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October 24, 2024

***VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY ([dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov))***

Mark D. Marini, Secretary  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Department of Public Utilities  
One South Station, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02110

Re: *The Cape Light Compact JPE*, D.P.U. 24-146  
2025-2027 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan

Dear Secretary Marini:

Pursuant to the Hearing Officer Memorandum dated October 11, 2024, the Cape Light Compact JPE (the “Compact”) respectfully submits this updated Plain Language Summary, Outreach Plan, and Proposed Notice for its 2025-2027 Three-Year Energy Efficiency and Decarbonization Plan (“Three-Year Plan”), which will be filed with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) in the above-referenced docket on October 31, 2024. In this update, the Compact revised the number of public outreach meetings already conducted and included the Compact-specific bill impact language as requested by the Department. Please note that this proposed submission, specifically the Outreach Plan and Proposed Notice, is intended only for this Three-Year Plan. In order to ensure accuracy with all final Three-Year Plan tables, the Compact reserves the right to submit an amended Plain Language Summary and Proposed Notice to the Department on or before October 28, 2024.

Should you have any questions with respect to today’s filing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Secretary Mark D. Marini

October 24, 2024

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Audrey Eidelman Kiernan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Audrey Eidelman Kiernan

AEK/drb

Enclosures

cc: Krista Hawley, Esq., DPU Hearing Officer (w/enc.) (via email only)  
Jennifer Keegan, Esq., DPU Hearing Officer (w/enc.) (via email only)  
Elyssa Klein, Esq., DPU Hearing Officer (w/enc.) (via email only)  
Jeffrey Leupold, Esq., DPU Hearing Officer (w/enc.) (via email only)  
Elizabeth McNamara, Esq., DPU Hearing Officer (w/enc.) (via email only)  
DPU Energy Efficiency Email Distribution List (w/enc.) (via email only)  
Margaret T. Downey, Compact Administrator (w/enc.) (via email only)

## D.P.U. 24-146 – Cape Light Compact JPE

### Tier 2 Proceeding Plain Language Summary and Outreach Plan for the 2025-2027 Three-Year Plan

#### Plain Language Summary for the 2025-2027 Three-Year Plan

Pursuant to the Green Communities Act, the Commonwealth’s electric and gas distribution companies, and municipal aggregators with certified efficiency plans are required to develop a cost-effective energy efficiency three-year plan (the “Plan”) that also achieves the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals set by the Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary. On October 31, 2024, the Cape Light Compact JPE (the “Compact”) will file with the Department of Public Utilities (the “Department”) its 2025-2027 Plan for the three-year period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027. Accordingly, the Department will review the Compact’s Plan to ensure that it meets both the cost-effective and greenhouse gas goals.

Statewide, the 2025-2027 Three-Year Plan proposes to invest over \$4.99 billion in energy efficiency and decarbonization efforts in Massachusetts in order to deliver \$13 billion in total benefits to Massachusetts customers. The 2025-2027 Three-Year Plan proposes to reduce over one million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. This will be achieved by: (1) supporting weatherization and decarbonization of the Commonwealth’s homes and businesses; (2) accelerating access for underserved and vulnerable customer groups; and (3) materially enhancing the customer experience.

The Compact’s proposed total budget for the 2025-2027 Plan Term is \$296,034,407. The Compact’s proposed annual budgets are \$93,398,152 in 2025, \$94,678,892 in 2026, and \$107,957,363 in 2027. A typical residential customer using 530 kWh per month could experience a monthly bill increase of \$8.33 or 4.7 percent in 2025; a monthly bill decrease of -\$2.14 or -1.2 percent in 2026; and a monthly bill increase of \$4.83 or 2.6 percent in 2027. A typical low-income customer using 475 kWh per month could experience a monthly bill increase of \$4.33 or 4.6 percent in 2025; a monthly bill decrease of -\$1.11 or -1.1 percent in 2026; and a monthly bill increase of \$2.51 or 2.6 percent in 2027.

Incentives are available for residential and commercial and industrial customers of the Compact, with enhanced incentives for low- and moderate-income customers.

The above plain language summary is provided for **informational purposes only** and is not intended to replace any official notice issued by the Department in this matter. Consistent with the Tier 2 Outreach Plan, a copy of the official Notice of Proceeding will be posted to the Compact’s website.

## **D.P.U. 24-146 – Cape Light Compact JPE**

### **Tier 2 Proceeding Plain Language Summary and Outreach Plan for the 2025-2027 Three-Year Plan**

#### **Tier 2 Outreach Plan for the 2025-2027 Three-Year Plan**

The Program Administrators' ("PAs")<sup>1</sup> outreach on the 2025-2027 Plan ("Plan") began in summer 2023 and continued with increasing rigor throughout 2024. During this time, the PAs were engaged in detailed and comprehensive discussions with the Energy Efficiency Council ("Council"), its Consultants, and stakeholders. As part of the development of the Plan, the PAs participated in 32 Council and Executive Committee meetings, 20 Equity Working Group meetings, three Commercial and Industrial Working Group meetings, five Council-sponsored public listening and comment sessions, and six workshops, at which the PAs presented on a variety of topics as requested by the Council and the Consultants, and received extensive public input and suggestions. In addition, the PAs convened numerous working groups and held one-on-one meetings with stakeholders to address best practices and discuss issues related to the development of the Plan. The PAs developed and submitted to the Council a draft version of the Plan on April 1, 2024, which included a translated version of the Executive Summary of the Plan in the five most commonly spoken languages in the Commonwealth other than English. On August 15, 2024, the PAs sent to the Council their response accompanied by a matrix with final substantive updates to the draft Plan. The PAs also provided an updated full draft Plan and tables to the Council on September 25, 2024. Each of these iterations of the Plan were made publicly available on the Mass Save® and Council's website. The PAs also presented on each of these submissions during Council meetings throughout the Spring and Summer of 2024. The Council meetings are public and have provided extensive opportunities for public comment and Councilor input.

In addition, the Compact presented or will present on the Plan to the Compact Governing Board at its February 28, 2024, March 27, 2024, April 10, 2024, May 8, 2024, June 5, 2024, September 11, 2024 and October 23, 2024 public meetings. Compact staff also scheduled presentations on the Plan to Select Boards of its member municipalities as follows: Brewster on December 2, 2024, Chatham on October 15, 2024, Dennis on August 13, 2024, Eastham on November 18, 2024, Falmouth on September 23, 2024, Harwich on October 28, 2024, Mashpee on November 18, 2024, Sandwich on October 10, 2024, Truro on November 19, 2024, Wellfleet on November 12, 2024, and Yarmouth on September 17, 2024. Presentations on the Plan have also been given to the following town energy committees: Harwich on June 17, 2024, Orleans on July 11, 2024, Provincetown on July 18, 2024, Wellfleet on July 18, 2024, and Yarmouth on June 4, 2024. Lastly, Compact staff will present on the Plan at the Martha's Vineyard All-Island Energy Committee meeting on October 21, 2024 and at the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative's Net Zero Conference on October 24, 2024.

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<sup>1</sup> The PAs are: The Berkshire Gas Company, Cape Light Compact JPE (the Compact), NSTAR Electric Company, NSTAR Gas Company, and Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts, each d/b/a Eversource Energy, Liberty Utilities Corp. (New England Natural Gas Company) d/b/a Liberty, Massachusetts Electric Company, Nantucket Electric Company, Boston Gas Company, each d/b/a National Grid, and Fitchburg Gas & Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil.

## D.P.U. 24-146 – Cape Light Compact JPE

### Tier 2 Proceeding Plain Language Summary and Outreach Plan for the 2025-2027 Three-Year Plan

The Department has deemed the 2025-2027 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan filing as a Tier 2 Proceeding. Consistent with that designation, the Compact will plan to conduct the following outreach:

- To publish the Notice of Filing issued in this proceeding prominently on the Compact’s website;<sup>2</sup>
- To publish the Notice of Filing in a newspaper as may be required by the Department;
- To serve a copy of the Notice of Filing on any required service lists as dictated by the Department of Public Utilities; and
- Any other publication or outreach that the Department may require.

Consistent with outreach previously conducted, the Compact will provide a copy of the Notice of Proceeding to any other individuals who have requested to receive information on the Compact’s filings. In addition to the extensive outreach that has already occurred, specific solely for this Plan, the Compact will be providing municipal officials within its territory a copy of the Notice of Filing, a Plain Language Summary of the Plan, along with a link to the Mass Save website containing the Plan and translated versions of the Executive Summary of the Plan in English and in the six most commonly spoken languages in the Commonwealth other than English: Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole, Mandarin and Cantonese, and Vietnamese. The Mass Save website will also contain a link with summary information with respect to the Plan. The Compact will also have a link on its website directing customers to the Mass Save website.

The Compact will list this proceeding on its website<sup>3</sup> for the duration of the proceeding.

#### **Proposed Notice:**

On October 31, 2024, the Cape Light Compact JPE (the “Compact”), filed with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”), a petition for approval of a three-year energy efficiency plan for calendar years 2025 through 2027 (“Three-Year Plan”). The Compact filed its Three-Year Plan pursuant to An Act Relative to Green Communities, Acts of 2008, c. 169, § 11 (“Green Communities Act”). The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 24-146. The Green Communities Act requires the Commonwealth’s electric and gas distribution companies, and municipal aggregators with certified efficiency plans (together, “Program Administrators”) to develop, in consultation with the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (“Council”), plans that provide for the acquisition of all available energy efficiency and demand reduction resources that are cost effective or less expensive than supply. G.L. c. 25, § 21. The Compact’s proposed

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.capelightcompact.org/>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.capelightcompact.org/>.

**D.P.U. 24-146 – Cape Light Compact JPE**

**Tier 2 Proceeding Plain Language Summary and Outreach Plan  
for the 2025-2027 Three-Year Plan**

Three-Year Plan includes energy efficiency programs for residential, low-income, and commercial and industrial (“C&I”) customers. The proposed Three-Year Plan also incorporates the Compact’s Residential Conservation Service filing pursuant to G.L. c. 164, App. § 2-7(h).

The Compact’s proposed total budget for the 2025-2027 Plan Term is \$296,034,407. The Compact’s proposed annual budgets are \$93,398,152 in 2025, \$94,678,892 in 2026, and \$107,957,363 in 2027.

A typical residential customer using 530 kWh per month could experience a monthly bill increase of \$8.33 or 4.7 percent in 2025; a monthly bill decrease of -\$2.14 or -1.2 percent in 2026; and a monthly bill increase of \$4.83 or 2.6 percent in 2027. A typical low-income customer using 475 kWh per month could experience a monthly bill increase of \$4.33 or 4.6 percent in 2025; a monthly bill decrease of -\$1.11 or -1.1 percent in 2026; and a monthly bill increase of \$2.51 or 2.6 percent in 2027.

[Placeholder for Department language.]