



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND PUBLIC HEARING

D.P.U. 25-55

May 5, 2025

Petition of NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of a Residential Seasonal Heat-Pump Rate.

On April 17, 2025, NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy ("NSTAR Electric" or "Company") filed with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") a petition for approval of a residential seasonal heat-pump rate. The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 25-55.

The instant filing was made pursuant to the Department's directives in Vote and Order Opening Inquiry into Seasonal Heat-Pump Rate Design, D.P.U. 25-08, at 8-9 (March 21, 2025). In that Order, the Department directed NSTAR Electric, on or before May 15, 2025, to file a proposed residential heat-pump rate for the 2025-2026 heating season, similar to the residential heat-pump rates recently approved for customers of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, d/b/a National Grid and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil in Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 23-150, at 509-513 (2024) and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, D.P.U. 23-80/D.P.U. 23-81, at 406-409 (2024). The scope of this proceeding is limited to a review of NSTAR Electric's proposed heat-pump rate, as specified by the Department in D.P.U. 25-08, at 8-9. Broader issues regarding heat-pump rate design, including the policy recommendations of the Interagency Rates Working Group as discussed in that Order, will be considered in D.P.U. 25-08 and not in the instant proceeding.

NSTAR Electric proposes what it describes as a revenue-neutral heat-pump rate with seasonally differentiated pricing for distribution and transmission service. NSTAR Electric proposes to maintain the current customer charge for Rate R-1 (residential) and Rate R-2 (low-income residential) at \$10.00 per month. The Company further proposes adjusting the current kilowatt-per-hour distribution and transmission rates for Rate R-1 and Rate R-2, resulting in lower rates in the winter months (*i.e.*, October through May, as proposed) to account for higher electric usage during that period related to heat pump use. NSTAR Electric proposes slightly higher rates in the summer months (*i.e.*, June through September, as proposed) to account for lower electric use associated with customers using a heat pump rather than central air conditioning.

The proposed heat-pump rate would be available to any residential customer eligible for service under the currently effective Rate R-1 or Rate R-2, provided that the customer uses a heat pump to heat part of or their entire home. Further, a customer taking service under Rate R-2 would continue to receive a 42 percent discount on the total bill, consistent with the otherwise applicable Rate R-2 discount. The Company proposes to close Rate R-3 (residential heating) and Rate R-4 (low-income residential heating) to new customers. Existing heat pump customers taking service under Rate R-3 or Rate R-4 may remain on that rate or switch to the proposed heat-pump rate.

NSTAR Electric proposes that customers who received a heat-pump rebate through the Mass Save program after January 1, 2022, will be automatically enrolled in the proposed heat-pump rate when it becomes effective. The Company also states that it will conduct marketing and outreach efforts to inform all customers of the proposed heat-pump rate and the ability to enroll in the rate. Finally, the Company proposes tracking and reporting requirements with respect to the proposed heat-pump rate.

If the heat pump rate is approved as proposed, NSTAR Electric states that its proposed heat-pump rate should lower costs relative to an average Rate R-1 customer by 15 percent. Any customer may contact the Company directly for specific bill impact information.

The Department will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the Company's petition using Zoom videoconferencing on **June 12, 2025**, at 6:00 p.m. Attendees can join by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85072725453>, from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only access to the hearings, attendees can dial in at +1 646 558 8656, (not toll free) and then enter the Meeting ID# 850 7272 5453#.

Any person interested in commenting on the Company's filing also may submit written comments to the Department no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **June 12, 2025**. Written comments from the public may be sent by email to dpu.efiling@mass.gov, the Hearing Officer at marc.tassone@mass.gov, and the Company's attorney, Ashley S. Marton, Esq. and amarton@keeganwerlin.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.

The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("Attorney General") has filed a notice of intervention in this matter pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(a). Further, pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), the Attorney General has filed a notice of retention of experts and consultants to assist in 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 other person or entity 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 (5:00 p.m.) on **May 20, 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. Any person who seeks to intervene in this matter and desires to comment on the Attorney General's notice of retention of experts and consultants must file the comments no later than 5:00 p.m. on **May 20, 2025**.

All documents should be submitted to the Department in .pdf format by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov, and to the Hearing Officer and Company's attorney at the above email addresses. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 25-55); (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 (enter "25-55") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>. To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments or 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), please contact the Department's ADA coordinator at the Department's ADA coordinator at eeadiversity@mass.gov, 617-626-1282.

For further information regarding NSTAR Electric's filing, please contact the Company's attorney, identified above. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Marc J. Tassone, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at marc.tassone@mass.gov.

Translation and Interpretation Services:

English

ATTENTION: Translation and/or interpretation services are available upon request. Please email Kaylee Burgess at dpu.ej@mass.gov to request language services, specifying your preferred language and contact information.

Español (Spanish)

ATENCIÓN: Los servicios de traducción y/o interpretación están disponibles bajo solicitud. Por favor envíe un correo electrónico a Kaylee Burgess en dpu.ej@mass.gov para solicitar los servicios de idiomas, especificando su idioma preferido e información de contacto.

Português (Portuguese)

ATENÇÃO: Disponibilizamos nossos serviços de tradução e/ou interpretação de acordo com a sua demanda. Para solicitar um serviço linguístico, envie um e-mail para Kaylee Burgess através do endereço dpu.ej@mass.gov, informando o idioma desejado e seus dados para contato.

简体中文 (Simplified Chinese)

提醒您：您可依需要申请提供笔译和/或口译服务。
。请发送电子邮件给 Kaylee Burgess (dpu.ej@mass.gov) 来申请语言服务要求，并注明您的首选语言和联系信息。

繁體中文 (Traditional Chinese)

提醒您： 您可依照需求申請筆譯和/或口譯服務。請以電郵聯絡 Kaylee Burgess (dpu.ej@mass.gov) 來申請語言服務請求，請在電郵內註明需要的語言和聯絡資訊。

Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole)

ATANSYON: Gen sèvis tradiksyon ak/oswa entèpretasyon ki disponib sou demann. Tanpri voye imèl bay Kaylee Burgess nan dpu.ej@mass.gov pou mande sèvis lang, ki enfòm lang ou pi pito a ak enfòmasyon kontak ou.

Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)

LƯU Ý: Các dịch vụ biên dịch và/hoặc phiên dịch có sẵn theo yêu cầu. Vui lòng gửi email đến Kaylee Burgess theo địa chỉ dpu.ej@mass.gov để yêu cầu dịch vụ ngôn ngữ, nêu rõ ngôn ngữ ưa thích của quý vị và thông tin liên lạc

Français (French)

ATTENTION : Des services de traduction et/ou d'interprétation sont disponibles sur demande . Veuillez envoyer un e-mail à Kaylee Burgess à l'adresse dpu.ej@mass.gov pour demander des services linguistiques ,en précisant votre langue préférée et vos coordonnées .

(Arabic) العربية

يرجى الانتباه: تتوفر خدمات الترجمة و/أو الترجمة الفورية عند الطلب.
لطلب خدمات لغوية يرجى التواصل مع Kaylee Burgess بإرسال رسالة إلكترونية إلى العنوان dpu.ej@mass.gov . تحدد فيها اللغة المفضلة لديك وتذكر معلومات الاتصال .

Русский (Russian)

ВНИМАНИЕ!
Услуги письменного и/или устного перевода предоставляются по запросу. Для запроса услуг перевода обращайтесь к Kaylee Burgess по адресу dpu.ej@mass.gov. В запросе укажите язык перевода и контактную информацию.

ខ្មែរ (Khmer)

ជូនចំពោះ៖ សេវាកម្មប្រែក្លាយ និង/ឬអ្នកបកប្រែផ្ទាល់ គឺមានតាមការស្នើសុំ។ សូមផ្ញើអ៊ីមែលទៅ Kaylee Burgess តាម dpu.ej@mass.gov ដើម្បីស្នើសុំសេវាកម្មប្រែក្លាយ ដោយបញ្ជាក់ភាសាដែលអ្នកចង់បាន និងព័ត៌មានទំនាក់ទំនង។

한국어 (Korean)

주의: 요청 시 번역 및/또는 통역 서비스가 제공됩니다. Kaylee Burgess에게 dpu.ej@mass.gov로 이메일을 보내 선호하는 언어와 연락처 정보를 명시하여 언어 서비스를 요청하십시오.