

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF FILING AND PUBLIC HEARING

D.P.U. 25-31

May 8, 2025

Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's Monson-Palmer-Longmeadow (Northwest) Capital Investment Project proposal under the Provisional Program established by the Department in Provisional System Planning Program, D.P.U. 20-75-B (2021).

On April 14, 2025, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each doing business as National Grid ("National Grid" or "Company"), submitted to the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") for review and approval of a capital investment project ("CIP") proposal. The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 25-31.

In Provisional System Planning Program, D.P.U. 20-75-B (2021), the Department established a new framework for planning and funding upgrades to an electric distribution company's ("EDC") electric power system ("EPS") related the interconnection of a distributed generation ("DG") facility, such as a solar facility ("Provisional Program"). The Department established a new cost allocation method under the Provisional Program where the costs of the EPS upgrade (the CIP) would be shared by the interconnecting DG facilities and all ratepayers of the EDC. The ratepayers will initially pay the costs of the CIP through a monthly charge on their electric bills, then each DG facility that is able to interconnect due to the upgrade to the EPS will pay a pro rata share of the costs of the CIP. Costs collected from those DG facilities will be returned to ratepayers through a credit on their electric bill through a reconciliation mechanism. The requirements for the Provisional Program, including cost allocation, are discussed in the Department's Order establishing the program, D.P.U. 20-75-B. The Provisional Program is intended to foster timely and cost-effective development and interconnection of DG facilities. Through our Order approving the EDCs' Electric Sector Modernization Plans, the Department extended the Provisional Program, allowing the EDCs to file any potential future proposed CIPs until the establishment of a Long-Term System Planning Process or as otherwise directed by the Department. Electric Sector Modernization Plans, D.P.U. 24-10/D.P.U. 24-11/D.P.U. 24-12 at 343 (2024).

Here, National Grid's CIP proposal is designed to make EPS modifications to allow DG facilities to interconnect in and around Belchertown, Granby, Monson, Palmer, Ware, and Wilbraham, Massachusetts. The CIP proposal includes upgrades to two substations, Thorndike and Five Corners, located in Palmer and Granby and the addition of two new feeders, as well as reconfiguring and reconductoring of existing feeders at Five Corners substation in Granby. The EPS upgrades and impacted area are discussed in the Monson-Palmer-Longmeadow (Northwest) ("MPL-N") Group Study as part of the MPL-N Panel component of the Company's filing. National Grid projects the total distribution cost to complete the system modifications under its CIP proposal to be approximately \$39.1 million pretax and that the CIPs will enable 38,530 kilowatts ("kW") of DG. Of the total cost, National Grid proposes \$25.2 million be paid by DG facilities through a \$655/kW CIP fee and the remaining approximately \$13.9 million be paid by ratepayers. National Grid proposes a 20-year period for its recovery of the costs paid by ratepayers. If the Department approves the MPL-N CIP there will be an increase to electricity rates in National Grid's service territory. The Company estimates that average monthly bill impacts would vary across the proposed 20-year recovery period ranging between 0.0 and 0.04 percent. During the first year, a typical residential customer using on average 600 kWh per month would experience a monthly bill increase of \$0.08 and over the proposed 20-year recovery period would experience a monthly bill increase of \$0.04.

Additionally, this filing concerns infrastructure upgrades that, if approved, would be constructed near, but not in, environmental justice communities. Environmental justice is a priority for the Department and it will be an integral consideration throughout our investigation. We encourage any interested stakeholder to provide comment on how this filing could affect an environmental justice community if approved.

The Department will conduct a virtual public hearing to receive comments on the Company's filing. The Department intends to conduct a procedural conference immediately following the public hearing. The Department will conduct the hearing using Zoom videoconferencing on **Friday, May 30, 2025, beginning at 3:00 p.m.** Attendees can join by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86940669648>, from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio only access to the hearings, attendees can dial in at (301) 715-8592 (**not toll free**) and then enter the **869 4066 9648**. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, please send an email by **Friday, May 23, 2025**, to [Annemarie.Belle@mass.gov](mailto:Annemarie.Belle@mass.gov) with your name, email address, and mailing address. If you anticipate commenting by telephone, please leave a voicemail message by **Friday, May 23, 2025**, at 617-305-3702 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address.

Any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Friday, May 30, 2025**. Written comments from

the public may be sent by email to [dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov), [Annemarie.Belle@mass.gov](mailto:Annemarie.Belle@mass.gov), and to the Company's attorney, [Patrick.Houghton@nationalgrid.com](mailto:Patrick.Houghton@nationalgrid.com). Please note that in the interest of transparency any comments will be posted to our website as received and without redacting personal information, such as addresses, telephone numbers, or email addresses. As such, consider the extent of information you wish to share when submitting comments. The Department strongly encourages public comments to be submitted by email. If, however, a member of the public is unable to send written comments by email, a paper copy may be sent to Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110.

Any person who desires to participate otherwise in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall file a petition for leave to intervene no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, May 23, 2025**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. Receipt by the Department 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 CMR 1.01(4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 CMR 1.03(1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10. All responses to petitions to intervene must be filed by the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the second business day after the petition to intervene was filed.

The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("Attorney General") filed a notice to intervene in this matter pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E. Further, pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), the Attorney General filed a notice of intent to retain experts and consultants to assist her investigation of the Company's filing and has requested Department approval to spend up to \$150,000 in this regard. Pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), the costs incurred by the Attorney General relative to her retention of experts and consultants may be recovered in the Company's rates. Any person who desires to comment on the Attorney General's notice of intent to retain experts and consultants may submit written comments to the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Friday, May 23, 2025**.

All documents should be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by email attachment to [dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov) and [Annemarie.Belle@mass.gov](mailto:Annemarie.Belle@mass.gov). The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 25-31); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online [File Room](#) as soon as practicable (to access any submission enter "25-31" on the line for "Docket No."). In addition, one copy of all written comments and petitions to intervene should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Patrick Houghton, [Patrick.Houghton@nationalgrid.com](mailto:Patrick.Houghton@nationalgrid.com).

The filing and all subsequent related documents submitted to the Department or issued by the Department will be available on the Department's website as referenced above as soon as is practicable. To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments or to intervene in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission, as detailed above, is sufficient. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA coordinator at [eeadiversity@mass.gov](mailto:eeadiversity@mass.gov) or (617) 626-1282.

For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's attorney, identified above. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Annemarie Belle, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at [Annemarie.Belle@mass.gov](mailto:Annemarie.Belle@mass.gov).

**This document is an important Notice from of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid. To request translation and/or interpretation services, please contact Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid at: 1-800-322-3223.**

**Este documento es un Aviso importante de Massachusetts Electric Company y Nantucket Electric Company, ambas operando bajo el nombre comercial de National Grid ("la Compañía"). Por favor, contacte a la Compañía en: 1-800-322-3223 para solicitar servicios de traducción y/o interpretación.**

**Este documento contém um Aviso importante da Massachusetts Electric Company e da Nantucket Electric Company, que operam sob o nome de fantasia National Grid ("a Companhia"). Por favor, entre em contato com a Companhia pelo link: 1-800-322-3223 para solicitar serviços de tradução e/ou interpretação.**

**此文件是麻薩諸塞電力公司和 Nantucket 電力公司（營業名稱均為 National Grid，簡稱「公司」）的重要通知。請透過 1-800-322-3223 聯絡公司來請求翻譯和/或口譯服務。此文件是马萨诸塞电力公司和 Nantucket 电力公司（营业名称均为 National Grid，简称“公司”）的重要通知。请通过 1-800-322-3223 联系公司来请求翻译和/或口译服务。**

**Dokiman sa a se yon Anons enpòtan nan men Massachusetts Electric Company ak Nantucket Electric Company, chak d/b/a National Grid ("Konpayi a"). Tanpri Kontakte Konpayi a nan: 1-800-322-3223 pou mande sèvis tradiksyon ak/oswa entèpretasyon.**

**Tài liệu này là một Thông Báo quan trọng của Massachusetts Electric Company và Nantucket Electric Company, từng công ty đều kinh doanh trong National Grid ("Công Ty"). Xin hãy liên hệ Công Ty tại: 1-800-322-3223 để yêu cầu các dịch vụ biên dịch (viết) và/hoặc thông dịch (nói).**

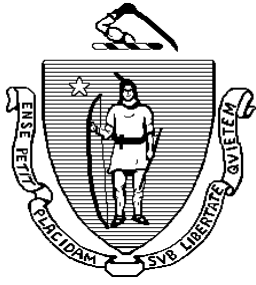
**ឯកសារនេះគឺជាសេចក្តីជូនដំណឹងដ៏សំខាន់ ពីក្រុមហ៊ុនអគ្គិសនីរដ្ឋ Massachusetts និងក្រុមហ៊ុនអគ្គិសនី Nantucket នីមួយៗ d/b/a National Grid ("ក្រុមហ៊ុន")។ សូមទាក់ទងក្រុមហ៊ុនតាមរយៈ៖ 1-800-322-3223 ដើម្បីស្នើសុំសេវាបកប្រែឯកសារ និង/ឬសេវាបកប្រែផ្ទាល់។**

، كلتاها تعملان Nantucket Electric وشركة Massachusetts Electric هذه الوثيقة هي إشعار مهم من شركة لطلب خدمات الترجمة 1-800-322-3223 : ("الشركة"). يرجى الاتصال بالشركة من خلال National Grid تحت اسم و/أو التفسير.

Этот документ содержит важную информацию от компаний Massachusetts Electric Company и Nantucket Electric Company, каждая из которых осуществляет свою деятельность под наименованием National Grid («Компания»). Пожалуйста, свяжитесь с компанией: 1-800-322-3223, чтобы запросить письменный и (или) устный перевод.

본 문서는 Massachusetts Electric Company 및 Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid("회사")의 중요한 공지입니다. 번역 및/또는 통역 서비스를 요청하시려면 회사(1-800-322-3223)에 문의하시기 바랍니다.

Ce document est un avis important de Massachusetts Electric Company et Nantucket Electric Company, faisant affaire sous le nom de National Grid (« la société »). Veuillez contacter la société à l'adresse suivante : 1-800-322-3223 pour demander des services de traduction et/ou d'interprétation.



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### ORDER OF NOTICE

D.P.U. 25-31

May 8, 2025

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Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid ("Petitioner") shall, no later than May 15, 2025: (1) electronically distribute the attached Notice of Filing and Public Hearing ("Notice") to the electronic distribution list for D.P.U. 25-31 and to all members of the Group Study identified in the filing; (2) publish the Notice in either The Boston Globe or the Boston Herald; and (3) serve a copy of the Notice on the Mayors, the Chairs of the Select Boards, the Town Clerks, and the City Clerks of the cities/towns in which the capital investment projects are proposed, where practicable, this service may be made by electronic distribution. In addition, Petitioner shall serve a copy of the Notice on any person who has filed a request for notice with the Petitioner. The Department of Public Utilities ("Department") finds that this period and the means for notice are reasonable and consistent with the public interest. Also, within three business days of receipt of the attached Notice, Petitioner shall prominently display the Notice on its website through at least **May 30, 2025**. The Petitioner shall make return of service to the Department on the date of the public hearing.

By Order of the Department,

/s/  
Mark D. Marini, Secretary