



CITY of BEVERLY
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September 27, 2022

Mark D. Marini, Secretary
Department of Public Utilities
One South Station, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Re: *Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, d/b/a/ National Grid Basic Service Filing, D.P.U. 22-BSF-D3.*

Dear Secretary Marini:

I am writing to offer the comments of the City of Beverly ("City") regarding National Grid's Basic Service filing for the period November 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023.

National Grid has proposed very dramatic price increases, from 11.5 ¢/kWh to 33.9 ¢/kWh for residential customers and from 10.4 ¢/kWh to 32.3 ¢/kWh for commercial customers. These increases will create significant hardship for electricity customers in Beverly and throughout National Grid's service territory.

In a letter to the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") dated September 21, 2022, the Attorney General's Office urged the Department to consider what options are available "now to assist customers in making bills more affordable," and noted that "[t]ime is of the essence."

From our perspective, the Department has one option that could potentially provide some relief to the residents of Beverly. That is to approve the City's municipal aggregation plan. The City's plan has been pending before the Department for over 18 months. The plan is substantially the same as the plans that the Department has approved for scores of municipalities, and we respectfully request approval so that the City can move ahead.

As you know, while municipal aggregation programs cannot guarantee to provide savings relative to Basic Service, the great majority of them have. Aggregation programs that secured supply contracts a year or more ago are providing rates that are less than one third the Basic Service rates proposed by

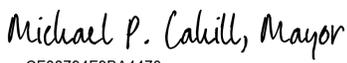
National Grid. Even aggregation programs that are securing supply in the current environment are obtaining prices well below National Grid's proposed Basic Service rates.

Over two years ago, Beverly began the process of developing a municipal aggregation program, in part to protect our residents from extreme rate increases such as those proposed by National Grid. We developed an aggregation plan and, for over 18 months, have been awaiting Department approval. Again, we respectfully urge the Department to approve that plan now so that we can try to provide some relief to the residents of Beverly.

As the Attorney General's Office noted, "[t]ime is of the essence." Due to the steps involved in launching an aggregation program, including a 30-day opt-out period for customers, it takes some time to launch an aggregation program after receiving Department approval. Given that, and given that National Grid's new rates will go into effect in November, the City needs an approval order as soon as possible in order to have a chance of providing meaningful relief to our residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Michael P. Cahill
Mayor

Cc: Service List