



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

MEMORANDUM

TO: D.P.U. 24-15 Electronic Distribution List

FROM: Laurie Ellen Weisman, Hearing Officer

RE: Request for Input on Discounted Rates for Moderate-Income Customers

DATE: December 26, 2024

CC: Mark D. Marini, Department Secretary

On November 21, 2024, Governor Healey signed into law Chapter 239 of the Acts of 2024, “An Act Promoting a Clean Energy Grid, Advancing Equity and Protecting Ratepayers” (“2024 Clean Energy Act”). Among other things, section 48 of the 2024 Clean Energy Act amends G.L. c. 164, § 1F by directing the Department to require the distribution companies to provide discounted rates for “eligible moderate income customers” in addition to the existing low-income discount rate. Section 135 of the 2024 Clean Energy Act further requires the Department to promulgate regulations to implement section 48 of the 2024 Clean Energy Act following an investigation. The Department intends to investigate and commence a rulemaking pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 2 and 220 CMR 2.00 in due course. In the interim, and because many of the anticipated participants in the moderate-income discount rulemaking are already participating in this docket, D.P.U. 24-15, the Department poses the following questions to guide its preliminary activities regarding this new authority:

1. How should the Department define “eligible moderate income customers”?
2. Are there any existing definitions of moderate income, either in statute or regulation, that the Department should consider?
3. Have other jurisdictions successfully implemented moderate-income discounts? If so, how?

The Department requests written responses to these questions by **5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 4, 2025**. Responses should be submitted to the Department in electronic format by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and laurie.e.weisman@mass.gov. The text of the

e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 24-15); (2) the name of the person or entity submitting the filing; and (3) indicate that the document is a written comment. The electronic filing should also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website by looking up the docket by its number in the docket database at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/>.

For further information regarding this memorandum or to request addition to or removal from the electronic distribution list, please contact Hearing Officer Laurie Ellen Weisman at laurie.e.weisman@mass.gov. You may also leave a voice message with your name and phone number at (617) 305-3690.

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