

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 25-81

August 6, 2025

Petition of NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's New Bedford Area 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 June 30, 2025, NSTAR Electric Company, doing business as Eversource Energy ("NSTAR Electric" 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. 25-81.

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 to 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 EDC's 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, NSAR Electric's CIP proposal is designed to make EPS modifications to allow DG facilities to interconnect in and around New Bedford, Freetown, and East Freetown, Massachusetts. The EPS upgrades and the impacted area are discussed in the New Bedford Group Study as part of the New Bedford Panel component of the Company's filing. NSTAR Electric projects the total distribution cost to complete the system modifications under its CIP proposal to be approximately \$71 million and that the CIPs will enable 59 megawatts ("MW") of DG. Of the total cost, NSTAR Electric proposes \$32.7 million (46 percent) be paid by DG facilities through a \$551/kilowatt ("kW") CIP fee and the remaining approximately \$38.2 million (54 percent) be paid by ratepayers. NSTAR Electric proposes a 20-year period for its recovery of the costs paid by ratepayers. If the Department approves the New Bedford CIP there will be an increase to electricity rates in NSTAR Electric's service territory. The Company estimates that average monthly bill impacts would vary across rate classes during the proposed 20-year recovery period ranging between 0.00 percent and 0.3 percent. During the first year, a typical residential (R-1) customer using on average 530 kilowatt-hours ("kWh") per month would experience a monthly bill increase of \$0.12, or 0.1 percent. During the first year, a typical residential low-income (R-2) customer in the Eastern Massachusetts service area using on average 475 kWh per month would experience a monthly bill increase of \$0.06, or 0.1 percent. During the first year, a typical residential (R-2) customer in the Western Massachusetts service area using on average 585 kWh per month would experience a monthly bill increase of \$0.08, or 0.1 percent.

Additionally, this filing concerns infrastructure upgrades that, if approved, would be constructed in or near environmental justice populations. 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 population, if approved.

The Department will conduct a virtual public hearing to receive comments on the Company's filing. The Department may conduct a procedural conference immediately following the public hearing. The Department will conduct the hearing using Zoom videoconferencing on **Wednesday, September 10, 2025, beginning at 3:00 p.m.** Attendees can join by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85441402397>, 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 **Meeting ID# 854 4140 2397**. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, please send an email by **Wednesday, September 3, 2025**, to annemarie.Belle@mass.gov, kristen.lommele@mass.gov, katherine.e.stock@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address. If you anticipate commenting by telephone,

please leave a voicemail message by **Wednesday, September 3, 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 **Wednesday, September 3, 2025**. Written comments from the public may be sent by email to dpu.efiling@mass.gov, annemarie.Belle@mass.gov, kristen.lommele@mass.gov, katherine.e.stock@mass.gov and to the Company's attorneys, John K. Habib, jhabib@keeganwerlin.com, Michael Hershberg, mherhberg@keeganwerlin.com, and Ashley Marton, 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.

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 **Wednesday, September 3, 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(a). 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 **Wednesday, September 3, 2025**.

All documents should be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by email attachment to dpufiling@mass.gov, annemarie.Belle@mass.gov, Kristen.lommele@mass.gov, and katherine.e.stock@mass.gov. The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 25-81); (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 "25-81" 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 attorneys, John Habib, Esq., jhabib@keeganwerlin.com; Michael Hershberg, Esq., mhershberg@keeganwerlin.com; and Ashley Marton, Esq., amarton@keeganwerlin.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 or (617) 626-1282.

Translation and interpretation for this proceeding is available in Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole. Translation and interpretation in additional languages is available upon request. To request translation or interpretation in a language other than English, please contact Paralegal Specialist Kaylee Burgess at dpufiling@mass.gov by **Wednesday, September 3, 2025**.

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, Katherine Stock, Hearing Officers, and Kristen Lommele, Special Policy Advisor on Climate Change, Department of Public Utilities, at annemarie.belle@mass.gov, katherine.e.Stock@mass.gov, and kristen.lommele@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.

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.

(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。

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

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.

中文 (Simplified Chinese)

提醒您：您可依需要申請提供筆譯和/或口譯服務。請發送電子郵件給 Kaylee Burgess (dpu.ej@mass.gov) 來申請語言服務要求，並注明您的首選語言和聯繫信息。

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.

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.

العربية (Arabic)

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

Русский (Russian)

ВНИМАНИЕ!

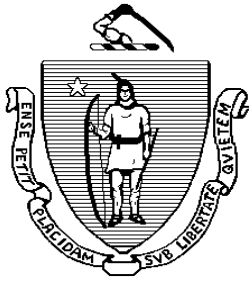
Услуги письменного и/или устного перевода предоставляются по запросу. Для запроса услуг перевода обращайтесь к Kaylee Burgess по адресу dpu.ej@mass.gov. В запросе укажите язык перевода и контактную информацию.

ខ្មែរ (Khmer)

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

한국 (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.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

ORDER OF NOTICE

D.P.U. 25-81

August 6, 2025

Petition of NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's New Bedford Area Capital Investment Project proposal under the Provisional Program established by the Department in Provisional System Planning Program, D.P.U. 20-75-B (2021).

NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy ("Petitioner") shall, no later than **Wednesday, August 13, 2025**: (1) electronically distribute the attached Notice of Filing and Public Hearing ("Notice") to the electronic distribution list for D.P.U. 25-81 and to all members of the Group Study identified in the filing; (2) publish the English Notice in either The Boston Globe or the Boston Herald and the Portuguese, Spanish, and Haitian Creole Notices in appropriate language-specific newspapers; 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. The Department directs the Petitioner to contact the affected municipalities to determine if there are local organizations that support low-income residential populations and/or minority groups and to distribute the Notice and any other requested relevant information about this proceeding (e.g., the Plain Language Summary) to those organizations.

The Department further directs the Petitioner to make arrangements to conspicuously display the Notice in municipal buildings, local libraries, and any other locations that are widely used in the municipalities that are the subject of this proceeding (e.g., YMCA). 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 **Wednesday, September 10, 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