew Nelson
 - Agenda, process, and scope of technical conference
 - Background and procedural history of D.P.U. 20-75
 - Expectations for program framework and timeline
- **Discussion Topic #1: Distribution Company Process for Long-Term System Planning Analysis³ (“Analysis Process”)**
 - What requirements⁴ should be uniform, if any, across the Distribution Companies? Should the Distribution Companies' Analysis Processes be completely uniform?

³ This discussion will focus specifically on the process for implementing a long-term system planning analysis not the technical aspects of the analyses themselves.

⁴ See, e.g., Table 1: Planning Analysis Scope Summary (National Grid April 23, 2021 System Planning Analysis Proposal at 6).

- Should a long-term system planning committee(s) be established?
 1. If so, should there be a Distribution Company committee? and/or Should there be a stakeholder committee or working group to provide consolidated input during the Analysis Process?
 2. Who should the members of the committee(s) be? and Who should lead the committee(s)?
- **Discussion Topic #2: Program Process**
 - What should be the frequency of the Distribution Company Analysis Process?
 - What should be the frequency of the Distribution Company's formal filing for approval with the Department?
 - Should the Analysis Process and formal filing be at different intervals? If so, should the Distribution Companies be required to submit compliance filings after completion of each Analysis Process?
- **Lunch (12:00-12:45 pm)**
- **Discussion Topic #3: Straw Proposal Revisions**
 - Should a long-term system planning program include both a Capital Investment Project ("CIP") Fee and a Common System Modification Fee?
 - If so, should the Common System Modification Fee be specific to interconnecting customers interconnecting under the simplified process?
- **Discussion topic #4: Program Eligibility Criteria**
 - Should there be a cap on:
 1. The CIP fee?
 2. The cost to ratepayers?
- **Discussion Topic #5: Minimum Filing Requirements**
 - Through D.P.U. 20-75-B, the Department directed minimum filing requirements for CIP proposals:
 - If the Department establishes a long-term system planning program should the Department revise any of the minimum filing requirements directed in D.P.U. 20-75-B?
 - What, if any, additional minimum filing requirements should the Department direct?
- **Next Steps**

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.