



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILINGS, PUBLIC HEARING, AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 26-20/26-21/26-22

April 7, 2026

Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on the Advanced Metering Data Access Protocol Implementation Plan and Related Proposals Submitted by 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 Pursuant to an Act Promoting a Clean Energy Grid, Advanced Equity, and Protecting Ratepayers, St. 2024, c. 239, §§ 79, 127, 128.

On February 18, 2026, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (“NSTAR Electric”), Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid”), and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (“Unitil”) (together, the electric distribution companies “EDCs”) each submitted for approval with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) an advanced metering infrastructure (“AMI”) data access protocol implementation plan (“AMI data access plan”). These filings were submitted pursuant to Act Promoting a Clean Energy Grid, Advanced Equity, and Protecting Ratepayers, St. 2024, c. 239 (“2024 Climate Act” or “Act”), §§ 79, 127-128. The Department docketed these matters as D.P.U. 26-20 for NSTAR Electric, D.P.U. 26-21 for National Grid, and D.P.U. 26-22 for Unitil, which the Department consolidated for adjudication.

Sections 79 and 128 of the 2024 Climate Act requires the EDCs to establish a statewide centralized AMI data repository to allow customers and third parties, including competitive suppliers, access to AMI data in near-real time and to implement accelerated switching permitting residential and small commercial customers to change suppliers within three days once AMI is fully deployed. Section 79 of the Act also permits the EDCs to recover prudent and necessary expenses to implement the centralized data repository.

In this proceeding, the EDCs submitted a joint AMI data access plan with supporting documentation, including sample agreements between the EDCs and competitive suppliers and municipal aggregators. Each EDC also submitted separate cost recovery proposals for implementation of the centralized data repository and data sharing. Key provisions of the EDCs’ proposals are described below. This is not intended as an exhaustive list. Additional information on the EDCs’ proposals can be found in each company’s filing, which is available through the Department’s website as noted further below.

Three-Phase Implementation of AMI Customer Usage Data Access and Centralized, AMI Data Repository. In the first phase, the EDCs will permit customer and approved third parties to access a customer's historic AMI usage data via an EDC-specific online platform deployed as part of the EDC's AMI implementation plan approved by the Department in 2022. In the second phase, the EDCs will develop EDC-specific bulk data sharing platforms on top of their existing individual platforms to allow approved third parties to access a group of customers' AMI usage data. In the final phase, the EDCs propose to jointly deploy a statewide, centralized AMI energy data sharing repository that utilizes an application programming interface ("API") and the Green Button Connect ("Green Button") "My Data Standard." The EDCs anticipate deployment of the data repository two-and-a-half years following Department approval.

Data Sharing Timing and Formats. The EDC-specific platforms and centralized data repository will provide customers and eligible third-parties relevant AMI usage data in near-real time (within 24 to 48 hours of use). Third party access to a customer's data would be provided through flat file transfers via a .CSV (referring to Comma Separated Values) or Green Button-compliant .XML format, or through an API-based connection. Third parties would be able to request file downloads within the repository and to schedule delivery of the data through an API. Aggregated customer data in defined geographic groupings (i.e., by municipality or ZIP code) could be provided to third-parties through a .CSV file via an API-based endpoint.

Third-Party Eligibility Requirements to Access Customer-Specific and Bulk AMI Data. To be eligible to receive EDC-specific customer data through the bulk data sharing platform and centralized data sharing platform, each third-party would be required to: (1) register on the relevant EDC's website; (2) certify agreement to the EDC's terms and conditions; and (3) execute a data privacy protection and cybersecurity agreement. The EDCs request Department guidance regarding which third-parties other than competitive suppliers and municipal aggregators should be considered eligible to receive bulk AMI data.

Customer Opt-Outs, Outreach, and Education. Under the EDCs' proposals, customers with an AMI meter and who have selected a competitive supplier or are participating in municipal aggregation will be opted into AMI data sharing with the competitive supplier or municipal aggregator by default and may opt out of providing data to third-party recipients and data sharing permissions through their EDC's website. When a customer opts out of data sharing, any existing data sharing authorization for their competitive supplier or municipal aggregator will be cancelled. The EDCs each propose revisions to their existing Terms and Conditions for Distribution Service tariff to address customer opting out. The EDCs propose to conduct customer outreach and education regarding data sharing permission management.

Estimated Costs. The EDCs estimate a minimum five-year total cost for the centralized data repository to be \$23.20 million to \$30.13 million but explain that the actual costs of the platform will not be fully known until after competitive solicitations are conducted and depending on any Department-directed modifications.

Proposed Cost Recovery from Third-Parties and Customers. The EDCs propose an annual fee structure for non-customer, third-party users of the centralized data repository, not to exceed the overall total cost to implement and maintain the platform. For costs not recovered through the fee structure, the EDCs propose to allocate joint costs based on the number of AMI meters in each EDC's service territory to be recovered along with EDC-specific costs through existing reconciling mechanisms. NSTAR Electric and National Grid propose to recover these remaining costs through their AMI factor ("AMIF") cost recovery mechanisms and propose illustrative revisions to their AMIF tariffs. Unitil proposes to recover the remaining joint and company-specific costs through its grid modernization factor ("GMF") cost recovery mechanism and proposes illustrative revisions to its GMF tariff. The EDCs do not propose changes to customer rates at this time; rather, if their current proposals are approved, the EDCs would submit costs for recovery in future proceedings.

Accelerated Switching. The EDCs include an initial proposal to address accelerated switching to be addressed in any separate proceeding. In particular, the EDCs propose to facilitate customer requests involving the enrollment, termination, or change in a supplier within three business days of the request and propose a framework to address, among other things, multiple switching requests within the same billing period and multiple suppliers seeking to enroll the same customer.

The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("Attorney General") 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 per docket 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 each EDC's rates.

The Department will conduct a virtual public hearing to receive comments on the EDCs' filings. The Department will conduct the hearing using Zoom videoconferencing on **Thursday, May 14, 2026**, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Attendees can join by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83412529912>, from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only access to the hearings, attendees can dial in at **(309) 205-3325 (not toll free)** and then enter the **Meeting ID # 834 1252 9912**. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, please send an e-mail by **Wednesday, May 6, 2026**, to kerri.phillips@mass.gov with your name, e-mail address, and mailing address. If you anticipate commenting by telephone, please leave a voicemail message by **Wednesday, May 6, 2026**, at (617) 305-3611 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address.

The Department will also accept written comments on the EDCs' filings and the Attorney General's notice of retention of experts and consultants until close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Thursday, May 28, 2026**. Any person who otherwise desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall file a petition for leave to intervene no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, May 6, 2026**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. Receipt by the Department, not

mailing, 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 documents must be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and kerri.phillips@mass.gov. In addition, one copy of all written comments and petitions to intervene should be emailed to: (1) NSTAR Electric's attorneys, Danielle C. Winter, Esq., Jessica Buno Ralston, Esq., and Michael B. Hershberg, Esq., at dwinter@keeganwerlin.com, jralston@keeganwerlin.com, and mhershberg@keeganwerlin.com; (2) National Grid's attorney, Melissa G. Liazos, Esq., at melissa.liazos@nationalgrid.com; (3) Unitil's attorney, Patrick H. Taylor, taylorp@unitil.com; and (4) Assistant Attorneys General Christopher Modlish and Kayla M. Burns at chris.modlish@mass.gov and kayla.m.burns@mass.gov. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 26-20/26-21/26-22); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; (3) a brief descriptive title of the document; and (4) for EDC customers only, the name of the EDC that provides electric service to their home. The electronic file name should identify the document but should not exceed 50 characters in length. Importantly, all large files submitted must be broken down into electronic files that do not exceed 20 MB. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter either "26-20" for NSTAR Electric, "26-21" for National Grid, or "26-22" for Unitil) at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/dpu/fileroom/#/dockets>.

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. If a member of the public is unable to send written comments by e-mail, a paper copy may be sent to Peter Ray, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 3rd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. Please note that in the interest of transparency any comments will be posted to our website noted above as received and without redacting personal information, such as addresses, telephone numbers, or e-mail addresses. As such, consider the extent of information you wish to share when submitting comments.

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.

For further information regarding the EDCs' filings, please contact the applicable EDC's attorney(s) through e-mail, as identified above. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Kerri DeYoung Phillips, Department Hearing Officer, at kerri.phillips@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

(Arabic) العربية

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

ខ្មែរ (Khmer)

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

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系信息。

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)

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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.

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.