



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

MEMORANDUM

TO: Service Lists (e-mail only) in NSTAR Electric Company, D.P.U. 21-80;
Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 21-81;
and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, D.P.U. 21-82

FROM: Kerri DeYoung Phillips and Susan L. Geiser, Hearing Officers

RE: Department-Led AMI Stakeholder Working Group – May Session Date
Confirmation and Public Link

DATE: April 24, 2025

CC: Advanced Metering Infrastructure Working Group Members and Technical Session
Distribution List

I. INTRODUCTION

In this memorandum, the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) confirms **Tuesday, May 6, 2025**, as the date for the first Department-led session with the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (“AMI”) Working Group and provides additional guidance for the session, including: (1) an agenda; (2) instructions for participants receiving dedicated Zoom links; and (3) the public Zoom link and dial-in instructions for other interested stakeholders to view/listen into the session. 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 (individually, “company”; collectively, “Companies”) shall distribute this memorandum in accordance with the instructions below.

II. BACKGROUND

On March 5, 2025, the Department issued a memorandum reserving May 6 through May 8, 2025 for a Department-led session with the AMI Stakeholder Working Group initiated pursuant to Second Grid Modernization Plans, D.P.U. 21-80-B/D.P.U. 21-81-B/D.P.U. 21-82-B, at 325-329 (2022). The Department also reserved July 15 and 16, 2025, for a second

Department-led session, if needed.¹ The Department invited parties to these proceedings and working group participants to submit comments and/or presentations for the May session by April 15, 2025, on issues identified in the March 5, 2025 memorandum. The Department also requested May session participant lists from interested stakeholders.

On April 2, 2025, the Department issued a second memorandum requesting that the Companies jointly present on three additional topics at the May session and to submit their presentation(s) and corresponding comments, inclusive of issues identified in the March 5, 2025 memorandum, by April 29, 2025. The Department explained that it would determine the precise date(s) to convene the working group from the reserved dates based on any submissions filed on or before April 15, 2025.

On April 11, 2025, the Companies confirmed that they would provide a consolidated presentation addressing all the Department's questions and directives. Additionally, the Department received submittals and session participant confirmations from the following entities:²

<u>Stakeholder</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Presentation</u>	<u>May Session Participant List</u>
Office of the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts	No	No	Yes
Cape Light Compact	Yes	No	Yes
Conservation Law Foundation	No	No	Yes
Department of Energy Resources ("DOER")	No	Yes	Yes
Eversource Energy/National Grid/Unitil	Due 4/29	Due 4/29	Pending
Itron	No	No	Yes
Landis+Gyr	No	No	Yes
Missiondata	Yes	Yes	Yes
Missiondata, NRG Energy, Vistra Corp. ("Joint Stakeholders")	Yes	Yes	Yes
Peregrine Group	No	No	Yes
PowerOptions	No	No	Yes
The Energy Consortium	No	No	Yes
UtilityAPI	No	No	Yes

¹ The Department will address the need for a session in July at a later date.

² All documents relating to these proceedings, including any presentations and comments received, are available through the Department's online File Room through the following link, entering the applicable docket number (i.e., "21-80", "21-81", or "21-82"), and clicking "Go": <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/dpu/fileroom/#/dockets>.

III. FINAL MAY SESSION DATE AND AGENDA

Based on the submissions, the Department determines that a single day is sufficient for the May session, confirms **Tuesday, May 6, 2025**, as the date for the May session, and cancels May 7 and May 8, 2025. The May 6, 2025 session will commence at 10:00 a.m., although participants receiving dedicated links shall log in by 9:45 a.m. to resolve any potential technical issues and procedural questions before the session begins. Two 15-minutes breaks will be provided at approximately 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., and a one-hour lunch break will commence at approximately 1:00 p.m. The session will not be recorded or transcribed by a court reporter.

The Department provides the session agenda below:

- Introductions and guidelines for presentations and discussion
- Companies' presentation – Part I and discussion:³
 - Discuss how the Companies currently report customer usage data to ISO-NE and plan to report customer usage data when AMI usage data is available;
 - Discuss the available options for authorized third parties to access energy usage data, how Green Button Connect (“GBC”) operates, and the reasons the Companies selected GBC over other options; and
 - Provide a status update on each company's AMI deployment schedule as of March 31, 2025
- Presentations from interested stakeholders:
 - DOER's presentation and discussion
 - Joint Stakeholders' presentation and discussion
 - Missiondata's presentation and discussion
- Companies' presentation – Part II and discussion
- Open discussion

³ The Department anticipates first permitting Department staff and participants with dedicated links to ask any questions related to the presentations. If time permits, the Department will provide other interested stakeholders watching through the public link the opportunity to also ask questions related to the presentations.

- Next steps
 - Discussion of what, if any, Department action is needed prior to the Companies' February 2026 filing(s)
- Closing remarks

IV. GUIDELINES FOR VIRTUAL SESSION AND PARTICIPATION

A. Videoconferencing Platform and Public Access

The Department will facilitate the session via the Zoom videoconferencing platform. The public and interested stakeholders may create a basic account at <https://zoom.us/> at no cost. Any person may view the livestream of the session by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88454385037>, from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only access to the technical conference, dial **(646) 931-3860 (not toll free)** and then enter the **Meeting ID# 884 5438 5037**.⁴

B. Panelists

1. General

With the exception of any presentations by the Companies and other interested stakeholders, the discussions and Q&As will be led by the Hearing Officer(s) and/or Department staff. Panelists (*i.e.*, hearing participants) will be afforded an opportunity to participate in these discussions. To ensure the efficient and orderly conduct of the session, only Department staff and Panelists will appear on video and have the ability to unmute themselves for discussion. If time permits, the Department may permit interested stakeholders viewing or listening to the session through the public link or dial-in number the opportunity to also ask questions on presentations conducted by stakeholders.

2. Notice of Panelists

The Companies shall provide to the Hearing Officers no later than **Monday, April 28, 2025**, the name, title, and e-mail address of the individual Panelist(s) that require dedicated links for the session.

3. Dedicated Links

Each Panelist will receive an individual invitation with a dedicated link from the Department. Panelists must access the session through the link provided in the invitation.

⁴ These details will also be available on the "Upcoming Events" portion of the Department's homepage at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/departments-of-public-utilities>.

Panelists must not share their invitations with any other Panelist, as each link is specific to that individual.

The Department anticipates e-mailing dedicated links for the session by **Wednesday, April 30, 2025**. Each Panelist should check their junk e-mail folders in the event that the Panelist does not receive a link in their inbox for the e-mail address provided to the Hearing Officers. By **Friday, May 2, 2025**, counsel and/or a single individual from each participating entity shall confirm via e-mail to the Hearing Officers that each designated Panelist for the participant has received an e-mail with a dedicated link.

Entities should limit the number of designated Panelists to individuals that are essential to the efficient and orderly conduct of the session. Otherwise, all other individuals should use the public hearing link to view the session.

C. Name Display and Admission

Panelists must identify themselves by their full name and organization affiliation (e.g., “Kerri Phillips, DPU”). The Department will open the Zoom videoconferencing link for Panelists at approximately 9:30 a.m. before opening the link available to the public. As noted above, Panelists must join the session by **no later than 9:45 a.m.** to ensure proper functioning of their audio and video.

D. Technical Difficulties

Panelists are expected to make their appearances by video. If a Panelist is unable to appear by video due to technical difficulties, the Hearing Officer will afford the participant a reasonable amount of time to resolve the technical difficulties. If such technical difficulties cannot be resolved after reasonable efforts are expended, the Hearing Officer may permit the participant to appear by phone.

E. Video and Audio Controls

To reduce ambient noise and other disturbances, all Panelists must mute themselves unless they are speaking. The Hearing Officer will use Zoom audio controls to mute or unmute participants as necessary.

F. Monitor

The hearing monitor for the technical conference will be Shirley Barosy, Manager of Legal Administration for the Department’s Legal Division. The hearing monitor will be granted host privileges. Panelists should report any technical difficulties to Ms. Barosy at shirley.barosy@mass.gov, who will then relay that information to the Hearing Officer(s).

G. Recording

The Zoom videoconferencing platform will livestream the sessions; however, the livestream will not be recorded and will not be part of the official record for these proceedings. To ensure the orderly conduct of the session, the chat and record features of the Zoom videoconferencing platform will be disabled.

H. Session Arrangements and Breaks

The session will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end by 5:00 p.m., unless otherwise directed by the Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officer will allow for breaks as necessary, as outlined above. During breaks, the Department will post a notice via the Zoom videoconferencing platform that the session is in recess.

V. MEMORANDUM DISTRIBUTION

The Companies shall distribute an electronic copy of this memorandum to the AMI Stakeholder Group within **two** business days. The Companies shall confirm and provide proof of distribution by **Monday, April 28, 2025**.

VI. CONCLUSION

For questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Hearing Officer Kerri DeYoung Phillips at kerri.phillips@mass.gov and Hearing Officer Susan Geiser at susan.geiser@mass.gov.