



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

MEMORANDUM

TO: Service List (email only) for NSTAR Electric Company, D.P.U. 24-10;
Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 24-11;
and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, D.P.U. 24-12

FROM: Kerri DeYoung Phillips, Hearing Officer

RE: Long-Term System Planning Process Procedural Guidance

DATE: March 4, 2025

CC: Katie Zilgme, DG and Clean Energy Ombudsperson
Mark. D. Marini, Department Secretary

On August 29, 2024, the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”), as part of its review of the electric sector modernization plans (“ESMPs”) filed by NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, respectively, (“Companies”) directed the Companies to coordinate a long-term system planning process (“LTSP”) stakeholder group (“LTSP Stakeholder Group”) no later than October 1, 2024, and to organize a six-month stakeholder process (i.e., beginning in October 2024 and concluding in March 2025). Electric Sector Modernization Plans, D.P.U. 24-10/D.P.U. 24-11/D.P.U. 24-12, at 337-339 (2024) (“ESMP Order”). The Department further directed the Companies to file an interim status report by February 3, 2025 (“LTSP Interim Status Report”) and a final status report, along with final consensus proposals and a detailed summary of areas of disagreement by April 4, 2025. ESMP Order at 337. In the LTSP Interim Status Report, filed on February 3, 2025, the LTSP Stakeholder Group requested that the Department allow interested participants an opportunity to file written comments on the Companies’ forthcoming LTSP Proposal (LTSP Interim Status Report at 3).

Following receipt of the LTSP Interim Status Report, the Department takes this opportunity to provide the following procedural guidance to the LTSP Stakeholder Group:

1. Participants in the LTSPP Stakeholder Group are reminded that the Department encourages, to the greatest extent possible, the development of consensus proposals by the LTSPP Stakeholder Group. The Department intends to adjudicate any issues on which the LTSPP Stakeholder Group cannot achieve consensus.
2. Interested participants will have an opportunity to file written comments on the Companies' forthcoming LTSPP Proposal (see LTSPP Interim Status Report at 3). Likewise, the Companies will have the opportunity to respond to any alternative proposals set forth by other members of the LTSPP Stakeholder Group.
3. Once the LTSPP Proposal is filed with the Department, we will Notice the proceeding in D.P.U. 25-20, which is the docket reserved to examine the LTSPP. The Notice will include relevant procedural information such as the comment deadline and instructions for filing written comments.
4. The Companies shall file the LTSPP Proposal in both the ESMP dockets, D.P.U. 24-10/D.P.U. 24-11/D.P.U. 24-12, and the designated LTSPP docket, D.P.U. 25-20.
5. As the Companies have supervision of the LTSPP Stakeholder Group electronic distribution list, they shall distribute this memorandum to that list within three business days of receipt, copying the Hearing Officer and Ombudsperson.

For questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Hearing Officer Kerri DeYoung Phillips at kerri.phillips@mass.gov and Ombudsperson Katie Zilgme at katie.zilgme@mass.gov.