



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

MEMORANDUM

TO: Distribution List in Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Establishing Guidelines for Municipal Aggregation Proceedings, D.P.U. 23-67

FROM: Stephanie Mealey and Lauren Morris , Hearing Officers

RE: Technical Session Scheduled

DATE: November 15, 2023

CC: Mark D. Marini, Secretary

On August 15, 2023, the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) issued an Order opening an investigation into establishing guidelines for municipal aggregation proceedings, D.P.U. 23-67. The Department invited stakeholders to participate in this investigation and requested written comment on its proposed draft guidelines and draft template plan. D.P.U. 23-67, at 8. Initial comments were filed on or before October 6, 2023, and reply comments were filed on or before November 6, 2023.¹

The Department received more than 40 initial comments and twelve reply comments from a diverse group of stakeholders. In their comments, several stakeholders requested that

¹ The Department requested initial comments by September 18, 2023, and reply comments by October 19, 2023. D.P.U. 23-67, at 8. On August 28, 2023, Colonial Power Group Inc. filed a motion (supported by other stakeholders) to amend the procedural schedule and extend the deadlines for filing written comments. By Hearing Officer Ruling, the Department set October 6, 2023, and November 6, 2023, as the revised deadlines for filing initial comments and reply comments, respectively. Municipal Aggregation Guidelines, D.P.U. 23-67, Hearing Officer Ruling at 2 (September 6, 2023).

the Department conduct a technical session to understand the concerns and perspectives of stakeholders involved with implementing municipal aggregation programs.² In addition, a group of 35 municipal aggregators filed a request asking that the Department conduct a technical session to address aggregation plan content, rate setting and operational adders, program launch timing, and next steps (October 27, 2023). The municipal aggregators request was supported by NRG Retail Companies (October 30, 2023).

The Department has reviewed the initial and reply comments and the requests to conduct a technical session. Based on our review of comments and requests for a technical session, the Department has determined that the appropriate next step in this investigation is to conduct a technical session.

The Department will conduct a technical session on **December 20, 2023, beginning at 9:30 a.m., at the Department's office, One South Station, 3rd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts**. The technical session will be in person only. Before the technical session, the Department will issue a Hearing Officer memorandum with an agenda that will guide our discussion during the technical session.

² See, e.g., Initial Comments of the Attorney General (October 6, 2023), Initial Comments of the Green Consumer Alliance (October 6, 2023), Supplemental Initial Comments of Municipal Aggregators (City of Malden, City of Melrose, City of Quincy, Town of Andover, Town of Arlington, Town of Dracut, Town of Winchester) (October 6, 2023).