



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TO: Service List in Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, and NSTAR Electric Company for Approval of Revised Model Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Program Provision, D.P.U. 25-175

VIA: Electronic Mail Only

FROM: Krista Hawley, Hearing Officer

RE: February 12, 2026 Technical Conference Agenda

DATE: February 9, 2026

CC: Peter A. Ray, Department Secretary

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### I. INTRODUCTION

On November 21, 2025, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (“Unitil”), Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid”), and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (“NSTAR Electric”) (individually “Distribution Company,” collectively “Distribution Companies”) submitted to the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) for review and approval of a joint filing (“Filing”) with (1) revisions to the current model Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (“SMART”) tariff (“SMART Provision”) and (2) a proposed “SMART 3.0” tariff (“SMART 3.0 Provision”).

In the Notice of Filing, Public Hearing, and Request for Comments issued December 10, 2025, the Department sought comment on the proposed SMART Provisions, as well as whether a phased approach is appropriate for this proceeding. The Department did not receive any comments regarding the proposed phasing of this proceeding. On February 3, 2026, the Department issued a Procedural Notice establishing a procedural schedule for Phase I of this proceeding. That procedural schedule included a Technical Conference to be held virtually via the Zoom platform from **10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, February 12, 2026.**

## II. DISCUSSION

The Distribution Companies in their filing as well as the Department of Energy Resources (“DOER”), the Attorney General, and the Coalition for Community Shared Solar (“CCSA”) in comments request that the Department review and approve the SMART Provision on an expedited schedule to allow timely implementation of the SMART 3.0 program, particularly given the June 2026 phase-out of certain federal tax incentives.

Consistent with its precedent, the Department’s review and approval of the SMART 3.0 Provision is guided by two principles. First, the Department’s review generally is limited to determining whether the SMART 3.0 Provision complies with the SMART 3.0 regulations (225 CMR 28.00) promulgated by DOER. D.P.U. 23-67-C at 8.<sup>1</sup> Second, the Department must find that the costs that will result from the implementation of the SMART 3.0 program are just and reasonable vis-a-vis the costs that would have resulted from continuation of the SMART 2.0 Program. Revised Model SMART Provision, D.P.U. 20-145-B at 13-14 (2021); D.P.U. 20-145-C at 22-26 (2022).

The primary purpose of the upcoming Technical Conference is to determine whether the Low-Income Weatherization and Fuel Assistance Program Network and the Low-Income Energy Affordability Network (“LEAN”), and the Solar Energy Industries Association (“SEIA”)<sup>2</sup> support the Department reviewing the SMART Provision on an expedited schedule to allow timely implementation of the SMART 3.0 program and, if so, whether the parties can reach consensus that: (1) the SMART 3.0 Provision complies with the SMART 3.0 regulations; and (2) the projected SMART 3.0 program costs are just and reasonable. In addition, the Technical Conference will provide the opportunity for Department staff and intervenors to identify and discuss proposed revisions and clarifications to the SMART 3.0 Provision.

## III. AGENDA

1. Potential revisions edits/clarifications to the revised SMART Provision
  - Department requests that the parties be prepared to identify and discuss proposed revisions/clarifications to the SMART 3.0 Provision.
2. Expedited Department review and approval of the SMART Provision

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<sup>1</sup> In Investigation into Establishing Guidelines for Municipal Aggregation Proceedings, D.P.U. 23-67-C, Order on Municipal Aggregation Low-Income Community Shared Solar Projects Under the SMART Regulations, (2025) at 8, the Department stated, “Because DOER is the state agency to which the Legislature has delegated statutory authority over the SMART Program, it is generally not an appropriate role for the Department to re.examine DOER’s decisions in promulgating its SMART regulations.”

<sup>2</sup> LEAN and SEIA are intervenors who have not yet commented.

3. Consistency of the SMART Provision with the SMART 3.0 regulations (225 CMR 28.00)
4. Just and reasonable projected costs
  - Will DOER's annual update of the capacity caps and compensation rates (225 CMR 28.05) provide appropriate opportunity for review of program costs?
  - What steps could DOER take to ensure the minimization of program costs in future years?
5. Revised procedural schedule
  - To the extent that consensus exists, potentially revise the procedural schedule to excise unnecessary steps (e.g., parties may waive Phase I briefing).

#### IV. PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

The Department will conduct the Technical Conference via the Zoom platform and the participant link below. For questions, please contact Krista Hawley at [krista.hawley@mass.gov](mailto:krista.hawley@mass.gov). For technical issues during the Technical Conference, please contact Shirley Barosy at [Shirley.barosy@mass.gov](mailto:Shirley.barosy@mass.gov).

When: Feb 12, 2026 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: D.P.U. 25-175 Technical Session

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87928992224>

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