



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING, PUBLIC HEARING AND PROCEDURAL CONFERENCE

D.P.U. 15-122

March 8, 2016

Petition of NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, each doing business as Eversource Energy, for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of their Grid Modernization Plan.

On August 19, 2015, NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, each doing business as Eversource Energy (together, the "Companies"), filed with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") a petition for approval of their Grid Modernization Plan. The Companies filed their Grid Modernization Plan pursuant to Modernization of the Electric Grid, D.P.U. 12-76-B (2014); D.P.U. 12-76-C (2014). The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 15-122.

In D.P.U. 12-76-B, the Department required each electric distribution company to submit a ten-year Grid Modernization Plan outlining how the company proposes to make measureable progress towards four objectives: (1) reducing the effects of outages; (2) optimizing demand, which includes reducing system and customer costs; (3) integrating distributed resources; and (4) improving workforce and asset management. The Department established three additional requirements to be included in the Grid Modernization Plan: (1) a marketing, education, and outreach plan with a component that is common to all companies, as well as a company-specific component; (2) a research, development, and deployment plan; and (3) proposed infrastructure and performance metrics to measure progress in achieving grid modernization objectives, including common statewide and also company-specific metrics. The Grid Modernization Plan must also include a five-year short-term capital investment plan, which includes a proposed approach to achieving advanced metering functionality within five years of the Department's approval of the Grid Modernization Plan.

As part of their Grid Modernization Plan, the Companies propose an estimated \$430.7 million in short-term investments in areas including advanced analytics, real-time grid-wide situational awareness, advanced distribution automation, grid resiliency, distributed energy resources integration, communications, and cyber security. Consistent with D.P.U. 12-76-C, the Companies included in their proposed Grid Modernization Plan a comprehensive business case analysis to illustrate how the Companies' proposed short-term investments will achieve measurable progress towards the Department's four grid modernization objectives and an evaluation of the costs and benefits, both quantified and unquantified, of its Grid Modernization Plan.

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The Department will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the Companies' Grid Modernization Plan. The hearing will take place on **April 14, 2016, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Department's offices, One South Station - 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. The public hearing will be immediately followed by a procedural conference. Any person who desires to comment may do so at the time and place noted above or submit written comments to the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **April 14, 2016.**

Copies of the Grid Modernization Plan are on file at the Department's offices, One South Station - 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 for public viewing during business hours and on the Department's website at <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>. Documents on the Department's website may be accessed by looking up the docket by its number (D.P.U. 15-122) in the docket database at <http://web1.env.state.ma.us/DPU/FileRoom/dockets/bynumber>. Any person desiring further information regarding the Grid Modernization Plan should contact counsel for the Companies, Danielle C. Winter, Esq. at (617) 951-1400. Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact Tina W. Chin, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at (617) 305-3500.

Any person who desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding must file a written petition for leave to intervene with the Department not later than the close of business on **March 30, 2016.** A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 C.M.R. § 1.03. Receipt by the Department, not mailing, constitutes filing and determines whether a petition has been timely filed. A petition filed late may be disallowed as untimely, unless good cause is shown for waiver under 220 C.M.R. § 1.01(4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 C.M.R. § 1.03(1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10. Under 220 C.M.R. § 1.03(1)(d), an answer to a petition to intervene must be filed no later than five days after the petition to intervene is filed.

An original and one (1) copy of all written comments or petitions to intervene must be filed with Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station - 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, not later than the close of business on the dates noted above. One copy of all written comments or petitions to intervene should also be sent to the Companies' attorney, Danielle C. Winter, Esq., 265 Franklin Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 and by email, dwinter@keeganwerlin.com.

All documents should also be submitted to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@state.ma.us, and the hearing officer tina.chin@state.ma.us or (2) on a CD-ROM. The text of the e-mail or CD-ROM must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding D.P.U. 15-122; (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. 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: <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>.