



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

MEMORANDUM

TO: D.P.U. 25-200 Distribution List

FROM: Stephanie Mealey, Hearing Officer
Jennifer Cargill, Hearing Officer

RE: Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on Its Own Motion into Gas and Electric Delivery Charges and Bill Redesign, D.P.U. 25-200

Net Metering Technical Conference Agenda

DATE: September 30, 2026

CC: Katie Zilgme, Assistant General Counsel
Peter A. Ray, Department Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

On December 15, 2025, the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) voted to open an investigation to conduct a comprehensive review of gas and electric delivery rates and charges with the aims of containing customer costs, reducing utility bill volatility, and increasing utility bill transparency and accessibility. Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on Its Own Motion into Gas and Electric Delivery Charges and Bill Redesign, D.P.U. 25-200, Vote and Order Opening Investigation at 1, 12, 17, 25 (2025) (“Order”). The Department docketed this investigation as D.P.U. 25-200.

On June 26, 2026, the Department issued a Hearing Officer Memorandum that emphasized, in part, the Department’s intention to determine how the value of net metering credits and the associated bill impacts to electric customers in Massachusetts compared to similar programs in other jurisdictions and whether the value of the net metering credit should be adjusted, to the extent possible under the Department’s existing authority. D.P.U. 25-200, Hearing Officer Memorandum at 2 (June 26, 2026). The Department also indicated that further

investigation is necessary to better understand the broad impacts of any net metering-related changes contemplated by the Department in this proceeding and clarified that the Department will seek additional information and input on this issue, including holding one or more technical conferences. D.P.U. 25-200, Hearing Officer Memorandum at 3 (June 26, 2026).

On July 22, 2026, the Department notified stakeholders of a technical conference to be held on October 15, 2026. This memorandum provides logistical information and sets forth an agenda for the technical conference.

II. PURPOSE AND REQUEST FOR PRESENTATIONS

The intended purpose of the forthcoming technical conference is to allow stakeholders, including state agencies, the electric distribution companies, developers, and others to present their recommendations within the scope of the agenda included below, and to provide an opportunity for the Department and stakeholders to ask questions and engage in discussions.

The Department requests that any stakeholders seeking to participate in the technical conference notify the Department no later than the close of business on **October 7, 2026** by emailing Hearing Officers Stephanie Mealey and Jennifer Cargill at dpu25200.investigation@mass.gov as well as the Service List for this matter. Such notice shall include: (1) any issues and proposals the stakeholders seek to discuss at the technical conference; and (2) whether the stakeholders intend to make a presentation. Any stakeholder seeking to make a short (no more than ten minutes) presentation to aid discussion at the technical conference shall submit copies of any proposed presentation materials by **October 7, 2026**. Stakeholder groups should coordinate where possible to limit duplication of topics and promote efficiency.

III. LOGISTICS

The Department will hold a technical conference in D.P.U. 25-200 on **October 15, 2026** from **11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** There will be a 45-minute break for lunch around 1:00 p.m.

For in-person attendees, the technical conference will be held at the Department's offices:

1 South Station, 3rd floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

To facilitate an active conversation, Department staff encourages stakeholders to attend the technical conference in person if possible. Stakeholders that cannot be at the technical conference in person will be able to participate virtually. Please note, Department staff will begin discussions with comments from in-person attendees and then move to virtual attendees, if time allows.

To actively participate, either in-person or virtually, you **must** register via the following link no later than **October 13, 2026**: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/vZYCKZv1PM>. You will have the option to attend in-person or virtually. Please select your preferred option. If you register to attend virtually, you will receive a panelist Zoom link near the date of the Technical Conference; if attending virtually, please update your Zoom profile with your name and organization in advance. We also ask that you turn your camera on while speaking. Prior to beginning your comments every time you speak, please state your full name and affiliation.

Individuals that wish to **observe only should not register at the link above.** Please observe only by following the **Zoom link** (<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81618582454>), from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only access to the hearing, attendees can dial in at 1 (646) 558-8656 (not toll free) and then enter the Webinar ID number: 816 1858 2454. **Individuals who do not register via the Microsoft Forms link included above will not be permitted to provide comments.**

If you experience any technical difficulties during the technical conference, please contact: kaylee.burgess@mass.gov and jennifer.cargill@mass.gov.

IV. **AGENDA**

Department staff offer the following agenda to allow stakeholders to prepare for the technical conference. The questions listed below are examples and may be revised or elaborated based upon the discussion.

1. **Introductions and Opening Remarks**
2. **Discussion Topic #1: Scope of Department Authority and Potential Mechanics of Changes to Net Metering Credit Calculation**
 - What rate components must statutorily remain and what rate components may be removed from the net metering credit calculation?
3. **Discussion Topic #2: Potential Impact of to Credit Calculation Changes on Net Metering Customers, Renewable Energy Generating Facility Developers, and Ratepayers**
 - Net Metering Customers

- Discuss how the Department can ensure fair treatment of existing net metering customers.
- DER Developers
 - Discuss how a reduction (e.g., 3.4%, 3.5%, or 5.1%), that corresponds to removing the residential assistance adjustment factor (“RAAF”) and other similarly categorized charges, in the net metering credit value may affect:
 - the expected returns, payback periods, and overall economic viability of net metering projects.
 - the number, size, and types of projects that developers choose to pursue.
 - project types and characteristics, including standalone versus behind-the-meter projects, larger versus smaller facilities, and existing versus future projects differently.
 - different customer types, specifically, any potential disproportionate impacts on income-eligible customers or customers with low electricity usage. and
 - overall renewable energy deployment in Massachusetts and progress toward the Commonwealth’s renewable energy targets.
 - Discuss any specific considerations or potential impacts the Department should consider for solar projects paired with energy storage, given the interaction between net metering compensation and storage economics.
- Ratepayers
 - Discuss which factors have the greatest influence on estimated ratepayer impacts (e.g., forthcoming RAAF increase, future Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (“SMART”) and net metering enrollment levels, electric supply rates, etc.).
 - Discuss how implementation, administrative, and billing costs of future changes directed by the Legislature or the Department should be factored into the assessment of overall ratepayer impacts.

4. Discussion Topic #3: Net Metering in Other Jurisdictions

- Discuss lessons learned from other jurisdictions that have recently made changes to net metering compensation, including reducing the credit value, and how such lessons may be applied in Massachusetts to reduce costs borne by ratepayers.

5. Discussion Topic #4: Relationship between SMART and Net Metering Compensation

- In preparation for this discussion, we recommend referring to Eversource Energy's Initial Comments at [58-60](#), DPU-DOER [2-1](#), [2-3](#), and DPU Electric [2-1](#), [2-2](#), [2-3](#), and [2-5](#). Please discuss:
 - how changes to net metering credit compensation may reduce total costs borne by ratepayers, versus merely shifting recovery from the net metering recovery surcharge ("NMRS") to the SMART Factor.
 - if shifting some portion of cost recovery from the NMRS to the SMART Factor changes the distribution of costs across customer types. If so, discuss if the impacts would differ across customer classes and usage levels.

6. Next Steps

For further information regarding this memorandum, please contact Stephanie Mealey or Jennifer Cargill at stephanie.mealey@mass.gov and jennifer.cargill@mass.gov.