



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES ANNUAL REPORT

2022

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## INTRODUCTION

The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (the “Department” or “DPU”) is responsible for oversight of investor-owned electric power, natural gas, and water utilities in the Commonwealth. In addition, the DPU is charged with developing alternatives to traditional regulation, monitoring service quality, regulating safety in the transportation and gas pipeline areas, and the siting of energy facilities. The mission of the DPU is to ensure that consumers’ rights are protected and that utility companies are providing the most reliable service at the lowest possible cost. The DPU oversees the public safety from transportation and gas pipeline-related accidents along with the energy facilities siting process. The DPU seeks to promote safety, security, reliability of service, affordability, equity, and greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emission reductions.

The Department is overseen by the three-member Commonwealth Utilities Commission appointed by the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs with approval by the Governor. The Secretary designates one of the Commissioners as Commission Chair. In 2022, the Commission was comprised of Chair Matthew Nelson, Commissioner Robert Hayden, and Commissioner Cecile M. Fraser.

In 2022, the Department issued 626 Orders,<sup>1</sup> including Orders that authorized the expansion of electrification efforts to offset natural gas heating, enhanced consumer protection by instituting new requirements for competitive suppliers, approved geothermal demonstration projects, created an energy storage interconnection working group, and expanded bill payment options for consumers.

Among the Orders issued, the Department approved the Commonwealth’s nation-leading three-year energy efficiency plan. The plan will deliver an estimated \$9 billion in benefits to the state while also providing performance incentives to help the Commonwealth meet its ambitious targets of reducing GHG emissions 50% below 1990 levels in 2030 and achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050. The plan brings the Commonwealth closer to achieving the goals set forth in *An Act Creating a Next Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy*, comprehensive climate change legislation signed into law in 2021 by Governor Baker.

Other notable orders issued in 2022 included the Department’s approval of \$450 million in grid modernization investments over a four-year term. The first of these plans were approved in 2018 and included investments and demonstration projects deployed in 2018 through 2021. The 2022 Order expands the deployment of grid monitoring technologies, advanced communication technologies, and automation technologies that will modernize the Commonwealth’s electric power system and allow for more self-healing to enhance safety and reliability.

In 2022, the Department authorized the electric distribution companies to invest approximately \$1.1 billion in Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) over a multi-year period, further enabling modernization of the electric grid in support of the Commonwealth’s clean energy and climate goals. Also, in support of these goals, the Department approved the electric distribution companies’ electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure programs, electric vehicle demand charge alternative proposals, and one company’s residential electric vehicle time-of-use rate proposal.

The Department conducted adjudicatory proceedings in 2022 as part of a provisional program for planning and funding essential upgrades to the electric power system to foster timely and cost-effective development and interconnection of distributed generation. This provisional program pathway should help facilitate an equitable allocation of costs and remove barriers to the Commonwealth’s progress to a clean energy future. The

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<sup>1</sup> The number of orders issued does not include orders either approving or denying competitive supply licenses, which have been included in the calculation of the number of orders issued in past DPU Annual Reports. See, e.g., the DPU’s 2018 and 2019 Annual Reports.

Department also approved the first of seven Capital Investment Project proposals as part of the new provisional program.

Also notably, in 2022 the Department issued a final determination on base distribution rates for Eversource, reducing the company's original revenue request of \$89.4 million by approximately \$25.2 million, decreasing Eversource's original request to \$64.26 million. The Department also reduced Berkshire Gas Company's rate request by nearly 50% in 2022.

Finally, the Department continued to perform its oversight functions through 2022, including investigating consumer complaints, performing field inspections, conducting Transportation Network Company driver background checks, and holding public hearings. Chair Nelson also joined the Legislature for a series of hearings in 2022 related to the Department's role as the State Safety Oversight Agency for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority ("MBTA"). In these hearings, the Chair affirmed the Department's vital role in ensuring the safety of the riders of the MBTA and testified that the Department is committed to implementing the recommendations of the Federal Transit Administration as outlined in the final Safety Management Inspection report issued on August 31, 2022.

The Department is pleased to submit this Annual Report pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 2. The report that follows summarizes the responsibilities of the various Divisions within the Department, provides information regarding the day-to-day functions of the agency, and outlines the major activities and accomplishments of 2022.



## CONSUMER DIVISION

### Overview

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The Consumer Division is the Department's primary link with utility customers. The Consumer Division works to ensure that customers, utilities, and the public receive fair and equitable treatment through education, complaint resolution, and evaluation of utility compliance with consumer protection rules and policies. The Consumer Division educates the public and utilities about customer rights and responsibilities, investigates and resolves disputes between customers and utilities, and evaluates utilities' compliance with the Commonwealth's statutes, Department regulations, orders, and the utilities' terms and conditions for service. The Consumer Division conducts informal hearings as appropriate to try to resolve customer complaints against their respective utility companies.

### Responsibilities

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#### Investigation and Resolution of Customer Complaints

The Consumer Division is available to assist customers in resolving problems they are having with their utility providers. Most complaints are made by phone, but complaints are also received by mail, email, and via the Department's website. The majority of the complaints concern billing disputes, credit issues, or poor quality of service allegations. In those cases, when the utility company is found to be at fault, the Consumer Division will order the company to correct the problem and make any necessary bill adjustments. In 2022, the Consumer Division received 7,776 total complaints from consumers, which resulted in 3,794 referrals and 3,982 cases being investigated, and directed the utilities to make \$376,897.23 in adjustments.

If a customer or utility company is not satisfied with the resolution of a complaint filed with the Consumer Division with respect to residential billing and service termination issues, either party may request an informal hearing. An informal hearing for a residential complaint is conducted by a Consumer Division Hearing Officer. Parties may appeal the Hearing Officer's decision to the Department's Commission.

#### Utility Monitoring

The Consumer Division collects extensive data about the quality of service that utility customers receive. This data is used to generate monthly reports, which include cases, inquiries, and bill adjustment amounts and their percentage increase or decrease in the previous 12-month average. The reports compare companies using measures such as the number of residential complaints per 1,000 customers and the total number of complaints per month. The Consumer Division reviews complaints against third party suppliers to evaluate whether to grant energy supply licenses and renewals.<sup>2</sup>

To ensure compliance with Department regulations and policies, Consumer Division staff review regulations pertaining to billing, protections from shutoffs, policies on abatements, and other areas of consumer protection. The Consumer Division also reviews utility billing materials and notices. The Consumer Division reviews bill format changes, bill inserts and notices – including rate change notices – as well as informational letters sent to customers. The Consumer Division may recommend changes to notices where necessary to ensure that customers are provided clear and accurate information.

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<sup>2</sup> Massachusetts customers may choose to obtain electric and gas supply from a competitive supplier other than from their local distribution utility. The Department annually certifies the suppliers and agents selling this competitive supply.

## **Municipal Aggregation**

Massachusetts General Law c. 164, § 134 authorizes municipalities to aggregate the electrical load of customers within their borders to procure competitive supply of electricity. The Director of the Consumer Division participates in reviewing the implementation of aggregation plans to ensure appropriate customer education and outreach.

## **Arrearage Management**

The Department requires each electric and gas utility to offer an arrearage management program (“AMP”), or financial assistance program, to low-income customers with overdue utility bills. AMPs enable low-income gas and electric customers who are behind on their utility payments to make regular, on-time payments consistent with the terms of the AMP in exchange for forgiveness of a portion of the arrears. The electric and gas utilities also offer payment plans to any customers with accumulated arrearages.

During the COVID 19 pandemic, when numerous factors contributed to customers falling behind on their utility bills, the Department began requesting arrearage data from the gas and electric utilities to inform recommendations on ratepayer protections and service reliability. With this data, the Department implemented new customer assistance measures designed to support customers with arrearages and mitigate the numbers and totals of arrearages, including extended and more flexible payment arrangements for customers with past due balances, an increased maximum forgiveness amount for AMP programs, and waiver of previously required payments for customer re-enrollment in an AMP.

Specifically, utility data as of September 2022 shows approximately 567,000 electric customers (20%) and 336,000 gas customers (19%) were in arrears (i.e., late paying their utility bills) among the eleven regulated companies. By comparison, the number of electric and gas customers in arrears in September 2021 was 558,000 and 349,000, respectively. The number of residential electric and low-income electric customers in arrears increased as compared to the same time last year by 0.6% and 2.7%, respectively. The number of residential gas and low-income gas customers in arrears decreased by 2.8% and 10.1%, respectively.

## DIVISION OF REGIONAL AND FEDERAL AFFAIRS

The Division of Regional and Federal Affairs (“DRFA”) is responsible for overseeing the Department’s involvement and coordination with regional and federal stakeholders on critical energy issues. DRFA actively monitors ISO-NE transmission planning, operations, and administration of competitive wholesale markets, and actively engages in ISO-NE’s stakeholder processes, including monitoring and participating in the ISO-NE Planning Advisory Committee and various New England Power Pool (“NEPOOL”) technical committees (i.e., Markets Committee, Reliability Committee, Transmission Committee, Participants Committee, and other working groups). DRFA also participates in national and regional policy groups, including the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (“NARUC”), the Eastern Interconnection States’ Planning Council (“EISPC”), the New England Conference of Public Utility Commissioners (“NECPUC”), and the New England States Committee on Electricity (“NESCOE”). Finally, DRFA monitors, oversees, and actively engages in proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”), as well as other federal agencies that relate to system reliability and/or issues with cost implications for Massachusetts electric and gas consumers.

### Legal Proceedings

Over the course of 2022, DRFA has been involved in matters before the federal courts and FERC, representing Massachusetts’ view on issues affecting system reliability and consumer costs. The following is a sampling of DRFA activities in these matters:

- Supported NESCOE’s comments in FERC’s rulemaking on Transmission System Planning Performance Requirements for Extreme Weather (Docket No. RM22-10);
- Supported NESCOE’s comments on the Complaint Filed by RENEW Northeast, Inc. and the American Clean Power Association (Docket No. EL22-42);
- Followed appeals of relevant FERC orders underway in Federal courts;
- Monitored FERC’s monthly open meetings;
- Monitored FERC technical conferences on a broad range of issues including, transmission planning and cost management, transmission planning requirements for extreme weather, supply chain risk management, and electric reliability standards; and
- Participated in FERC-state briefings on key FERC orders.

### Transmission

Bulk power transmission continued to command DRFA’s attention in 2022. At the federal level, the FERC continued to pursue major reforms of transmission policy and regulation.

- In 2021, the FERC issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“ANOPR”): Building for the Future Through Electric Regional Transmission Planning and Cost Allocation and Generator Interconnection (Docket No. RM21-17-000). As expected, in 2022, the FERC followed up by issuing two Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (“NOPRs”) that propose reforms to existing regulations to address many of the issues it raised for comment in the ANOPR:
  - Building for the Future Through Electric Regional Transmission Planning and Cost Allocation and Generator Interconnection (Docket No. RM21-17). Among other things, this NOPR proposes to require public utility transmission providers (“TPs”) to:
    - Conduct long-term regional transmission planning for transmission needs driven by public policies, including for purposes of cost allocation;
    - Identify benefits for purposes of project evaluation and cost allocation and describe how the benefits will be calculated;

- Develop and use long-term scenarios as part of long-term transmission planning;
  - Establish transparent and not unduly discriminatory criteria and a process for potential project selection for purposes of cost allocation that provides for coordination with state entities;
  - Establish a method for allocating the costs of transmission facilities selected pursuant to a long-term regional transmission plan that seeks agreement of state entities with respect to the preferred cost allocation option; and
  - Allow a federal right of first refusal for regional transmission facilities conditioned on the establishment of qualifying joint ownership structures for those facilities.
- Improvements to Generator Interconnection Procedures and Agreements (Docket No. RM22-14). Among other things, this NOPR proposes to:
  - Revise/update the pro forma generator interconnection procedures and agreements to increase the speed and efficiency of interconnection queue processing by requiring TPs to adopt a first-ready (as opposed to first come), first-served cluster study process and to impose more stringent financial commitments and readiness requirements for interconnection customers to remain in the queue;
  - Eliminate the “reasonable efforts” standard for completing interconnection studies, implement an affected systems study process, and offer an optional resource solicitation study process;
  - Incorporate technological advancements into the interconnection process by requiring TPs to allow more than one resource to co-locate on a shared site behind a single point of interconnection and share a single interconnection request, and allowing interconnection customers to add a generating facility to an existing interconnection request under certain circumstances without automatically losing their queue position; and
  - Ensure that non-synchronous resources are better able to support reliability by updating modeling and performance requirements to require non-synchronous generators to continue providing power and voltage support during grid disturbances.
- DRFA actively participated in discussions and in drafting NESCOE’s and NARUC’s initial and reply comments in response to both NOPRs throughout 2022. FERC is reviewing the voluminous comments filed by many parties in these dockets.
- Joint Federal-State Task Force on Electric Transmission (“Task Force”). In Docket No. AD21-15-000, the FERC established the Task Force to conduct joint hearings on the following transmission-related topics:
  - Identifying barriers that inhibit planning and development of optimal transmission necessary to achieve federal and state policy goals, as well as potential solutions to those barriers;
  - Exploring potential bases for one or more states to use FERC-jurisdictional transmission planning processes to advance their policy goals, including multi-state goals;
  - Exploring opportunities for states to voluntarily coordinate to identify, plan, and develop regional transmission solutions;
  - Reviewing FERC rules and regulations regarding planning and cost allocation of transmission projects and potentially identifying recommendations for reforms;
  - Examining barriers to the efficient and expeditious interconnection of new resources through the FERC-jurisdictional interconnection processes, as well as potential solutions to those barriers; and
  - Discussing mechanisms to ensure that transmission investment is cost effective, including approaches to enhance transparency and improve oversight of transmission investment including, potentially, through enhanced federal-state coordination.

The Task Force is comprised of all FERC Commissioners as well as representatives from ten state commissions. The FERC re-appointed the DPU's Chair to the Task Force for a second one-year term commencing September 1, 2022. DRFA supported the Chair's participation in the Task Force throughout 2022, including drafting sections of NARUC's comments in both transmission NOPRs (see above) and preparing for his participation in four Task Force public meetings.

In 2022, DRFA also participated actively in efforts to reform transmission planning processes in New England.

- As noted in the 2021 DPU Annual Report, In response to the NESCOE Vision Statement in 2022, ISO-NE completed a stakeholder process and filed with the FERC for approval to revise its tariff to permit ISO-NE to implement a state-led, proactive scenario-based planning process for longer-term analysis of state mandates and policies as a routine regional transmission planning practice (i.e., the Phase 1 tariff change). FERC approved the Phase 1 tariff change in February of 2022. Using this new tariff mechanism, ISO-NE, in coordination with NESCOE, undertook a comprehensive long-term regional transmission planning study to inform all stakeholders of the amount and type of transmission infrastructure needed to cost-effectively integrate clean energy resources and distributed energy resources ("DERs") across the region to meet New England states' energy policy requirements and goals (the "2050 Transmission Study"). In 2022 ISO-NE identified long-term regional transmission needs, and it began developing possible transmission solutions and preliminary cost estimates. Work on the 2050 Transmission Study will continue in 2023.
- Phase 2 of the new long-term transmission planning process involves ISO-NE engaging in preliminary discussions with the states on developing a process for acting upon proposed solutions identified in Phase 1 planning studies by defining a project selection and cost allocation process that would be included in ISO-NE's FERC approved tariff. These Phase 2 tariff change discussions will continue in 2023.

DRFA actively participated in these regional transmission planning reform efforts, including working with NESCOE and ISO-NE on developing a proposed Phase 2 selection and cost allocation framework and initiating its review with the other New England states.

## Future Grid

For the past several years, ISO-NE, working with guidance from the states through NESCOE, has been studying both potential grid reliability challenges associated with implementation of state energy and environmental laws and potential market frameworks that could support the transition to a clean energy future. In 2022, DRFA continued its active engagement in these efforts.

- In the Pathways to the Future Grid study, ISO-NE evaluated the effectiveness and efficiency of two potential market frameworks in facilitating the evolution of New England's power grid that reflects two state energy policies: net carbon pricing and a forward clean energy market ("FCEM"). In response to state concerns with the potential of high consumer cost and reliability risks associated with a comprehensive FCEM approach, ISO-NE also evaluated a hybrid approach featuring an FCEM only for new clean energy resources paired with a net carbon pricing approach for existing clean resources. ISO-NE completed its Pathways study in 2022 and released its findings and observations in a final report issued in April 2022. NESCOE has been working with the states to prepare a response to the Pathways study, with an initial focus on legal and governance issues associated with any potential future market mechanism. In support of this effort, the Department of Energy Resources ("DOER") retained a consultant to develop a proposed detailed FCEM design document and is preparing to solicit stakeholder review of this proposal. DRFA collaborated with DOER in this effort in 2022 and will continue to participate in this work in 2023.



- In the Future Grid Reliability Study (“FGRS”), ISO-NE conducted both engineering and economic analyses that used stakeholder defined scenarios to identify grid reliability challenges that could occur in the year 2040 resulting from state energy policies. This effort involved developing assumptions and future scenarios to identify operational and reliability needs on the New England power system and then conducting a gap analysis to determine if there are any revised or new market products needed to assure the continued reliable operation of the system. ISO-NE completed Phase 1 of this work in July of 2022; key takeaways include:
  - Dispatchable or system balancing resources (regardless of energy source) are needed in all scenarios to support variable resources;
  - Adding small amounts of dispatchable units significantly reduced the amount of new wind, solar, and storage resources to retain future grid reliability;
  - Battery storage may not be able to charge sufficiently under future load conditions.
  - Nuclear generator retirements pose a challenge to grid reliability and could thwart the states’ goals to reduce carbon dioxide emissions; and
  - The region may need increased energy regulation services, operating reserves may become deficient and at times completely depleted, and the reserve margin may need to increase by an order of magnitude by 2040 (i.e., from 15% to 300%).

The FGRS serves to provide important insights to guide the region’s future exploration of new market and tariff reforms needed to address the identified gaps.

## Wholesale Market Reform

In 2022, DRFA participated actively in several efforts to reform regional wholesale markets to ensure that they appropriately incentivize the economic entry of new clean energy resources while ensuring system reliability in a future grid featuring new energy technologies and changing consumer demands driven by state energy and environmental law and policies.

- Over the past several years, regional wholesale market participants have advocated for ISO-NE to consider storage devices as potential solutions for transmission needs it identifies through its existing regional transmission planning studies. In response, in 2022 ISO-NE developed its storage as a transmission only asset (“SATO”) proposal. Under ISO-NE’s proposal, a SATO is any energy storage device connected to the bulk transmission system and operated by a transmission owner which can inject stored power to address transmission system concerns. Under this proposed tariff change, in its transmission planning studies, ISO-NE will model the availability of SATOs to inject power into the system only during system conditions when there are no other resources available to maintain system reliability. The tariff is designed to ensure that SATOs cannot compromise reliability by introducing unmanageable operating burdens into the control room, do not participate in the power markets, and are not subject to economic dispatch. Since SATOs are considered transmission assets, a SATO’s transmission owner would recover its cost of construction and operation through ISO-NE’s FERC-jurisdictional transmission rate (i.e., costs and revenues resulting from building and operating a SATO in conformance with the tariff will be included in a transmission owner’s annual revenue requirement). After securing stakeholder approval of the SATO tariff changes in November, ISO-NE plans to make a tariff filing with the FERC in 2023.
- In 2020, the FERC issued Order No. 2222, which requires all grid system operators to allow distributed energy resources (“DERs”) to provide all wholesale services that they are technically capable of providing through aggregations of DERs. Throughout 2021 ISO-NE worked with NEPOOL stakeholders to create an Order 2222-compliant market design, operational rules, and detailed tariff language. ISO-NE filed its compliance proposal with the FERC in February 2022. Because Order 2222

applies to DERs interconnected at the distribution system level, it has potentially significant operational and cost implications for Massachusetts’ regulated distribution companies and could trigger future requests for Department authorizations. DRFA anticipates that FERC will act on ISO-NE’s compliance filing in 2023, following which the distribution companies and the Department will begin implementing this program.

- In 2022, ISO-NE continued to pursue the Resource Capacity Accreditation (“RCA”) project through which it plans to revise its existing methodology to assess, measure prospectively, and plan for the adequacy of the resources it procures to provide capacity through the forward capacity market (FCM”). RCA will support the region’s clean energy transition by implementing a methodology that more appropriately credits the contribution of each resource to supporting system reliability as the resource mix evolves over time (e.g., as renewable generation and energy storage resources become more prevalent). In 2022 ISO-NE completed its RCA conceptual design, selected an analytic approach, proposed conforming changes needed to the FCM process, and identified several topic areas requiring further detailed study, including appropriately accounting for the limited winter availability of natural gas in the accreditation methodology and developing an impact assessment analysis. The RCA project is data intensive and computationally complex; ISO-NE plans for this work to continue through at least mid-2023.
- In 2021, FERC rejected both the ISO-NE and the NESCOE proposals for new market-based rules designed to address energy security risks by procuring day-ahead energy call options on several new reserve products (Dockets No. EL18-182, ER20-1567). In response, ISO-NE began to revisit this effort in 2022 by introducing its Day-Ahead Ancillary Services Initiative (“DASI”). With DASI, ISO-NE has rescoped its previous approach to focus on developing two market products that will allow it to procure and price ancillary service capabilities needed for a reliable, next-day operating plan with an evolving resource mix:
  - An Energy Imbalance Reserve would cover the “gap” when the day-ahead market fails to clear sufficient physical energy supply to satisfy 100% of the ISO’s forecast load; and
  - Day-Ahead Flexible Response Services would procure day-ahead 10-and 30-minute energy supply and load reduction services to enable the system to recover from sudden unexpected supply loss events and respond quickly to fluctuations in net load during the operating day.

As part of this effort ISO-NE is also developing market mitigation and other conforming rule changes. ISO-NE plans to continue discussing and fleshing out the detailed designs with stakeholders throughout 2023 and file with FERC by the end of 2023. DRFA will continue to participate in this effort.

## Other Matters

DRFA also actively participated in ISO-NE, NEPOOL, and NESCOE projects addressing numerous other issues impacting the cost and reliability of electricity for Massachusetts consumers. In particular, DRFA participated in several efforts directed towards defining and mitigating New England’s winter season energy adequacy risk in 2022.

- The severe weather and electricity system failure events in Texas in 2021 caused ISO-NE to examine whether New England is adequately assessing and preparing for low probability, high impact reliability risks, and it began an initiative to consider how to study and address such reliability risks. In 2022, ISO-NE, with the support of the Electric Power Research Institute, conducted detailed modeling to quantify tail risks related to extreme weather events and to develop analytic scenarios that simulate bulk power system operating conditions under extreme weather conditions. ISO-NE plans to complete this analysis and modeling effort in 2023, and then begin a stakeholder discussion focused on understanding if and how the region should protect against the risks, considering both market-based and policy or administrative tools.

- In September, the FERC convened the New England Winter Gas-Electric Forum (“Forum”) in Burlington, VT “to discuss the electricity and natural gas challenges facing the New England region.” Several Massachusetts energy officials, including the DPU Chair, participated in the Forum. In conjunction with the other New England states, DRFA participated in developing NESCOE’s post-Forum comments to the FERC.
- ISO-NE conducted a region-wide tabletop exercise designed for ISO-NE, utility, and state officials to test operational and communications processes during a hypothetical declared regional winter energy shortfall. The tabletop exercise led to follow on efforts to address lessons learned, including the need for better coordination of electricity and natural gas distribution system outage and restoration operations, and discussions regarding the coordination of state public communications and messaging.
- In July, the six New England Governors sent a letter to DOE Secretary Granholm expressing concern about unusually high global LNG prices and their implications for regional energy consumers. The Governors asked the DOE Secretary to consider taking specific measures to mitigate this regional energy risk, including waiving the Jones Act requirements that restrict New England’s access to U.S. LNG supplies and considering the development of a regional strategic energy reserve.



## ELECTRIC POWER DIVISION

### Overview

The Electric Power Division (“EPD”) provides technical support to the Department in the regulation of the Commonwealth’s four investor-owned electric distribution companies (“EDCs”): Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, doing business as Unitil; Massachusetts Electric Company (“MECo”) and Nantucket Electric Company (“Nantucket Electric”), together doing business as National Grid;<sup>3</sup> and NSTAR Electric Company (“NSTAR Electric”), doing business as Eversource Energy (“Eversource”).

The EPD’s primary mission is to ensure that the regulated electric utilities provide their customers with the most reliable service at the lowest possible cost. The EPD also oversees and implements initiatives that encourage clean and renewable energy and is responsible for the development and implementation of the policies and rules resulting from the enactment of the 2008 Green Communities Act (“GCA”), the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act (“GWSA”), the 2021 Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy Act (“2021 Climate Act”), the 2022 Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind Act (“2022 Clean Energy Act”), and other energy and climate related legislation.<sup>4</sup> EPD’s responsibilities fall into three general categories:

1. The provision of electric supply to customers, including competitive supply, municipal aggregation, and basic service;
2. Initiatives and activities aimed at achieving a more efficient, modernized, and environmentally sustainable electricity system including energy efficiency; distributed generation including renewables and storage, net metering, and interconnection; grid modernization; and electric vehicle charging infrastructure; and
3. Electric distribution system reliability and safety, including storm and emergency response, service quality, and vegetation management.

In addition to these specific categories, EPD staff work with other Department Divisions on larger cases such as distribution company rate cases and merger proposals.

### Electric Supply

Prior to the enactment of Chapter 164 of the Acts of 1997, *An Act Relative to Restructuring the Electric Utility Industry in the Commonwealth, Regulating the Provision of Electricity and Other Services, and Promoting Enhanced Consumer Protections Therein* (the “Electric Restructuring Act”), customers had no choice but to purchase both the delivery and supply components of their electric service from their EDC. The Electric Restructuring Act introduced competition in the Massachusetts electric industry by giving consumers the option to purchase the supply component of their electric service from a competitive retail supplier or municipal aggregation, or to continue receiving electricity procured by their electric company as “basic service.”

<sup>3</sup> MECo and Nantucket Electric frequently make joint filings.

<sup>4</sup> *An Act Relative to Green Communities, Chapter 169 of the Acts of 2008; An Act Establishing the Global Warming Solutions Act, Chapter 298 of the Acts of 2008; An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy, Chapter 8 of the Acts of 2021; and An Act Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind, Chapter 179 of the Acts of 2022; respectively.*

## Competitive Power Supply

The Department grants licenses to entities qualified to serve as competitive suppliers<sup>5</sup> and electricity brokers<sup>6</sup> (jointly referred to as competitive supply companies) in the restructured industry. EPD staff review license applications to determine whether the applicant has demonstrated, among other things, the financial and technical capability to provide the applicable services. As of year-end 2022, there are 71 licensed competitive suppliers and 271 licensed electricity brokers in Massachusetts.

The Department launched Energy Switch Massachusetts<sup>7</sup> in October of 2016. Energy Switch Massachusetts is an interactive online tool that provides product information to residential and small business electricity consumers who seek to purchase their electric supply from the competitive market. The website allows licensed competitive suppliers to list multiple products to allow consumers to select the energy supply product that best meets their needs. Shoppers can compare products based on price, length of contract, renewable energy resource content, and additional products and services. As of year-end 2022, there are 18 competitive suppliers who have elected to participate on the website to actively market at least one residential product to consumers.

On July 6, 2017, the Department issued its Order in Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion to Establish Interim Guidelines for Competitive Supply Formal Investigations and Proceedings, D.P.U. 16-156-A, including interim guidelines, that established the procedures by which it would investigate the performance of competitive supply companies pursuant to our authority under G.L. c. 164, § 1F and 220 CMR 11.07. The interim guidelines provide for both informal reviews (through which a competitive supply company may agree to enter an informal remedial plan with the Department's Delegated Commissioner<sup>8</sup> to address the issue underlying the complaint) and formal public adjudicatory proceedings (through which the Department may take licensure action, impose civil penalties, execute a remedial plan, or a combination of the three).

During 2022, the Delegated Commissioner entered into three agreements with competitive suppliers:

1. The Delegated Commissioner had concerns with one competitive supplier regarding door-to-door marketing activities. The competitive supplier agreed to donate \$33,000 to a charity that is part of the Attorney General's Residential Energy Assistance Grant program.
2. The Delegated Commissioner had concerns with one competitive supplier regarding non-compliance with certain notification requirements. The competitive supplier agreed to donate \$24,750 to a charity that is part of the Attorney General's Residential Energy Assistance Grant program.
3. The Delegated Commissioner had concerns with one competitive supplier and the competitive supplier agreed to return its residential customers to basic service within 90 days of the agreement if the customer's rate was above basic service. For customers that were paying less than basic service, the competitive supplier would return those customers at the end of the customer's term. The competitive supplier also agreed to not sign up new residential customers for a period of two years.

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<sup>5</sup> Competitive suppliers are entities that procure electricity from generation facilities at the wholesale level and sell the electricity to consumers at retail cost.

<sup>6</sup> Electricity brokers are entities that facilitate or arrange for the sale of electricity to customers, acting as intermediaries between suppliers and customers.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.energyswitchma.gov/>

<sup>8</sup> The Delegated Commissioner refers to the commissioner whom the Chairman – with authorization from the Commission – delegates the authority to, among other things, initiate an Informal Review to investigate a competitive supplier's conduct. D.P.U. 16-156-A, Att. A, Competitive Supply Interim Guidelines, Section 2(2) (2017).

The Delegated Commissioner entered into settlement agreements (in the context of formal proceedings) with two competitive suppliers related to their telemarketing activities – these agreements were filed in the respective docketed proceedings and are still under review by the Department as of December 2022.<sup>9</sup>

In August 2018, the Attorney General issued a report (updated twice) regarding pricing and marketing concerns in the competitive residential supply market in Massachusetts. As a result of this report and legislative inquiries about it, the Department initiated an investigation into the competitive supply market on January 18, 2019, which is being addressed in phases and remains ongoing.<sup>10</sup> The Department announced that it seeks to work with stakeholders to examine initiatives that would:

1. Increase customer awareness of the electric competitive supply market and the value these markets can provide, thus allowing customers to make well-informed decisions;
2. Improve the Department’s ability to oversee and investigate competitive suppliers’ marketing practices; and
3. Improve the operational efficiency of the electric competitive supply market to optimize the value that the market provides to customers.

On July 6, 2022, the Department issued D.P.U. 19-07-C, which established two new processes related to competitive supply. First, the Department now makes renewal applications of competitive supply companies available on the Department’s website. Second, the Department established the actions that the Department will take against competitive supply companies that fail to submit their annual license renewal application. As a result of this new process, the Department withdrew two competitive supplier licenses and 39 electricity broker licenses in 2022.

## Municipal Aggregation

The Electric Restructuring Act also included provisions that allow a municipality (or group of municipalities) to aggregate the electrical load of customers located within its municipal boundary for the purpose of purchasing competitive power supply. A municipality that seeks to implement a “municipal aggregation” plan must receive Department approval before it can select a supplier to serve customers. To help customers better understand their available supply options, a majority of municipal aggregations are also listed on the Department’s Energy Switch Massachusetts website.

The number of customers served by municipal aggregations in the Commonwealth has grown substantially, particularly in the last decade. According to data from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (“DOER”),<sup>11</sup> as of October 2022, 43% of residential, 31% of low-income and 39% of small commercial and industrial (“C&I”) customers are supplied from municipal aggregation programs. Between 1999 and 2021, the Department received 262 petitions from municipalities to establish or amend municipal aggregation programs, with 250 of the petitions received since the beginning of 2013. As of November 14, 2022, the Department has approved municipal aggregation plans for 176 municipalities and is currently reviewing another 32 plans. In 2022, the Department received five new petitions. On May 17, 2022, the Department approved the municipal aggregation plan of the City of Fitchburg (D.P.U. 20-117). In the Order, the Department clarified that certain

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<sup>9</sup> The settlement agreements resulted from the following formal proceedings: (1) Department of Public Utilities’ Notice of Probable Violation to Mega Energy of New England, LLC, D.P.U. 20-47 (2020); and (2) Department of Public Utilities’ Notice of Probable Violation to Palmco Power MA, LLC d/b/a Indra Energy, D.P.U. 20-48 (2020).

<sup>10</sup> Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Initiatives to Promote and Protect Consumer Interests in the Retail Electric Competitive Supply Market, D.P.U. 19-07 (2019).

<sup>11</sup> See <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/electric-gas-customer-choice-data>

price change notification procedures applicable to competitive suppliers also apply to municipal aggregations. Specifically, the municipal aggregator shall announce any change in program price (either at the start of a new supply contract or as a result of a change in law, and assuming voluntary renewable energy content remains the same) through a direct mail notice to program participants to be received no later than 30 days prior to the effective date of the program change in price. There are 121 municipalities remaining in the Commonwealth that are eligible to establish a municipal aggregation program (i.e., those not served by a municipal electric company that have not already submitted a plan to the Department) but have not done so yet.

## Basic Service

Basic service, formerly known as “default service”, is the retail power supply service that each EDC provides to those customers who choose to not receive such service from the competitive market. Each EDC procures power supply for its basic service customers from the wholesale electricity markets through competitive solicitation processes.

For its residential and small C&I customers, each EDC issues a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for basic service supply on a semiannual basis. Each solicitation procures fifty percent of the company’s basic service supply requirement for these customers for a twelve-month term. As such, at any point in time, basic service rates for residential and small C&I customers are based on the winning bid prices from the two most recent solicitations. As a result, the fixed basic service rate that an EDC assesses to its residential and small C&I customers typically changes every six months.

For its medium and large C&I customers, a distribution company issues an RFP solicitation for basic service supply on a quarterly basis. Each solicitation procures 100% of the company’s basic service supply requirement for these customers for a three-month term. As a result, the fixed basic service rate that an EDC assesses to its larger C&I customers typically changes every three months.

In addition to procuring power supply for its basic service customers, each EDC (as well as all other licensed retail electricity suppliers) must comply with the state’s various portfolio standard programs.<sup>12</sup> These programs require that certain percentages of the electricity they supply to customers come from renewable and clean energy resources. Compliance with these programs is documented through the purchase and retirement of certificates (or through making Alternative Compliance Payments) generated by qualified renewable and clean energy resources. These certificates (or “Alternative Compliance Payments”) must be procured in an amount equal to a certain percentage of retail sales to customers.<sup>13</sup>

EPD staff reviews each company’s solicitations to ensure that they comply with the Department’s rules and regulations and are sufficiently competitive such that the results of the solicitations are consistent with prevailing market conditions.

Wholesale market conditions resulted in failed procurements during 2022 for some of the required basic service solicitations. Consequently, the EDCs filed alternative supply proposals with the Department that allowed for the companies to “self supply.” This means that the EDCs purchase hourly energy directly from Independent

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<sup>12</sup> These include the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (“RPS”) Class I program, the RPS Solar Carve-out (“SREC”) program, the RPS Solar Carve-out II (“SREC II”) program, the RPS Class II Renewable program, the RPS Class II Waste-to-energy program, the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (“APS”), and the Clean Peak Energy Standard (“CPS”) programs administered by DOER, as well as the Clean Energy Standard (“CES”) and CES for Existing Resources (“CES-E”) administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (“MassDEP”).

<sup>13</sup> For example, the RPS Class I requirement in 2022 is that 20% of all retail sales be matched with RPS Class I renewable energy certificates (“RECs”) generated by qualified renewable facilities.

System Operator New England, Inc. (“ISO-NE”) and pass through the costs via existing rate reconciliation mechanisms. The basic service rates are estimated rates at the time the consumer purchases electricity. The Department approved several alternative procurement plans in 2022, including for large C&I customers in Eversource East and National Grid and for residential and small commercial customers in Unitil’s service territory. Given the failed procurements and alternative supply proposals, the Department’s General Counsel indicated that the Department would open an investigation to examine our rules governing procurement strategies for basic service solicitations.<sup>14</sup>

The number of residential electric and low-income electric customers in arrears *increased* as compared to the same time last year by 0.6% and 2.7%, respectively. The number of residential gas and low-income gas customers in arrears decreased by 2.8% and 10.1%, respectively.

## Energy Efficiency

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Massachusetts EDCs have administered and implemented ratepayer-funded energy efficiency (“EE”) programs for more than 20 years. Since the passage of the GCA in 2008, gas companies also submit energy efficiency plans to the Department for approval every three years. The EPD reviews the proposed plans to ensure that, among other things:

- The programs are delivered cost-effectively, capturing all available energy efficiency opportunities;
- Administrative costs have been minimized to the fullest extent practicable;
- Competitive procurement processes have been used to the fullest extent practicable; and
- A minimum of 10% of the budget is allocated toward low-income spending, while also being mindful of rate and bill impacts on consumers.

On January 31, 2022, the Department approved the 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for all electric and gas Program Administrators (“PAs”), with modifications.<sup>15</sup> The 2022-2024 Three-Year Plans emphasize strategic electrification, improve equitable access to energy efficiency programs by reducing barriers to participation for customers that historically have yet to participate in these programs, and are designed to contribute their share of greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions reductions to achieve the Commonwealth’s aggressive 2030 GHG emissions reduction targets and continue progress towards net-zero emissions by 2050. In 2022, the Department worked on various routine EE related dockets, such as reviewing prior term reports, annual reports, outstanding motions, and cost recovery matters. In addition, the Department is currently reviewing a proposal from the Cape Light Compact JPE for a request to implement a Cape and Vineyard Electrification Offering pursuant to Section 87A of the 2022 Clean Energy Act, in which the Legislature allowed for the PAs to submit proposed low- and moderate-income whole building efficiency, electrification, and GHG reduction offerings to a limited number of participants.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Response to Attorney General Letter of September 21, 2022, D.P.U. 22-BSF-D3.

<sup>15</sup> D.P.U. 21-120 through D.P.U. 21-129.

<sup>16</sup> Cape Light Compact JPE, D.P.U. 22-137, Petition (October 27, 2022).



## Renewable Energy and Storage, Net Metering, and the Interconnection of Distributed Generation

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### Introduction

The GCA and subsequent legislation<sup>17</sup> include provisions on the following policies related to renewable and other distributed energy resources:

- Net metering;
- Customer incentive programs for distributed generation;
- Utility-owned solar;
- Long-term contracts for renewable and clean energy; and
- Interconnection of distributed generation.

### Net Metering and the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (“SMART”) Program

Net metering refers to the process of measuring and compensating or crediting customers the difference between customer-owned excess electric generation that is exported back to the grid and the electricity purchased by the customer from the distribution company. While net metering has existed in some form in Massachusetts since the early 1980s, Section 78 of the GCA required the Department to adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement new provisions relating to net metering that substantially expanded the eligibility criteria. The 2021 Climate Act also directed the Department to modify some of the net metering rules and regulations.

In addition to further modifying the Commonwealth’s net metering rules, Chapter 75 of the Acts of 2016, *An Act Relative to Solar Energy*, also directed the DOER to adopt rules and regulations to establish a new solar incentive program, SMART, and permitted the program to be implemented via the establishment of a tariff. The Department approved the program through the issuance of D.P.U. 17-140-A on September 26, 2018.

Regarding net metering and SMART in 2022, the EPD:

- Continued the implementation of a net metering system of assurance;<sup>18</sup>
- Opened a rulemaking (D.P.U. 21-100) to implement provisions related to net metering in the 2021 Climate Act;
- Reviewed two petitions for an exception from the net metering regulations;
- Continued reviewing a joint petition from the EDCs seeking approval of changes to the model SMART tariff related to DOER’s 2020 program review and rulemaking;<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> This includes (1) *An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011 to Provide for Supplementing Certain Existing Appropriations and for Certain Other Activities and Projects*, Chapter 359 of the Acts of 2010; (2) *An Act Relative to Competitively Priced Electricity in the Commonwealth*, Chapter 209 of the Acts of 2012; (3) *An Act Relative to Credit for Thermal Energy Generated with Renewable Fuels*, Chapter 251 of the Acts of 2014; (4) *An Act Relative to Solar Energy*, Chapter 75 of the Acts of 2016; (5) *An Act to Promote Energy Diversity*, Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2016; (6) *An Act to Advance Clean Energy*, Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2018; (7) *2021 Climate Act*, Chapter 8 of the Acts of 2021; (8) *2022 Clean Energy Act*, Chapter 176 of the Acts of 2022.

<sup>18</sup> The website is available at [www.massACA.org](http://www.massACA.org)

<sup>19</sup> Joint Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, for Approval of Revised Model Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Program Tariff, D.P.U. 20-145 (opened December 3, 2020).

- Continued implementing and working on expanding the SMART program;
- Reviewed nine applications for public IDs and 13 blanket exceptions to the net metering rules; and
- Responded to many stakeholder inquiries related to net metering and the SMART program implementation.

## Utility-Owned Solar

In accordance with G.L. c. 164, § 1A(f), the EDCs may construct, own, and operate solar generation facilities and seek approval for cost recovery for those facilities from the Department, subject to certain limitations. In 2016, the Department granted petitions filed by each of the EDCs for approval of its program to construct, own, and operate solar generation facilities, subject to company-specific capacity and program cost caps.<sup>20</sup> Since program approval, the Department individually reviews and approves the final capital costs of each facility constructed under the approved programs before the costs can be recovered from ratepayers. In 2022, the Department reviewed the costs associated with one new facility.<sup>21</sup> Under the Department-approved programs, each EDC has constructed the following:

- National Grid owns and operates approximately 30 megawatts (“MW”) of solar capacity, across 30 facilities put into operation between 2010 and 2021, with three facilities paired with storage;
- Eversource Energy owns and operates approximately 70 MW of solar capacity, across 22 facilities put into operation in 2010 and 2019;<sup>22</sup> and
- Unitil owns and operates one approximately 1.3 MW solar facility, made operational in 2017.

Annually, the Department also reviews reconciliation filings for rate factors allowing recovery of costs associated with each EDC’s utility-owned solar program. The costs of the program are offset in part by revenues from the sale of energy, RECs, and capacity market payments.

Section 77 of the 2021 Climate Act permits the EDCs to construct additional solar facilities, within certain parameters. Among other specifications, facilities constructed pursuant to Section 77 must: (1) be constructed on EDC-owned land within municipalities at high risk from the effects of climate change, with a preference for participation by municipalities with environmental justice populations; and (2) be paired, where feasible, with energy storage designed to improve climate adaptation and resiliency or contribute to the Commonwealth meeting its carbon emission limits. The Department is currently reviewing two proposals from Eversource Energy: one proposal for two solar-plus-storage facilities on gas operating company land in Brockton (1.89 MW) and Lawrence (1.02 MW), and one proposal for a solar-plus-storage facility on electric operating company land in Yarmouth (2.1 MW).<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> The relevant dockets approving each EDC’s utility-owned solar programs are: D.P.U. 09-05 and D.P.U. 13-50 (Western Massachusetts Electric Company); D.P.U. 09-38, D.P.U. 14-01, D.P.U. 15-134 and D.P.U. 16-104 (National Grid); D.P.U. 16-05 (Eversource Energy).

<sup>21</sup> Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, to the Department of Public Utilities for approval of recovery of costs associated with one Solar Phase III generation facility located in Northbridge Massachusetts, pursuant to Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 16-104, and the Company’s Solar Cost Adjustment Provision tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 1474, D.P.U. 22-16.

<sup>22</sup> This includes 3 facilities with 8 MW of capacity constructed by Western Massachusetts Electric Company.

<sup>23</sup> Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of a Proposed Solar Facility in Yarmouth, Massachusetts Pursuant to St. 2021, c. 8, § 77, D.P.U. 22-64 and Petition of

## Long-Term Contracts for Renewable Energy

Under Section 83 of the GCA, the EDCs were required, after consultation with DOER, to solicit proposals from developers of renewable energy projects and to execute long-term power purchase agreements (“PPAs”) for energy and/or RECs in order to facilitate the development, financing, and construction of these projects, subject to the approval of the PPAs by the Department. The Department approved approximately 150 MW of generation for new renewable energy projects for five PPAs submitted by the EDCs in 2011.<sup>24</sup>

Since then, subsequent legislation was enacted to expand the long-term PPA construct and target specific types of renewable energy:

### Section 83A

Under Section 36 of Chapter 209 of the Acts of 2012, An Act Relative to Competitively Priced Electricity in the Commonwealth, a new and expanded version of Section 83 was enacted – Section 83A – which increases the number of solicitations the EDCs are required to conduct. Section 83A requires each EDC to jointly solicit proposals for long-term contracts of 10 to 20 years in duration from renewable energy developers at least twice during the period from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2016. If the proposals received are reasonable, each EDC must enter into cost-effective long-term contracts to facilitate the financing of renewable energy generation. On February 26, 2014, the Department approved 12 long-term contracts for three wind energy projects.<sup>25</sup> On June 15, 2018, the Department approved 10 long-term contracts for the procurement of renewable energy and RECs from 10 individual renewable energy projects.<sup>26</sup>

### Section 83C (Offshore Wind)

Under Section 83C of Chapter 188 of the Acts of 2016, An Act to Promote Energy Diversity (“Energy Diversity Act”), the EDCs are required to jointly and competitively solicit proposals for offshore wind energy generation in Massachusetts and enter into cost-effective long-term contracts equal to approximately 1,600 MW of aggregate nameplate capacity no later than June 30, 2027. Under Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2018, An Act to Advance Clean Energy, the EDCs were required to procure up to 1,600 MW of additional offshore wind energy generation capacity. In 2021, under Section 91 of the 2021 Climate Act<sup>27</sup>, the Legislature increased the total mandatory offshore wind procurements to 5,600 MW.

- On April 12, 2019, in D.P.U. 18-76/18-77/18-78, the Department approved a long-term contract between the EDCs and Vineyard Wind for 800 MW of offshore wind energy generation capacity to be developed in two 400 MW phases (Round I 83C PPAs). On October 21, 2021, the Department approved amendments that extend the critical milestones of the Vineyard Wind contracts.
- On November 5, 2020, in D.P.U. 20-16/20-17/20-18, the Department approved a long-term contract between the EDCs and Mayflower Wind for 804 MW of offshore wind energy generation capacity to be developed in two approximately 400 MW phases (Round II 83C PPAs). On May 25, 2022, the EDCs submitted amendments to the Mayflower PPAs to move the interconnection and delivery point from

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Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of Proposed Solar Facilities in Brockton and Lawrence, Massachusetts Pursuant to St. 2021, c. 8, § 77, D.P.U. 22-65.

<sup>24</sup> For more information on the PPAs approved by the Department under Section 83, please see D.P.U. 11-05/06/07, D.P.U. 11-12, D.P.U. 11-30.

<sup>25</sup> See D.P.U. 13-146/147/148/149. One of the approved projects was subsequently terminated.

<sup>26</sup> The projects include both wind and solar renewable energy projects. See D.P.U. 17-117/17-118/17-119/17-120.

<sup>27</sup> Also Sections 69 and 72 of Chapter 24 of the Acts of 2021, An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2022.



Barnstable on Cape Cod to Brayton Point. The Department has not yet ruled on the contract amendments.

- On May 25, 2022, in D.P.U. 22-70/22-71/22-72, the EDCs filed two long-term offshore wind contracts for approval, a 1,200 MW contract with Commonwealth Wind and a 405 MW contract with Mayflower Wind, for a total of 1,605 MW of offshore wind generation (Round III 83C PPAs). On December 30, 2022, the Department approved the contracts.<sup>28</sup>

### Section 83D (Hydroelectric)

Section 83D of the Energy Diversity Act allows the EDCs to solicit proposals and enter into contracts for clean energy generation for an annual amount of electricity equal to approximately 9,450,000 MWh by December 31, 2022.<sup>29</sup>

- On June 25, 2019, in D.P.U. 18-64/65/66, the Department approved a long-term contract for hydroelectric generation between the EDCs and H.Q. Energy Services (U.S.) Inc., an affiliate of Hydro-Quebec and a transmission service agreement between the EDCs and Central Maine Power Company. The EDCs have filed up to three amendments to the PPAs and/or the transmission service agreement to address transmission delays

### **Interconnection of Distribution Generation**

Interconnection is the process by which distributed generation (“DG”) is electrically integrated into the electric power system (“EPS”). In May 2019, in response to increasing interconnection requests and DG saturation on the Commonwealth’s distribution system, the Department opened an investigation (D.P.U. 19-55) into the interconnection of DG to ensure an efficient and effective interconnection process that will foster continued growth of DG while ensuring a safe and reliable EPS. In 2022, the Department issued an Order directing the DG and Clean Energy Ombudsperson to facilitate establishment of an Energy Storage Interconnection Review Group (“ESIRG”).<sup>30</sup> The ESIRG was established in April 2022 and continues to meet regularly.<sup>31</sup> The investigation in D.P.U. 19-55 is ongoing and expected to continue into 2023 as the Department anticipates it will likely address other issues on which comments have been provided to date, such as the timeline enforcement mechanisms and the implementation of certain technical standards.

As part of its investigation, the Department also solicited proposals from stakeholders for alternative methodologies to allocate interconnection related costs among DG customers. In February 2020, the

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<sup>28</sup> After the evidentiary record had closed, Commonwealth Wind filed a Motion to delay the evidentiary proceeding for one month to re-open the record to introduce information on an increase in costs and prices since it filed its bid prices. Mayflower Wind subsequently filed a Motion in support of the Commonwealth Wind motion. The Department issued an Interlocutory Order, not approving the extension of time as requested by Commonwealth Wind – and requiring Commonwealth Wind to either default on the contracts or withdraw its motion. Commonwealth Wind indicated that it would not default on its contract at this time. Mayflower Wind withdrew its motion in support of Commonwealth Wind. In the December 30, 222 Order, the DPU denied Commonwealth Wind, LLC’s Motion to Dismiss the proceedings because Commonwealth Wind, LLC did not meet the standard for dismissal of the proceeding.

<sup>29</sup> Clean energy generation is defined as (1) firm service hydroelectric generation; (2) new RPS Class I eligible resources; and (3) new RPS Class I eligible resources firmed up with firm service hydroelectric generation.

<sup>30</sup> Order Establishing the Energy Storage Interconnection Review Group, D.P.U. 19-55-E (February 9, 2022).

<sup>31</sup> <https://ngus.force.com/s/article/Energy-Storage-Interconnection-Review-Group>

Department received six proposals. In response, the Department developed and released its own proposal (“Straw Proposal”) for public comment in October 2020 as part of a separate investigation into distributed energy resource planning and assignment and recovery of costs for the interconnection of distributed generation.<sup>32</sup> Upon identification of an imminent issue of high interconnection costs for almost a gigawatt of DG seeking to interconnect to the EPS, the Department bifurcated its investigation into establishment of a long-term system planning program and establishment of a provisional program to address short-term concerns. Following public comment, several rounds of information requests and a technical conference, the Department issued an Order in November 2021, establishing a provisional program for planning and funding essential upgrades to the EPS to foster timely and cost-effective development and interconnection of DG. The provisional framework allows the EDCs to file certain EPS infrastructure upgrade proposals (based on the Department’s Straw Proposal and also known as capital investment projects or “CIPs”) with the Department that limit the interconnection costs allocated to each DG facility. Under the provisional design, customers will help fund the initial construction of the EPS upgrades but will be reimbursed over time from fees charged to future DG facilities that are able to interconnect due to the prior upgrades. This new pathway should help facilitate an equitable allocation of costs and remove barriers to the Commonwealth’s progress to a clean energy future. The Department received eight CIP proposals in 2022, six of which are currently under investigation. The Department issued its first Order in the provisional program on December 30, 2022, approving the CIP proposal filed by Eversource for the Marion-Fairhaven Group Study.<sup>33</sup> The CIP will cost \$119 million, of which \$54 million is proposed to be borne by distributed generation (“DG”) facilities, at a cost of \$385 per kW of installed capacity. The remaining \$65 million would be borne by ratepayers and is expected to increase rates by 0.1% to 0.2%, or 24¢ per month for the average residential customer using 516 kWh per month across all Eversource territories. The CIP will enable 141 MW of DG projects.

The 2022 Clean Energy Act established a new process and requirements for long-term electric system planning. The process established by the 2022 Clean Energy Act effectively establishes a statutory, long-term system planning requirement for enabling distributed energy resource development to increase timely adoption of renewable energy and distributed energy resources. Therefore, by Order on September 12, 2022, the Department found that its continued investigation of a long-term system planning program in D.P.U. 20-75 was moot. Accordingly, the Department suspended its investigation and closed the proceeding.<sup>34</sup>

In addition to its investigations, the DG and Clean Energy Ombudsperson and Department staff:

- Respond to stakeholder inquiries, concerns and complaints related to DG interconnection;
- Facilitate and review the “good faith negotiation” of parties involved in interconnection disputes pursuant to the process set forth in the Standard for Interconnection of DG Tariff and offer independent problem solving;
- Attend and participate in the Massachusetts Technical Standards Review Group (“TSRG”), an ongoing effort to address various interconnection-related technical challenges. The Department’s DG and clean energy ombudsperson is an *ex officio* member of the TSRG;

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<sup>32</sup> Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on Its Own Motion Into Electric Distribution Companies’ (1) Distributed Energy Resource Planning and (2) Assignment and Recovery of Costs for the Interconnection of Distributed Generation, D.P.U. 20-75 (opened October 22, 2020).

<sup>33</sup> Order on Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company’s Marion-Fairhaven capital investment project proposal under the Provisional Program established by the Department in Provisional System Planning Program, D.P.U. 20-75-B (2021), D.P.U. 22-47 (December 30, 2022).

<sup>34</sup> Order Closing Investigation of Long-Term System Planning Program, D.P.U. 20-75-C (September 12, 2022).

- Work with stakeholders and the distribution companies to identify and resolve issues related to DG interconnection not appropriate for resolution through docketed matters; and
- Work with stakeholders, other government agencies, and external organizations to explore innovative efficiencies for the interconnection of DG and implement relevant provisions of legislation.

Finally, DG saturation on the Commonwealth's distribution system has led to an increased need for transmission level impact studies for DG facilities under five MW. In response, the Department continues to work closely with the EDCs, transmission owners, and ISO-NE to ensure efficient processing of transmission level infrastructure impact studies as well as ensuring transparency of information to stakeholders.

## Utility-Owned Storage

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In May 2018, the Department preauthorized the first two utility-scale storage demonstration projects<sup>35</sup> in the Commonwealth. In September 2022, Eversource commissioned the storage demonstration project in the Outer Cape. The capacity of the Outer Cape project is 25 MW/38 megawatt hours ("MWh"), and the project can provide back-up power by islanding to customers that are served by a single distribution line. The Department established a set of performance metrics for the storage project in 2019 and expects annual performance reports from Eversource starting in 2023. In May 2021, the Department issued an Order (D.P.U. 20-69-A) providing guidance on future utility-scale energy storage proposals. Additional storage investment plans are expected in the near future.

## Grid Modernization

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The Department's vision for grid modernization is a cleaner, more efficient and reliable electric grid that would empower customers to manage and reduce their energy costs. The Department has also established three grid modernization objectives:

1. Optimizing system performance;
2. Optimizing system demand; and
3. Facilitating and integrating distributed energy resources.

In May 2018, the Department issued an Order (D.P.U. 15-120/D.P.U. 15-121/D.P.U. 15-122) pre-authorizing the EDCs to make \$220 million in grid-facing grid modernization investments in the 2018-2020 term. In 2020, the Department extended that term by one year, and in early 2021, the Department preauthorized Eversource an additional \$56 million in continued investments for the extended term.

As the first four-year term of grid modernization investments ended, in February 2022, the Department issued directives on the form and content of the 2018-2021 grid modernization term reports, including the narrative outline and data reporting template. Accordingly, in April 2022, the EDCs submitted term reports and related performance data for the Department's prudence review and final cost recovery. The prudence review is currently ongoing.

The Department reviewed and adjudicated new grid-facing grid modernization investment proposals and customer-facing grid modernization investment proposals (i.e., advanced metering infrastructure ("AMI") implementation plans) from the EDCs. On October 7, 2022, the Department issued an Order (D.P.U. 21-80-A/D.P.U. 21-81-A/D.P.U. 21-82-A) preauthorizing continuing grid-facing grid modernization investments of \$473 million for the term of 2022-2025.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> In implementing these projects, Eversource decided in May 2021 to cancel the project on Martha's Vineyard as the result of the final phase of its feasibility study.

<sup>36</sup> D.P.U. 21-80-A/D.P.U. 21-81-A/D.P.U. 21-82-A

On November 30, 2022, the Department issued an Order (D.P.U. 21-80-B/D.P.U. 21-81-B/D.P.U. 21-82-B) preauthorizing certain new grid-facing and customer-facing investments and preliminarily approving certain customer-facing investments, for a total of \$1.2 billion (\$80 million for new grid-facing investments, \$937 million for core AMI investments, and \$232 million for preliminary approval of supporting AMI investments).<sup>37</sup> The Department set term limits on these investments to ensure the deployment is on schedule and benefits to customers can be realized as early as possible. The EDCs will implement technologies that will dynamically manage and operate distributed energy resources interconnected to the grid system and deploy new-generation AMI meters in the next few years.

## Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

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Between 2018 and 2021, the Department approved multiple utility electric vehicle (“EV”) charging infrastructure programs by Eversource and National Grid for a total of \$96 million, enabling deployment of level 2 and direct current fast charging EV charging stations in public and workplace sites and multi-unit dwellings, as well as implementation of off-peak charging rebates for residential customers. The Department began an annual prudence review of National Grid’s Phase I and Phase II EV charging programs in late 2020. In April 2022, the Department denied National Grid \$144,000 in expenses that were spent imprudently during the 2019 program year. Department staff is currently conducting a prudence review of National Grid’s 2020 and 2021 spending. Eversource’s EV program is also under prudence review as part of the 2018-2021 grid-facing grid modernization term report proceeding.

In 2021, the Department issued an Order (D.P.U. 20-69-A) providing detailed guidance to the EDCs on filing EV charging infrastructure plans, including requirements under the Transportation Act to develop demand charge alternatives for commercial and industrial customers. In July 2021, the EDCs submitted their coordinated EV charging infrastructure plans with a total investment of \$471 million, and the Department issued Orders on these plans on December 30, 2022.<sup>38</sup>

## Distribution System Reliability and Safety

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EPD is responsible for ensuring that the Massachusetts EDCs provide their customers with safe and reliable electric service. EPD discharges this responsibility through three primary tools. First, the Department requires the EDCs to submit periodic reports on issues related to distribution system reliability, safety, and service quality, some of which are described below. Second, the Department requires that the EDCs maintain an electric customer power outage reporting website, which allows the Department to access real time information regarding significant power outages that occur on their distribution systems. Third, the Department reviews the EDCs’ annual service quality reports to determine if a penalty is warranted for failure to meet reliability benchmarks. Finally, EPD staff actively participates in meetings and forums with state, regional, and federal agencies and authorities in matters relating to electric system operation, safety, and reliability (e.g., ISO-NE’s Reliability Committee and Planning Advisory Committee) as well as those relating to electric grid system reliability and reliability standards development (e.g., ISO-NE, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, North American Electric Reliability Corporation, Northeast Power Coordinating Council).

## Reporting Requirements

The Department requires each EDC to periodically file reports on issues related to electric distribution system safety, service quality, and reliability. The Department reviews these reports and meets with the companies, as

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<sup>37</sup> D.P.U. 21-80-B/D.P.U. 21-81-B/D.P.U. 21-82-B

<sup>38</sup> D.P.U. 21-90/D.P.U. 21-91/D.P.U. 21-92.

necessary, to ensure that the companies' actions are consistent with Department requirements. Some of the periodic reports filed with the Department are described below.

### **Annual Planning and Reliability Report**

The annual planning and reliability report include an analysis of the company's distribution system, including:

- A ten-year load growth forecast capable of identifying high-growth areas/zones;
- A description of the company's transmission and distribution design and planning criteria and an explanation of how those criteria are applied;
- A distribution system operating study focused on contingency analysis and management;
- An update to corrective actions and significant capital investments planned for the next five years;
- A Resiliency Report, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 146, will be filed with each Company's 2022 Annual Reliability Report; and
- Heat Maps, as part of the Resiliency Report, indicating highly loaded and highly constrained areas as well as outage vulnerability.

### **Annual Emergency Response Plans and Activities**

The annual emergency response plans ("ERPs") detail the EDCs' plans to respond to any emergency event such as hurricanes or snowstorms. The EDCs are required to file their ERPs annually, including actions taken to prepare for an emergency event.<sup>39</sup> The ERPs are established pursuant to 220 CMR § 19.00, "Standards of Performance for Emergency Preparation and Restoration of Service" for Electric Distribution and Gas Companies and "Emergency Response Plan Guidelines" for the EDCs.

In addition, the Department serves as the lead agency for Emergency Support Function 12 (Energy). This includes closely monitoring weather conditions for storm events (e.g., blizzards, tropical storms, high wind events, etc.), coordinating with the EDCs regarding plans and preparations in response to such storm events, providing staff to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency ("MEMA") during storm activations (if needed), coordinating/liasing with the EDCs for restoration of electric service, and communicating system conditions and preparing briefings to senior administration leadership. In 2022, the most significant storm occurred on January 28-29, 2022, named Nor'easter Kenan. Electric distribution customer outages peaked at 118,458 statewide, with restoration deemed substantially complete (i.e., EDCs resumed normal operations) on February 1, 2022.

Lastly, the Department reviews the prudence and appropriateness of emergency response and storm restoration costs incurred by the EDCs. This action is performed when an EDC petitions the Department for recovery of such costs. The Department can also open an investigation into an EDC's emergency response actions should the Department feel that a company performed poorly during the planning or restoration stages.

### **Quarterly Significant Outage or Interruptions Report**

The quarterly significant outage or interruptions report summarizes all significant outages that occurred in a company's electric system, within the reporting quarter, including the actions taken or planned to mitigate the outage causes.

### **Quarterly Stray Voltage and Manhole Safety Report**

The quarterly stray voltage and manhole safety report describes each company's practices regarding stray voltage and manhole issues, including systematic testing/inspection and corrective actions performed consistent

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<sup>39</sup> EDCs' filed their 2022 ERPs (D.P.U. 22-ERP-08/D.P.U. 22-ERP-09/D.P.U. 22-ERP-10) in May 2022.



with the approved distribution safety plans. In addition, the EDCs are required to report on the nature of the stray voltage and manhole incidents as soon as they occur, including corrective actions. The Department continues to track those corrective actions and related activities.

### **Semi-Annual Double Pole Reports**

The semi-annual double pole report details the companies' efforts to address the double pole issue, including removal of poles and transfer of wires owned by various attachers. The double pole reports are filed pursuant to the Department's regulations relative to reducing the number of double utility poles in the Commonwealth, as required by Chapter 46 of the Acts of 2003. The source of the double pole data comes from a pole lifecycle management system ("PLM") database jointly developed by the utilities. The Department continues to monitor the semiannual double pole reports. The Department also monitors settlement agreements between the utilities and Verizon for pole ownership and cost sharing. In 2022, the Department provided support to the Department of Telecommunications and Cable's ("D.T.C.") adjudication of a complaint between a telecommunications provider and National Grid and Verizon, D.T.C. 22-4.

### **Reporting of Outage Events**

Each EDC is required to maintain, on a real-time basis, information regarding planned and unplanned outages that occur on its distribution system. Each company's outage report can be accessed by Department staff via a secure internet-based Outage Reporting Protocol ("ORP") system. The ORP information includes, for example:

- The location of the outage;
- Number of customers affected;
- Number of circuits affected or out of service;
- Likely cause;
- Any bodily injury; and
- Whether a critical facility, such as a hospital, is involved.

EPD staff monitors the ORP data and responds to reports of significant and/or frequent interruptions to customers and when a reliability trend is observed. In addition, each company annually files a report of all customer outages that occurred on its system in the prior year.

### **Service Quality Performance Reports**

The Department requires that each EDC submit an annual service quality report that details how the company has performed with respect to standards established in the Department's service quality guidelines. The Department issued D.P.U. 12-120-D on December 18, 2015, amending the guidelines to use ten-year (1996-2005), company specific, historic averages as a benchmark to evaluate outage frequency and duration, which continues to be used today. A major component of these guidelines relates to companies' performance regarding the frequency and duration of outages during the previous year, both on a system wide and circuit specific level, and performance relating to service appointments met, customer billing, and other customer-related complaints. EPD staff reviews each EDC's service quality report to evaluate performance. An EDC can incur a penalty of up to 2.5% of its distribution and transmission revenue if its service quality performance degrades in comparison to historic benchmark performance levels.

The Department most recently approved the 2020 Service Quality Reports of the EDCs in February 2022.<sup>40</sup> In its Order approving the 2020 Service Quality Reports, the Department penalized Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid \$13,678,603 for its performance in two reliability metrics and directed

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<sup>40</sup> D.P.U. 21-SQ-10 through 21-SQ-13

Massachusetts Electric Company to refund that penalty money to customers, which it did. The other EDCs incurred no penalties for their 2020 performance. The Department also addressed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in its 2020 Service Quality Report Order, acknowledging that the EDCs' performance in some customer service-related metrics was artificially low, which could impact the still-developing benchmarks for those metrics, and allowed the EDCs to substitute a historical average of the previous three years in place of the 2020 actual performance. The Department remains committed in improving service quality over time and driving companies to invest in technological improvements that improve reliability, customer satisfaction, and public safety.

## **Vegetation Management**

The Department oversees the full-scale base and pilot vegetation management programs implemented by the EDCs to trim trees and other vegetation near electric utility lines. The base vegetation management program requirements for the EDCs were established in the D.P.U. 11-85/11-119 series of Orders. For base vegetation management, each circuit is trimmed to certain specifications on a four-to-five-year cycle (i.e., ~25% of all circuit miles each year) regardless of vegetation clearance or overhang. Additionally, mid-cycle pruning is performed where needed. Hazard and risk trees are removed in coordination with the cycle pruning schedule, with additional off cycle profiling for risk and hazard trees based on reliability. Per the D.P.U. 11-85/11-119 series of Orders, all removed trees are tracked and reported to the DPU. Most of the pruning and tree removal work is completed by contractors with oversight performed by Company arborists. The EDCs also have more aggressive vegetation management pilot programs (e.g., Resiliency Tree Work ("RTW") Pilot Program). These programs are add-on/expansions of the EDCs base vegetation management program and support reliability performance and enhanced distribution system resiliency. Both the base vegetation management programs and the pilot programs are reviewed by EPD staff for approval through their annual compliance filings, cost recovery filings, and electric distribution rate cases.

## ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD AND DEPARTMENT SITING DIVISION

### Overview

The Energy Facilities Siting Board (“Siting Board”) is a nine-member board charged with reviewing proposed energy facilities defined by statute so as to provide “a reliable energy supply for the Commonwealth with a minimum impact on the environment at the lowest possible cost.” The Siting Board’s primary function is to review, and where appropriate, issue approvals (with conditions) for construction, zoning exemptions, eminent domain, certificates, and other siting-related determinations necessary for the construction and operation of major energy infrastructure in Massachusetts. Such facilities include large power plants, electric transmission lines, intrastate natural gas and oil pipelines, and storage facilities for natural gas (over 25,000 gallons) and fuel oil (over 500,000 barrels). Under its certificate authority, the Siting Board may override various regulatory or legal impediments to the construction of energy facilities (previously approved by the Siting Board) by issuing and/or altering the terms of other permits and approvals normally overseen by other state and local regulatory agencies.

Administratively, the Siting Board is located within the Department, although by statute it is not subject to the Department’s supervision or control. The Siting Board is supported by the staff of the Department’s Siting Division. The Board is comprised of:

- The Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, who is the Chair of the Board;
- Two Commissioners of the Department of Public Utilities;
- The Secretary of Housing and Economic Development;
- The Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection;
- The Commissioner of the Department of Energy Resources; and
- Three public members appointed by the Governor for a term coterminous with that of the Governor.

The Department has its own statutory jurisdiction regarding the siting of energy facilities that pre-dates the establishment of the Energy Facilities Siting Council in 1973 (the predecessor agency of the Energy Facilities Siting Board). The Department’s siting authority may be adjudicated in Department-only cases by Siting Board staff, or – if there is a related Siting Board case – consolidated with the Siting Board case and assigned to the Siting Board for review.

In support of its dual Siting Board and Department functions, the Siting Division staff:

- Adjudicates petitions to construct major energy infrastructure;
- Adjudicates petitions for issuance of state and local permits, licenses, or other approvals pursuant to the Siting Board’s Certificate authority;
- Adjudicates petitions by public service corporations for exemptions from local zoning requirements;
- Adjudicates petitions by utility companies for eminent domain approval and access to land for survey purposes in connection with proposed electric transmission and gas pipeline facilities;
- Represents the Commonwealth in proceedings before FERC with respect to interstate natural gas facilities to be sited in Massachusetts; and
- Oversees compliance with Siting Board and the Department decisions through ongoing oversight, and the issuance of orders and civil penalties for violation of Siting Board requirements.

A list of Siting Board decisions and Department Siting Division orders from 2022 is attached as Appendix 1.



## Siting Board Responsibilities

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### Overview

The Siting Board reviews petitions to construct major new energy infrastructure, including power plants, electric transmission lines, natural gas pipelines, and natural gas and fuel oil storage facilities, per G.L. c. 164, §§ 69G-S. Siting Board review is conducted by means of a formal adjudicatory proceeding in accordance with G.L. c. 30A. Final decisions of the Siting Board are appealable directly to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

The Siting Board's review of most types of energy infrastructure encompasses: the need for the facility and its energy reliability benefits; alternative means of meeting that need; alternative sites or routes; environmental impacts and potential mitigation measures; and project costs. In addition, the Board reviews the consistency of the proposed facility with certain policies of the Commonwealth, including health, environmental protection, environmental justice/language access, energy policies, and resource use and development policies. However, since restructuring of the electric utility industry in 1997, the Board's review of generating facilities no longer includes need or cost. The Siting Board's environmental reviews typically cover a broad range of issues, including:

- Potential impacts of a project on air quality, climate change, land use, wetlands and water resources, noise, traffic, visual impacts, flora and fauna habitat areas, magnetic fields, public health, and safety;
- Impact minimization and mitigation measures; and
- The feasibility and cost of mitigation.

Siting Board decisions represent a balancing of cost, local and regional environmental impacts, and the benefits of the project in terms of contributing to a reliable energy supply. Currently, the Siting Board has open cases regarding the review of generating facilities, transmission facilities, natural gas pipeline and storage facilities.

Additionally, on July 1, 2021, the Siting Board opened a Notice of Inquiry to examine procedural enhancements to increase public awareness of and participation in its proceedings. Specifically, the Siting Board will explore avenues to increase both the visibility of its public notices and promote equitable and meaningful public and stakeholder involvement throughout its proceedings. The Siting Board has docketed this inquiry as EFSB 21-01. As part of the NOI, the Siting Board intends to develop an environmental justice strategy, consistent with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Environmental Justice Policy, that will enhance meaningful involvement in Siting Board matters for all people and communities with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies, including climate change policies, and the equitable distributions of energy and environmental benefits and burdens. In August 2022, a joint roundtable with the Department was held with regard to the Notice of Inquiry and the Department's companion notice of inquiry, D.P.U. 21-50. Further action on the proceeding is expected in 2023.

### Federal Licensing Proceedings

The Siting Board represents the Commonwealth in proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") with respect to the construction of energy facilities in Massachusetts. The Siting Board was not active in any FERC proceedings during 2022.

## Permit Override Authority

Through the granting of a Certificate of Environmental Impact and Public Interest, the Siting Board has the authority to override a state or local ordinance, permit requirement, license, or other “burdensome condition or limitation” that would unduly delay or prevent construction of an energy facility approved by the Siting Board, per G.L. c. 164, §§ 69K-69O. A facility developer may also apply for a certificate if it determines there are inconsistencies among resource use permits issued by state or local agencies.

### East Eagle Substation

On February 16, 2022, the Eversource filed a petition for a Certificate of Environmental Impact and Public Interest for the Siting Board to issue 14 state and local permits required for construction and operation of the East Eagle Substation. The Substation was approved in 2017 as part of the Mystic-East Eagle-Chelsea Reliability Project in Eversource Energy, EFSB-14-04/D.P.U. 14-153/14-154 (2017). On November 30, 2022, the Siting Board issued a Final Decision approving the Certificate, with conditions.

## Enforcement

The Siting Board is authorized to levy a civil penalty when an applicant has violated any order of the Board, per G.L. c. 164, § 69H. The maximum fine is \$1,000 per day per violation, with a maximum civil penalty of \$200,000 for any related series of violations. The Siting Board did not levy any civil penalties in 2021.

## Siting Board Regulations

The regulations of the Siting Board are contained in 980 C.M.R. §§ 1.00-12.00. In 2022, no new regulations were promulgated nor were any rescinded or modified. The Siting Board is in the process of a thorough assessment of its regulations to determine whether to rescind, revise, or retain its current regulations.

## Review of Transmission Facilities

### East Eagle Substation

On December 23, 2014, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy filed EFSB 14-04/D.P.U. 14-153/14-154 with the Siting Board and the Department for approval to construct two new 115 kV underground transmission lines in Chelsea, Everett, and East Boston; to build a new substation in East Boston; and to modify existing substations in Chelsea and Everett. On November 15, 2018, Eversource submitted a proposed project change filing, notifying the Siting Board that the company and the City of Boston had completed a land swap, and that the proposed location of the new substation would be moved approximately 190 feet west, to the opposite (west) side of the City parcel. The project change was docketed as EFSB 14 04A/D.P.U. 14-153A/14-154A. On February 26, 2021, the Siting Board issued a final decision, approving the change of location for the substation. On August 31, 2021, Eversource filed a Community Benefits Agreement between it and two community organizations in East Boston, in compliance with the Siting Board’s Final Decision. On March 17, 2021, intervenor GreenRoots appealed the Final Decision to the Supreme Judicial Court. The Court issued a decision affirming the Siting Board on November 4, 2022.

On February 16, 2022, the Company filed for a Certificate of Environmental Impact and Public Interest for EFSB-issuance of 14 state and local permits required for construction and operation of the Substation, which was docketed as EFSB 22-01.

### Salem/Beverly Transmission Line

On June 27, 2019, New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid filed consolidated petitions with the Siting Board seeking approval to construct and zoning exemptions for an approximately 3.7-mile 115 kV underground electric transmission cable in the cities of Salem and Beverly, Massachusetts, docketed as EFSB 19-04/D.P.U. 19-77/19-78. On October 8, 2021, the Siting Board issued a Final Decision approving the Project,

with conditions. On May 26, 2022, National Grid filed a Resiliency Analysis for flood mitigation resilience outcomes at the Beverly #12 Substation in compliance with Conditions D and E of the Final Decision. The Company proposed installing a permanent flood wall around the perimeter of the substation. On August 12, 2022, the Chair of the EFSB concluded that the flood mitigation measures described in Option 3 of the Resiliency Analysis – the construction of a permanent flood wall around the perimeter of the Beverly #12 Substation – would provide an equivalent, or better, flood mitigation resilience outcome than installing only the new equipment for Beverly #12 Substation at an elevated height.

#### Bourne/West Barnstable Transmission Line

On November 8, 2019, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy filed consolidated petitions for approval to construct and zoning exemptions for an approximately 12.5-mile overhead 115 kV electric transmission line in the Towns of Bourne, Sandwich, and Barnstable, docketed as EFSB 19-06/D.P.U. 19-142/19-143. On December 16, 2022, the Siting Board issued a Final Decision approving the Project as a 345-kV-capable transmission line, with conditions.

#### Park City Wind

On May 28, 2020, Park City Wind LLC (f/k/a Vineyard Wind LLC) filed three related petitions with the Siting Board and the Department in connection with Park City Wind's proposal to construct and operate approximately 27 miles of underground onshore and subsea offshore 220 or 275 kV electric transmission line; a new substation in the Town of Barnstable; and an approximately 0.7-mile 345 kV underground transmission line between the New Onshore Substation and the existing West Barnstable Substation, docketed as EFSB 20-01/D.P.U. 20-56/20-57. A decision is expected in 2023.

#### Commonwealth Wind

On November 1, 2022, Commonwealth Wind, LLC filed three petitions with the Siting Board and Department for approval to construct and operate approximately 29.7 miles of underground onshore and subsea offshore 275 kV electric transmission line; a new substation in the Town of Barnstable; and an approximately 0.5-mile 345 kV underground transmission line between the New Onshore Substation and the existing West Barnstable Substation, docketed as EFSB 22-06/D.P.U. 22-105/22-106.

#### Mayflower Wind- Falmouth

On November 17, 2021, Mayflower Wind Energy LLC filed three related petitions with the Siting Board and Department in connection with Mayflower Wind's proposal to construct and operate approximately 27.5 miles of offshore and onshore, underground electric transmission lines with a nominal voltage between 200 and 345 kV; a new onshore substation in the Town of Falmouth; and an approximately 2.1-mile 345 kV transmission line between the new onshore substation and the Eversource's existing Falmouth Tap Substation, docketed as EFSB 21-03/D.P.U. 21-142/21-143. On December 2, 2022, the Company reported that it would not make any further substantive filings regarding the Project until 2023.

#### Mayflower Wind - Brayton Point

On May 27, 2022, Mayflower Wind Energy LLC filed three petitions with the Siting Board and Department for approval to construction approximately 2.7 miles of high voltage direct current ("HVDC") export cables at approximately 320 kV offshore in Massachusetts state waters, making landfall at Brayton Point, and continuing onshore at Brayton Point in the Town of Somerset, along with a new HVDC converter substation, and approximately 0.2 miles of high voltage alternating current underground transmission lines at approximately 345 kV onshore in the Town of Somerset, Massachusetts, docketed as EFSB 22-04/D.P.U. 22-67/22-68. The Siting Board conducted a remote public comment hearing in October 2022. Evidentiary hearings are expected in 2023.

### Acushnet/Fall River Transmission Line

On December 22, 2021, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy and New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid filed two related petitions with the Siting Board and the Department for approval to construct an approximately 12.1-mile predominately overhead 115 kV electric transmission line in the municipalities of Fall River, Freetown, Dartmouth, New Bedford, and Acushnet, docketed as EFSB 21-04/D.P.U. 21-149. A public comment hearing was held in April 2022; evidentiary hearings are expected in the first quarter of 2023.

### Greater Cambridge Reliability Program - Transmission Line and Substation

On March 10, 2022, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy filed two petitions with the Siting Board and Department for approval to construct, operate and maintain:

1. Eight new 115 kV underground transmission lines that will be housed in a total of five new duct banks, totaling approximately 8.3 miles, in portions of Cambridge, Somerville and the Allston/Brighton area of Boston;
2. A new 115/14-kV substation, which will be located in an underground vault on a property between Broadway and Binney Streets in Cambridge; and
3. Modifications to certain existing substation facilities in Cambridge, Somerville, and Allston/Brighton.

The filing was docketed as EFSB 22-03/D.P.U. 22-21. The Siting Board conducted an initial remote public comment hearing in June 2022. On September 9, 2022, Eversource filed a motion for a proposed supplemental notice of adjudication for an additional proposed alternative route to be include as part of the Company's proposed Project. The Siting Board conducted a second remote public comment hearing in November 2022. Evidentiary hearings are expected in the first half of 2023.

## **Review of Natural Gas Pipelines and Storage Facilities**

### Ashland/Hopkinton

On June 11, 2018, NSTAR Gas Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, filed a petition pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 69J for approval to replace 3.71 miles of 6-inch diameter pipe with a new 12-inch diameter pipe in the Towns of Ashland and Hopkinton, docketed as EFSB 18-02. The case is pending at this time.

### Northeast Energy Center – Charlton

On August 31, 2018, Northeast Energy Center filed two petitions pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 69J for approval to construct a natural gas liquefaction, storage, and truck-loading facility and associated infrastructure in the Town of Charlton, docketed as EFSB 18-04/D.P.U. 18-96. On October 22, 2021, the Siting Board issued a Final Decision approving the Project, with conditions.

On September 15, 2022, Northeast Energy Center filed a Notice of Proposed Project Change, which proposes to use a single, larger generator, capable of converting boil-off gas to electricity when the Facility's gas liquefaction system is not in operation, instead of the Siting Board-approved design of two gas-fired electric generators each capable of converting boil-off gas. On September 26, 2022, the Siting Board issued a set of record requests on the proposed change, which the Northeast Energy Center responded to in October 2022.

### Springfield-Longmeadow – Western Massachusetts Gas Reliability Project

On May 26, 2022, Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy filed two petitions for approval to construct, operate and maintain a new Point of Delivery ("POD") in Longmeadow, and a new natural gas pipeline from the proposed POD in Longmeadow to Eversource's Bliss Street Regulator Station in Springfield, Massachusetts, docketed as EFSB 22-05/D.P.U. 22-69. The Company's proposed Project includes:

1. Installation of POD equipment at and adjacent to the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company meter station to be constructed in Longmeadow;
2. Installation of approximately 5.3 miles of new 16-inch pipeline with a normal operating pressure of approximately 200 pounds per square inch gauge, in Longmeadow and Springfield; and
3. Upgrades at the existing Bliss Street Regulator Station to connect the Project to the existing distribution system serving the Greater Springfield Area.

Eversource also seeks exemption from the operation of the Zoning By-Law of the Town of Longmeadow. The Siting Board conducted a public comment hearing on December 14, 2022. Evidentiary hearings will be conducted in 2023.

#### Holyoke Gas and Electric

On December 7, 2022, Holyoke Gas & Electric Department filed a petition for approval to construct, operate and maintain an additional new liquefied natural gas storage tank at its existing West Holyoke LNG storage facility. The filing was docketed as EFSB 22-07. A public comment hearing and evidentiary hearings are expected in 2023.

### **Department Siting Division Responsibilities**

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Beyond supporting the Siting Board, the Siting Division – comprised of attorneys and technical analysts – handles a variety of land use cases for the Department including petitions for zoning exemptions, authority to exercise eminent domain and conduct utility surveys, and permission to construct transmission lines.

#### **Electric Transmission Facilities**

G.L. c. 164, § 72 requires electric companies to obtain Department approval prior to the construction or alteration of transmission lines. To receive such approval, the electric company must show that the proposed project is needed and that it serves “the public convenience and is consistent with the public interest.” The Siting Division typically adjudicates these petitions on behalf of the Department. Each transmission facility submitted for Siting Board approval under c. 164, § 69J also requires G.L. c. 164, § 72 approval by the Department, administered by the Siting Board in consolidated proceedings.

#### Carver, Plympton, and Kingston

On June 5, 2020, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy filed a petition with the Department seeking approval to construct a new eight-mile-long, predominately overhead 115 kV transmission line in the Towns of Carver, Plympton, and Kingston, docketed as D.P.U. 20-67. A public comment hearing was held on October 27, 2020 and evidentiary hearings were held in March 2021. On May 6, 2022, the Department issued an Order granting the petition, with conditions.

#### Somerset-Fall River

On August 5, 2022, New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid filed a petition with the Department seeking approval to separate a 1.85-mile segment of its existing N12 and M13 115 kV overhead transmission lines, currently installed on double circuit steel lattice towers, onto two distinct sets of structures in the Towns of Somerset and Fall River, docketed as D.P.U. 22-95. A public comment hearing and evidentiary hearings are expected in early 2023.

### **Eminent Domain and Survey Access**

On behalf of the Department, the Siting Division adjudicates petitions by electric, natural gas, water, and railroad companies for the right to exercise the power of eminent domain to meet their public service obligations, per G.L. c. 164, §§ 72, 72A; G.L. c. 160, § 83. To grant eminent domain, the Department must determine that the project is necessary for the purpose alleged, will serve the public convenience, and is



consistent with the public interest. No eminent domain petitions were filed with or reviewed by the Siting Division during 2022.

## **Zoning Exemption Review**

State law authorizes the Department to exempt public service corporations from compliance with specific municipal zoning ordinances or by-laws if it determines that the present or proposed use of the land or structure is reasonably necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public, per G.L. c. 40A, § 3. The Siting Division adjudicates these cases for the Department. The Department currently has several cases open for zoning exemptions.

### Dartmouth

On October 31, 2019, NextSun Energy LLC filed a petition with the Department seeking an exemption from the zoning ordinances of the Town of Dartmouth in connection with a proposed grid-connected photovoltaic and battery energy storage project that would be located in an existing, actively farmed cranberry bog, docketed as D.P.U. 19-133. The Department has been advised that the Project is no longer active and is awaiting further updates on the status of this matter from the applicant.

### K Street Substation, Boston

On May 23, 2019, the Department issued its Final Order approving, with conditions, a request by NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for individual and comprehensive zoning exemptions from the operation of the Boston Zoning Code. Eversource Energy, D.P.U. 17-147 (2019). On February 18, 2022, Eversource filed a Notice of Project Change regarding modifications to the previously approved Security Fence. On October 31, 2022, the Director concluded that the proposed project change does not alter in any substantive way either the assumptions or conclusions reached by the Department in its analysis of the project's impacts in the original proceeding.

## LEGAL DIVISION

### Overview

The Legal Division staff serves as legal and policy advisor to the Commission and provides legal support to all Divisions of the Department.

### Legal Division Responsibilities

#### Formal Adjudications

The Legal Division's primary duty is presiding over adjudicatory proceedings conducted under the Massachusetts Administrative Procedures Act (G.L. c. 30A) and the Department's procedural regulations (220 CMR 1.00). During 2022, the Legal Division participated in the issuance of 626 Orders. Some of the more notable dockets and initiatives included:

- Continued a notice of inquiry to assess opportunities to enhance equitable public awareness of and participation in Department proceedings;
- Issuance of an Order approving the implementation plan for a new geothermal demonstration project;
- Issuance of an Order enhancing consumer protection by imposing new licensing requirements on competitive suppliers;
- Continued investigation into the role of gas companies as the Commonwealth achieves its target 2050 climate goals;
- Continued efforts to quantify and reduce the risks to public safety and to address environmental emissions implications associated with aged gas infrastructure;
- Issuance of an Order expanding payment opportunities for customers;
- Issuance of Orders that direct investments into modernizing the electric grid, as well as deployment of advanced metering technologies that will help enhance reliability and enable time varying rates;
- Issuance of an Order approving new rates for an electric utility company following a ten-month investigation;
- Continued implementation of net metering rules and regulations including initiation of investigations into energy storage paired with net metering facilities and participation of net metering in the ISO-NE Forward-Capacity Market;
- Issuance of an Order approving a new energy efficiency plan, including a significant expansion of strategic electrification;
- Continued review and approval of multiple dockets associated with municipal aggregation plans; and
- Issuance of several forecast and supply planning dockets for natural gas distribution companies.

During this year, the Department continued to review its regulations pursuant to Executive Order 562. A list of the Department's 2022 orders is attached as Appendix 2.

Adjudications are the formal determination of parties' rights through a quasi-judicial process. All parties – both the party filing the action and any intervenors – are entitled to due process safeguards, meaning that the parties are entitled to adequate notice and the opportunity to be heard. Parties to the action have the right to present evidence, cross-examine witnesses, and receive a written decision from the Department. Pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 4, the Chair of the Department may delegate authority to an attorney from the Legal Division, known as the Hearing Officer, to preside over Department adjudications.

Adjudicatory proceedings vary in complexity and include a wide range of subjects, such as reviews of:

- Rates;

- Contracts for the sale and purchase of electric power and natural gas;
- Long-term contracts for renewables;
- Long-range forecast and supply planning;
- Energy efficiency plans;
- Service quality plans;
- Financial transactions (e.g., stock, bond, and security issuances);
- Proposed mergers;
- Storm investigations;
- Emergency response plans;
- Municipal aggregation plans;
- Proposed energy facility construction and siting (e.g., electric generation facilities and transmission lines); and
- Billing disputes between residential consumers and utilities.

In conducting a formal adjudicatory proceeding, the Department generally holds two types of hearings: a public hearing and an evidentiary hearing.<sup>41</sup>

Public hearings are publicized throughout the utility's service territory. In certain types of cases, public hearings are held in a utility's service territory. Public hearings are transcribed by a stenographer. If held in a utility's service territory, public hearings are conducted during the evening – usually in an easily accessible public building such as the town hall – and are often presided over by a Commissioner. The public hearings afford local consumers the opportunity to learn more about a rate request, offer their input about a pending case, and comment on the practices of the utility. Residential and business customers are a valuable source of information to the Department in developing a case record.

Evidentiary hearings are conducted in a courtroom setting in the Department's Boston offices. These proceedings are also transcribed by a stenographer. The hearings are presided over by the Hearing Officer, with the active participation of the Department's technical staff. The technical staff participates by questioning witnesses to ensure that the record is accurate and complete.

While the adjudicatory process does not require adherence to all formal rules of evidence, the evidentiary hearing process follows many rules of civil procedure as set forth in the Department's regulations, 220 CMR 1.00, and parties are almost always represented by counsel from the utility bar. Evidentiary hearings afford intervenors and the Department the opportunity to question company witnesses. In many cases, the Attorney General of the Commonwealth is an intervenor. Other intervenors may include public interest organizations, the DOER, and local consumer, business, or neighborhood groups. Sometimes intervenors put on a direct case with witnesses of their own.

Based on the evidence in the record, the Department issues a final order at the conclusion of each adjudicatory proceeding. Pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 5, the Department's final order is appealable directly to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

In response to the challenges of COVID-19, the Department adapted its adjudicatory process to allow for safe, remote participation by stakeholders and parties. In addition to expanding public comment and discovery periods in lieu of hearings, the Department developed protocols for virtual hearings and has conducted numerous virtual evidentiary and public hearings.

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<sup>41</sup> In April 2020, the Department began holding public and evidentiary hearings remotely (via videoconference) in order to conform to the commonwealth's COVID-related State of Emergency mandates.



## Other Types of Proceedings

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### Requests for Advisory Rulings

The Department is sometimes called upon to issue advisory rulings with respect to the applicability of any statute or regulation enforced or administered by the Department. The Department has discretion to decline a request for an advisory ruling, per G.L. 30A, § 8 and 220 CMR 2.08. In calendar year 2022, the Department issued one advisory ruling:

- D.P.U. 22-174 (Department Jurisdiction over Clark Shores Water Corporation).

### Notice of Inquiry Proceedings

The Department issues a Notice of Inquiry (“NOI”) when the agency desires public input on a particular issue. Thus, NOIs are Department-initiated investigations that are neither formal adjudications nor rulemakings. The goal of the NOI is to encourage broad input into the development of public policy. The Department derives authority to issue an NOI from G.L. c. 164, § 76.

Participants in an NOI proceeding file comments and may provide sworn testimony. However, participants normally are not subject to cross-examination and do not have appeal rights. The order issued at the close of the investigation is usually a general policy statement with guidelines for future actions by utilities or by the Department. The policy established through the NOI may be further developed in the future through company-specific adjudications. In 2022, the Department opened one NOI proceeding:

- D.P.U. 22-15 (Revision to Model Terms and Conditions Related to Gas Supplier Service).

In addition, the Department continued the following NOI proceedings:

- D.P.U. 17-22 (Net Metering Single Parcel Subdivision);
- D.P.U. 17-146 (Net Metering Eligibility of Energy Storage Systems);
- D.P.U. 18-129 (Exceptions to Towing Regulations 220 CMR 272.00 to Recording Mileage Data and Fuel Charge Information for Tow Slips);
- D.P.U. 18-152 (Review and Revision of the Standard of Review and Filing Requirements for Gas Special Contracts Filed Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94);
- D.P.U. 19-07 (Retail Electric Competitive Supply Market);
- D.P.U. 19-55 (Distributed Generation Interconnection); and
- D.P.U. 20-58 (COVID-19 State of Emergency)
- D.P.U. 21-50 (Procedures for Enhancing Public Awareness of and Participation in Department Proceedings).

### Rulemakings

The Department conducts rulemakings pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 2 – 5, and 220 CMR 2.00, to adopt, amend, or repeal regulations pertaining to the activities of all industries the Department is charged by statute with regulating. A rulemaking proceeding may involve simple procedural regulations or may address complex regulatory issues. The Department is required to provide public notice of a proposed rulemaking and to allow an opportunity for public comment. After consideration of the public comment, the Department may issue final regulations. Any final regulation must be published in the Code of Massachusetts Regulations.

In 2022, the Department continued one rulemaking proceeding:

- D.P.U. 17-54 to amend 220 CMR 8.00 pursuant to § 201 and 210 of Title II of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978.

In calendar year 2022, the Department completed one rulemaking proceedings opened in 2021:

- D.P.U. 21-38, Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 2, and 220 CMR 2.00, adopting final amended regulations 220 CMR 20.00, Steam Distribution Companies.

In addition, the Department opened two new rulemaking proceedings:

- D.P.U. 21-100, Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 2, and 220 CMR 2.00, to amend 220 CMR 18.00, Net Metering; and
- D.P.U. 22-100, Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 2, and 220 CMR 2.00, to amend 220 CMR 101.00, Massachusetts Gas Distribution Code and 220 CMR 101.00, Massachusetts Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Code.

## Public Records

While not docketed proceedings, the Department's Legal Division staff serves as the records access officers to determine what documents should be disclosed and what documents are exempt pursuant to public records law, G.L. c. 66, §10.

During 2022, the Department responded to over 276 public records requests. In addition, the Department continued to take all necessary steps to comply with the Public Records Improvement Act ("Act"), St. 2016, c. 121. The Act is intended to enhance transparency and responsiveness of state government in complying with public records requests.

## NATURAL GAS DIVISION

### Overview

The Natural Gas Division (“Gas Division”) provides technical support to the Department in the regulation of the state’s six investor-owned natural gas companies, also called local distribution companies or “LDCs”:

- The Berkshire Gas Company;
- Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid”);
- Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts, d/b/a Eversource Energy, formerly known as Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts (“EGMA”);
- Fitchburg Gas & Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (“Fitchburg Gas”);
- Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities; and
- NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (“NSTAR Gas”).

In total, these companies serve approximately 1.690 million gas customers and have combined operating revenues of approximately \$3.1 billion.

The Gas Division has the authority and responsibility to:

- Review LDCs’ forecast and supply plans;
- Review LDCs’ long-term gas supply contracts;
- Review LDCs’ gas expansion plans;
- Review non-tariff contracts for the sale and transportation of natural gas;
- Review the appropriateness and accuracy of LDC filings made pursuant to the Cost of Gas Adjustment Clause (“CGAC”) and the Local Distribution Adjustment Clause (“LDAC”);
- Review LDCs’ energy efficiency filings;
- Review LDCs’ service quality filings;
- License gas suppliers and retail agents;
- Assist the Rates and Revenue Requirements Division in base distribution rate, merger, and gas system enhancement plan filings; and
- Review and, where appropriate, intervene in federal regulatory proceedings and activities that affect the interests of gas consumers in the Commonwealth.

### Forecast and Supply Plans<sup>42</sup>

In Massachusetts, the LDCs under the Department’s jurisdiction have the obligation to plan for and procure gas supplies for all of their firm customers. Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 69I, the LDCs must submit a five-year forecast and supply plan to the Department for approval every two years. In its review of the forecast component, the Gas Division determines whether the company has accurately projected the gas requirements of the company’s service area. A forecast must contain accurate and complete historical data and employ reasonable statistical projection methods. In its review of the supply plan, the Gas Division must determine whether the plan is adequate to meet projected customer demand under a range of contingencies.

<sup>42</sup> Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 69I, the Department must prepare and file with the general court an annual report detailing the substance of all forecast and supply plans filed pursuant to this section, any and all actions taken by the Department pursuant to implementing the provisions of this section, and an analysis of the reliability and the diversity of the natural gas systems in Massachusetts.

## Substance of Forecast and Supply Plans Filed

During 2022, the Gas Division issued Orders on forecast and supply plans for Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts (“EGMA”) and Fitchburg Gas & Electric Light Company. The Gas Division is currently reviewing forecast and supply plans for three gas companies, with Orders for all due in 2023. Below is a table compiled from the information presented to the Department in each of the above-named companies’ forecast and supply plan. The table indicates expected demand and the types of resources for which the LDC has contracted to meet this demand:

Company	Docket	Order Date	Design Year	Requirements <sup>43</sup>	Available Supplies
EGMA	D.P.U. 21-118	October 31, 2022	2025-2026	65,168,000 MMBtu	Pipeline gas, Storage, LNG, Propane and city-gate purchases
Fitchburg Gas	D.P.U. 21-10	January 12, 2022	2024-2025	2,546,099 MMBtu	Pipeline gas, Storage, LNG, Propane and city-gate purchases

## Reliability of Gas Supply

Massachusetts LDCs currently hold several types of natural gas resources:

- interstate pipeline capacity (“pipeline”);
- upstream storage;
- gas commodity; and
- LNG.

The pipeline capacity serves to transport gas from domestic production areas and market hubs, the Canadian border and upstream storage areas, to the Commonwealth’s LDCs. Upstream storage refers to subsurface facilities used for storing natural gas that has been transported from its production location during the summer for use during the winter. Gas commodity contracts are contracts the LDCs have entered into for the purchase of natural gas commodity in vapor form and LNG contracts refer to contracts that the LDCs have entered into with the two primary facilities in the northeast, primarily Everett LNG (formerly Engie) facility in Everett, operated by Exelon Generation (“Constellation LNG”) and – to a lesser extent – National Grid’s facility in Providence, Rhode Island, for the delivery of liquefied natural gas to refill local storage facilities.

The majority of gas supply (also referred to as “commodity”) contracts are short term with a duration of between one to five years. The ability to rely on a hub-based futures market such as the New York Mercantile Exchange (“NYMEX”) and the plethora of sources of supply allow the jurisdictional LDCs to enter into these short-term contracts. Such contracts allow Massachusetts LDCs to:

- Benefit from the availability of new supplies from areas such as the Marcellus Shale gas basin in the Appalachian region (Eastern Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia); and
- Diversify their supply portfolios and respond to the availability of new resources, thereby reducing the risk associated with production interruptions in a specific area.

Massachusetts LDCs receive gas from the Marcellus Shale, Texas, Louisiana, and Canada. These supplies are enough to meet demand during the greater portion of the year. During the colder winters, and as a result of the limited availability of pipeline capacity to transport natural gas, Massachusetts LDCs also rely on city-gate

<sup>43</sup> The years indicate the last year of the forecast (November through October) for which the consumption is forecast.

purchases (spot purchases) of commodity. These spot purchases, priced at a high premium, are entered with marketers that have secured pipeline capacity, and can command a significant margin.

As mentioned above, the pricing of all supply contracts is based on market indices such as the Henry Hub, Intercontinental Exchange, or the NYMEX. To meet specific-day increased customer demand during the winter peaking months (December through February) when there are no available pipeline resources, LDCs also rely on LNG and propane-air. Two LDCs use company-owned facilities to liquefy natural gas during the summer months for delivery during the coldest days of the year. NSTAR Gas relies on its affiliate Hopkinton LNG, located in Hopkinton, MA. Similarly, Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts relies on its own facilities to liquefy gas during the summer months. Propane-air, although readily available from a multitude of vendors, is not used as extensively due to pricing and engineering considerations.

There are three major pipelines that deliver gas to Massachusetts:

1. Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (“Tennessee”), a subsidiary of Kinder Morgan;
2. Algonquin Gas Transmission Company (“Algonquin”), a subsidiary of Enbridge; and
3. The Joint Facilities of Portland Natural Gas Transmission System (“PNGTS”) and Maritimes and Northeast Pipeline (“M&N”).

The M&N Pipeline, which extends from Westbrook, Maine to Dracut, Massachusetts, is jointly owned by the two pipeline companies that feed into it and it is used to deliver Canadian gas supplies or domestic commodity being rerouted to the region via Canada. The Iroquois pipeline – a partnership of TransCanada Pipeline, Dominion, and Iberdrola – delivers Canadian natural gas indirectly via its interconnections with Tennessee in Wright, New York and Algonquin in Brookfield, Connecticut. In addition to the M&N and Iroquois pipelines, several pipelines, such as Texas Eastern, Boundary, CNG, and Penn-York, deliver natural gas to Tennessee and Algonquin.

In addition, natural gas from northwestern Colorado now flows to Massachusetts via the new Rockies Express Pipeline (“REX”) that stretches over 1,600 miles eastwards. REX gas is picked up by the Texas Eastern Pipeline outside of Massachusetts and transferred to the Algonquin pipeline in southern New York.

This year’s approved and pending forecast and supply plans indicate that the LDCs have adequate supplies to meet demand during design-year conditions. That is, if Massachusetts experiences a winter that is significantly colder than average, these LDCs can use a combination of pipeline gas, upstream storage gas, LNG, propane, and delivered supplies to meet the higher than usual demand. The procurement of these gas supplies is also assured because the LDCs and the suppliers of delivered supplies have primary delivery rights to transport these supplies to their distribution systems.

## **Diversity of Gas Supplies**

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As discussed above, gas flowing into Massachusetts comes from a variety of production areas, including Eastern Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Texas, Louisiana, and Canada. Natural gas from Western Canada currently arrives through the TransCanada Pipeline at two delivery points at the Canadian border: upstate New York (the Iroquois pipeline) and New Hampshire (“PNGTS”). The M&N pipeline can also be used to transport, if need be, regasified LNG from Repsol’s facility in Saint John, New Brunswick. On November 15, 2021, Repsol completed the acquisition of 100% ownership of the Canaport LNG facility which has now been renamed Saint John LNG.

To meet the increasing demand during the winter peaking months, LDCs rely on upstream storage gas and additional supplies such as LNG, propane/air mix and delivered supplies. The LNG used in Massachusetts during 2022 was imported from Trinidad. Imported LNG arrives in Massachusetts in liquid form and is either stored in the Constellation LNG LLC’s terminal in Everett, MA, or vaporized and injected into Algonquin Gas’ HubLine via Excelerate Energy’s Northeast Gateway Deepwater Port 13 miles offshore.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy (“USDOE”), the Everett terminal received 16.7 Billion cubic feet (“Bcf”) of natural gas for the period January 2022 through August 30, 2022, while the offshore facility received 2.8 Bcf for the same period. In comparison, the region imported 18.6 Bcf for the period January 1, 2021 through September 16, 2021. This represents an increase of 0.9 Bcf compared to the previous year.

In terms of pricing, using the NYMEX price reference, the price of natural gas has remained elevated throughout 2022, reaching its highest point at \$9.353 per MMBtu in September 2022. It has retreated since but remains above the \$6.00 mark. It should be noted, however, that in real terms (nominal price discounted for inflation), the price of natural gas has remained below what we experienced during the 2004-2010 period. Further, the EIA reports that, as of November 18, 2022, “Gas in Storage” was about 3.564 trillion cubic feet (“Tcf”), or about 1.1% less than the 5-year average. This volume is just 39 Bcf below the 5-year average of 3.603 Tcf. Regardless, at the current levels, total working gas is at the five-year historical average range as shown in the chart below by the Energy Information Administration (EIA):

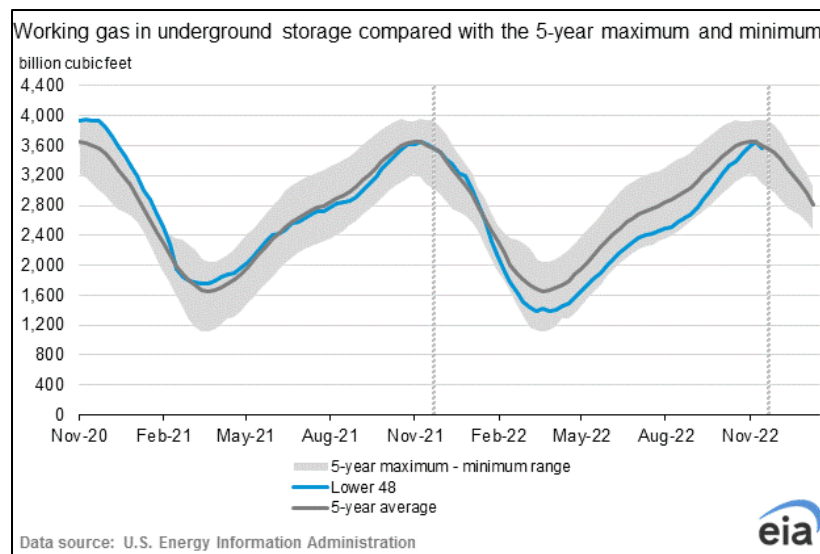


Figure 1—US GAS STORAGE INVENTORY (Source: EIA)

The EIA reports that spot prices for delivery to new England on November 29, 2022 were \$5.79/MMBtu. Platts reports that, for November 28, 2022, Henry Hub spot prices were \$5.98/MMBtu, \$0.94 higher than for the same day in 2021. However, it should be noted that the spot price changes on a daily basis as it is affected by a number of factors such as weather, drilling activity, and pipeline capacity.

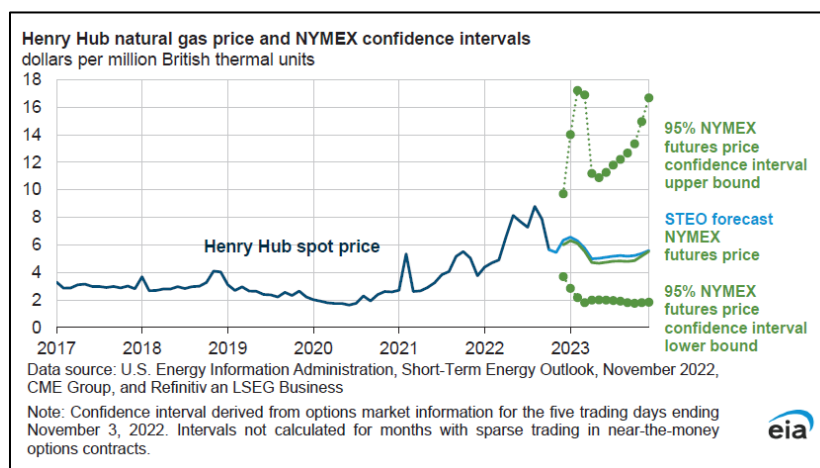


Figure 2- Henry Hub natural gas price and NYMEX confidence intervals (Source: EIA)



## Long-Term Gas Supply Contracts

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LDCs must submit all supply contracts with terms longer than one year to the Department for review and approval as required under G.L. c. 164, § 94A. Long-term supply contracts include both gas commodity (the natural gas itself) and capacity (the space on the pipeline required to transport the natural gas from the production areas to the LDC's distribution system). In evaluating a gas company's proposed contract for commodity or capacity, the Gas Division examines whether the acquisition of the resource would be consistent with the public interest. To do so, the Gas Division determines whether the LDC has shown that the acquisition would be consistent with the company's portfolio objectives and would compare favorably to the range of options reasonably available to the company and its customers.

During 2022, the Gas Division reviewed one long term supply contract.

## Non-Tariff Contracts

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Large commercial and industrial gas customers that are capable of burning alternative fuels, such as oil or coal, sometimes find that the Department-approved distribution tariffs of their specific LDC are not competitive with these alternative-fuel options. To retain these customers and assure a continued stream of revenue, LDCs may offer the customers non-tariff contracts, subject to Department approval. In its review<sup>44</sup>, Gas Division staff ensures that:

- The customer is capable of burning an alternative fuel;
- The price charged under the contract exceeds the marginal cost of providing this service; and
- The company's existing ratepayers are not responsible for any of the costs associated with providing the specified service.

In 2022, the Gas Division reviewed 30 non-tariff contracts.

## Requests for Cost Adjustments

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Department regulations allow costs incurred by gas companies for the purchase, storage, and interstate transportation of gas ("gas supply costs") to be recovered through the cost of gas adjustment factor filing. These filings are semi-annual due to the fact that the market price for gas fluctuates seasonally. The Gas Division reviews these filings to ensure accounting accuracy and prudent company practices and approves new factors for effect on May 1<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. In 2001, the Department amended its regulations to require gas companies to make interim filings when projected collections of gas supply costs change by more than five percent. These adjustments help reduce the impact on customers' bills when there are significant changes in gas supply costs.

During 2022, the Gas Division reviewed 33 requests, including interim filings, for cost of gas adjustments.

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<sup>44</sup> The Department is conducting an investigation into the standard of review and the filing requirements for gas special contracts filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94. In opening the investigation, the Department stated that it would investigate the existing standard of review for gas special contracts filed pursuant to Section 94 and establish uniform filing requirements for gas special contracts. The Department received comments from various stakeholders, including the LDCs and the Attorney General. The investigation is currently pending.

Similarly, the Department allows gas companies to recover – on a fully-reconciling basis – a variety of costs that have been determined to be distribution-related but are not included in base distribution rates.<sup>45</sup> The charge used to recover all these costs is referred to as the Local Distribution Adjustment Factor (“LDAF”). Examples of recoverable expenses include the costs of energy efficiency programs, costs related to gas system enhancement investments and costs related to geothermal demonstration pilot programs. LDCs can also recover costs associated with federal and state-mandated cleanups of past contamination at sites polluted by wastes from gas manufacturing plants. Although most gas manufacturing plants in Massachusetts ceased operations by the early 1950s, their waste continues to present environmental hazards.

The Gas Division reviews all company requests for adjustments via the LDAF to ensure accounting accuracy and prudent company practices. During 2022, the Gas Division reviewed ten LDAF requests.

## Energy Efficiency Filings

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Since 1992, the Department has required LDCs to develop energy efficiency plans that bring cost savings to consumers and reduce the overall need for gas. Since the passing of the Green Communities Act in 2008, LDCs submit energy efficiency plans to the Department for approval every three years. The Gas Division reviews the plans to ensure that:

- LDCs are delivering programs cost-effectively, capturing all available energy efficiency opportunities, while also being mindful of rate and bill impacts on consumers;
- Administrative costs have been minimized to the fullest extent practicable;
- Competitive procurement processes have been used to the fullest extent practicable; and
- A minimum of 20% of the budget is allocated toward low-income energy-efficiency spending.

On November 1, 2021, each LDC submitted its 2022-2024 three-year plan to the Department. The Department approved these plans, with modifications, on January 31, 2022, which was within our 90-day statutory obligation. LDCs plan to spend \$1.25 billion over the next three years to save approximately 1.15 billion lifetime therms and achieve \$3.8 billion in total benefits. The approved plans include behavioral offerings, weatherization (e.g., energy audits, attic/wall insulation, and air sealing), and rebates for thermostats, faucet aerators, and the installation of high efficiency heating equipment. New offerings in this plan include rebates for the installation of heat pumps to partially, or fully, displace gas heating equipment with the requirement that customers weatherize the home first. The companies recover all energy efficiency related costs via the energy efficiency surcharge in the LDAF which goes into effect each year on November 1st.<sup>46</sup>

Once a three-year term is completed, the companies submit term report filings for Department review of spending and approval of final cost recovery. The 2019-2021 term reports were filed with the Department on August 1, 2022. In 2022, the Gas Division reviewed 15 energy efficiency filings.

## Cooperation with the Rates and Revenue Requirements Division

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The Gas Division works closely with the Department’s Rates and Revenue Requirements Division to review various rate case filings, GSEPs, long-term debt issuance, and merger and acquisition petitions. In traditional rate cases, Gas Division staff is responsible for reviewing the terms and conditions of distribution service, the

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<sup>45</sup> Base distribution rates are designed to recover distribution-related costs (i.e., the costs to operate the LDC), including plant and equipment, labor, taxes, interest on borrowed funds, return on investment, billing, metering, and customer service.

<sup>46</sup> In addition, if a company modifies its existing three-year plan, it must file a midterm modification for approval with the Department.

allocation of local production and storage costs, weather normalization, gas related cash working capital, marginal costs, and the treatment of revenues from off tariff contracts. In 2022, the Gas Division participated in the Department’s review of three rates-related filings.

## Service Quality Filings

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In June 2001, the Department issued an Order finalizing service quality standards for all electric and gas distribution companies. In 2015, the Department approved revised service quality standards for gas companies. The revised guidelines established new performance criteria for penalties and reporting in customer service, billing, customer satisfaction, staffing levels, safety, and reliability. Pursuant to this Order, the LDCs filed company specific service quality plans for review, which the Department approved in 2017. Each gas company annually files a service quality report in March, comparing its actual performance against the service quality standards established by the Department. The Gas Division is responsible for the review of all gas service quality plans to ensure that the companies maintain a minimum quality of service. During 2022, the Gas Division reviewed seven service quality plans.

## “Future of Gas”

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On October 29, 2020, the Department voted to open an investigation into potential policies that will enable the Commonwealth to reach its goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and the role of LDCs in achieving that goal. In its Order, the Department directed the LDCs to initiate a joint request for proposals for an independent consultant to conduct a study and prepare a report within the parameters discussed in the Order. The resulting report was used by each LDC in developing their own recommendations and plans for helping the Commonwealth achieve its 2050 climate goals. On March 18, 2022, the LDCs submitted the consultants’ reports and the LDCs’ individual proposals. Stakeholder comments were submitted on May 6, 2022.

The Department has conducted two virtual public hearings, two virtual technical sessions, and a discovery period. On July 1, 2022, the Department directed the LDCs to respond to the stakeholder comments received orally and in writing regarding the developed pathways set forth in the independent consultants’ Pathways Report and the assumptions and modelling underlying the Pathways Report.

The LDCs submitted comments on July 29, 2022. On September 8, 2022, the Department solicited final comments from stakeholders replying to the LDCs’ comments and making any other final remarks for the Department’s consideration. Final comments were submitted on October 14, 2022. After review of all comments, the Department intends to make certain determinations and issue guidance in the form of an Order that will establish the future steps.

## Gas Expansion Plans

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Pursuant to Chapter 149, § 3, of the Acts of 2014, the Department is authorized to approve programs for gas distribution companies that are designed to increase the availability, affordability, and feasibility of natural gas service for new customers. Such programs may include, among other things, financing programs for customers’ natural gas connection costs, provided, however, that the programs do not unreasonably burden existing natural gas customers. The Gas Division did not review any gas expansion plans in 2022.

## Geothermal Pilot Plans

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The Department has approved two geothermal demonstration pilot projects that are anticipated to deliver cost-effective benefits to customers. Geothermal technologies take advantage of the relatively stable temperature of the ground to provide heating and cooling. Networked geothermal specifically uses a closed loop of underground heat-exchanging pipes that circulate water and/or antifreeze solution underground to absorb the soil’s heat in the winter and mitigate total demand. The system transfers energy to

in-house heat pumps, which warm the building's air in the winter. In reviewing and approving a proposed demonstration project, the Department considers the following:

- Consistency of the proposed demonstration program with applicable laws, policies, and precedent;
- Reasonableness of the size, scope, and scale of the proposed project in relation to the likely benefits to be achieved;
- Adequacy of the proposed performance metrics and evaluation plans; and
- Bill impacts to customers.

On October 30, 2020, the Department approved a networked geothermal demonstration project proposed by NSTAR Gas Company to evaluate the technology in a mixed-use, dense urban environment. The project is expected to last three years, and cost between \$10.2-\$12.4 million. NSTAR Gas selected a project site in Framingham that will serve 23 residential gas customers, six residential customers currently served by delivered fuels, ten Framingham Housing Authority buildings currently heated by electric resistance, and five commercial buildings. Construction of geothermal infrastructure is anticipated to commence in early 2023. The company continues to submit updates and reports related to project construction and communication with customers.

On December 15, 2021, the Department approved a networked geothermal demonstration proposal from National Grid. The company will prioritize the installation of networked geothermal systems that evaluate one or more of the following concepts:

1. The thermal performance and economics of shared loops serving a larger number of customers with more diverse load profiles than a networked geothermal project completed by its New York affiliate;
2. Switching gas customers to geothermal energy as an alternative to leak-prone pipe replacement;
3. Installing shared loops to manage local gas system constraints and peaks; and
4. Installing shared loops to lower operating costs and GHG emissions for low-income customers and environmental justice communities.

The project is expected to last five years and the company plans to target 185 gas customers at four project sites with a budget of \$15.6 million.

The Gas Division reviewed two filings related to these pilots in 2022.

## **Licensing of Gas Suppliers and Retail Agents**

Over the last several years, the Gas Division has worked to promote competition in the local gas distribution industry through the “unbundling” of rates. The Gas Division has brought about regulatory changes that provide gas customers with opportunities to participate in a competitive gas market, while maintaining traditional consumer protections. Massachusetts customers may choose a gas supplier other than the LDC serving the customer's neighborhood. This allows customers to comparison shop and negotiate for the best value in gas commodity from competitive suppliers. The price charged by these competitive suppliers for natural gas, however, is not regulated. Instead, competitive gas suppliers set their own prices, just like the sellers of most goods and services in the marketplace.

Gas suppliers and retail agents wishing to sell natural gas to Massachusetts retail customers must be certified by the Department on an annual basis. The Gas Division reviews the applications for these licenses and conducts interviews with the applicants. Staff determines whether the applicants have the technical ability to procure and deliver natural gas and whether they are familiar with the Department's rules and the gas industry in general.

The Gas Division also evaluates documentation of the applicant's financial capability, such as the level of capitalization or corporate backing, to provide the proposed services.<sup>47</sup>

In 2022, the Gas Division reviewed 20 Gas Supplier and Retail Agent license applications and the Department approved 176 licenses. The approved licenses include the following:

- 1 new Gas Supplier license;
- 12 Gas Supplier license renewals;
- 19 new Gas Retail Agent licenses; and
- 144 Gas Retail Agent license renewals.

## Cybersecurity-Related Activities

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Over the last several years, the Gas Division has worked to ensure that LDCs have developed robust cybersecurity programs that help minimize the risk of a cyber-attack that could potentially affect the delivery of natural gas to Massachusetts consumers. In accordance with the Department's policy regarding cybersecurity, Gas Division and Legal Division staff meet annually with the LDCs pursuant to Department policy established in July 2016. Gas Division staff met with all LDCs in 2022.

## Participation in Federal Policy Making

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Over the past decade, actions taken by FERC, the U.S. Department of Energy, and Congress have dramatically changed federal regulation of the natural gas industry. These changes directly affect the interests of Massachusetts customers who are served by federally regulated pipelines and LNG import terminals. Gas Division staff work with DRFA, other state agencies, and regional organizations to stay informed regarding current federal statutory and regulatory proposals, and to develop policy positions on issues that may affect the Commonwealth's interests. Further, to the extent possible, Gas Division staff assists federal agencies, like the USDOE, in projects relating to natural gas.

## Public Information and Review of Consumer Complaints

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Gas Division staff provide information and assistance daily to consumers, government officials, marketers, regulated companies, consultants, and financial analysts. In addition, Gas Division staff assisted the Department's Consumer Division in addressing gas-related consumer issues.

## 2022 Gas Division Accomplishments

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During 2022, the Gas Division reviewed:

- 2 forecast and supply plan filings;
- 1 long-term gas supply contracts;
- 30 non-tariff contracts for the sale and transportation of natural gas (firm service, quasi-firm service);
- 33 gas adjustment factor filings pursuant to the CGAC;
- 10 cost recovery filings pursuant to the LDAC;
- 15 energy efficiency filings;

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<sup>47</sup> In January 2019, the Department opened an investigation into improving the protections provided to residential customers related to the marketing and delivery of competitive suppliers' product offerings for both the gas and electric competitive markets. The Department is currently holding a series of working groups and technical sessions to address the concerns of various stakeholders, including the Attorney General.

- 3 rates-related filings;
- 7 service quality reports;
- 2 geothermal demonstration project filings; and
- 176 licenses for gas suppliers and gas retail agents.



## PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

### Overview

The Pipeline Safety Division is responsible for technical and safety oversight of six investor-owned natural gas companies and four municipal gas departments. It oversees the intrastate transmission facilities of three additional operators. As a certified agent of the U.S. Department of Transportation (“USDOT”), the Pipeline Safety Division enforces federal and state safety regulations pertaining to natural gas distribution pipelines within the Commonwealth. The Pipeline Safety Division also enforces the Department’s pipeline safety regulations and the Commonwealth’s Damage Prevention program. The Damage Prevention program oversees the enforcement of the Commonwealth’s Dig Safe laws. The Dig Safe statute and regulation require companies and individuals performing excavation work to notify the Dig Safe Call Center to ensure safe excavation around underground facilities. The Pipeline Safety Division is also responsible for oversight of steam distribution companies in the Commonwealth. Finally, the Pipeline Safety Division tests gas meters and witnesses the testing of electric meters in response to consumer complaints.

The Pipeline Safety Division’s authority over technical and safety issues requires the Division to:

- Inspect gas facilities for compliance with federal and state pipeline safety regulations concerning design, construction, operation, maintenance, emergency response, plant security, and enforce violations of such regulations.
- Investigate and determine the cause of gas-related incidents and recommend actions to minimize recurrences;
- Develop and revise regulations applicable to the gas industry to enhance the protection of life and property, and to further public safety;
- Enforce the Dig Safe law by investigating alleged violations and assessing civil penalties;
- Examine and investigate a steam distribution company’s safety performance and investigate steam release incidents;
- Inspect and test gas meters for accuracy and safety before the meters are installed at consumers’ premises;
- Assist in resolving consumer complaints regarding the accuracy of electric and gas meters;
- Ensure that natural gas distribution operators restore public streets and roads after excavating; and
- Ensure that natural gas operators safely and promptly restore natural gas service following outages.

### Pipeline Safety Division Responsibilities

Natural gas is considered a hazardous fuel by both the state and federal governments. Massachusetts has over 21,777.57 miles of gas mains and thirteen operators, with 18 LNG plants and six liquified propane gas (“LPG”) air plants. These facilities serve over 1.4 million customers.

In addition, there are approximately 30.7 miles of intrastate gas transmission lines in Massachusetts. The increased use of natural gas to generate electricity has resulted in the construction of new intrastate transmission pipelines to connect power plants directly to interstate gas transmission lines. As intrastate facilities, these pipelines fall under the aegis of the Pipeline Safety Division, whose public utility engineers inspect their design, construction, operations, and maintenance procedures. Such pipelines typically operate at pressures higher than local gas distribution pressures.

To protect consumers and the general public from the potential hazards involved in the transmission, distribution, production, storage, and use of natural gas, LNG, and LPG, both the USDOT and the Department regulate these facilities. In addition to enforcing the Department’s regulations, the Pipeline Safety Division acts as an agent for the USDOT in the enforcement of federal regulations regarding intrastate pipelines and facilities.

In 2022, the Division began enforcement of 220 CMR 105.00: Use of Professional Engineers for Gas Utility Work, and associated guidelines, which were finalized on October 15, 2021. The final regulations and guidelines promote the safety of natural gas engineering work or services through the use of professional engineer stamps on engineering work or services that could pose a material risk to public safety.

### **Pipeline Safety Division Gas Facility Inspections and Enforcement Actions**

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The Pipeline Safety Division's Public Utility Engineers inspect jurisdictional gas facilities, pipelines, meter stations, regulator stations, dispatch centers, LNG plants, and LPG air plants for compliance with federal and state safety regulations. If the Pipeline Safety Division determines that a probable violation has occurred or is occurring, the Pipeline Safety Division issues a Warning Letter to the alleged violator, advising them to correct the probable violation or be subject to an enforcement action. The Pipeline Safety Division may also issue a Letter of Concern for minor infractions.

If the Pipeline Safety Division has reason to believe that a violation has occurred or is occurring, it may issue a Notice of Probable Violation ("NOPV"), thereby commencing an enforcement action. The NOPV will include a Consent Order that proposes the action(s) to be taken by the respondent to correct the violation and the civil penalty to be paid. The respondent may agree to the Consent Order and pay the civil penalty, thereby resolving the case, or may request an informal review conference with the Pipeline Safety Division. Following an informal review conference and any further investigation, if necessary, the Pipeline Safety Division issues a written decision. If the respondent disputes the written decision, it may request an adjudicatory hearing before the Department.

These remedial actions may include civil penalties when the Department determines that a natural gas operator did not comply with federal or state pipeline safety regulations. The penalties cannot exceed \$500,000 per violation or \$10,000,000 for any related series of violations.<sup>48</sup>

In 2022, Public Utilities Engineers performed approximately 2,097 pipeline safety inspections. These inspections included both field activities and mandated program reviews. The Division completed inspections of all 18 LNG facilities along with Drug and Alcohol inspections, and DIMP inspections of all operators. The Division also undertook a comprehensive investigation into all the master meter operators, identifying operators who had not been in compliance with the regulations, including many who were unaware they were operating as a master meter. The goal of the master meter inspections and subsequent enforcement is to ensure safe operation and maintenance of pipes that had historically not been maintained.

The Pipeline Safety Division issued 79 NOPVs, assessing a total of \$12,981,000. These revenues are not retained by the Department; instead, they are deposited into the Commonwealth's General Fund.

### **Investigation of Natural Gas Incidents**

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When a gas related incident occurs that results in personal injury or significant property damage, the Pipeline Safety Division's engineers investigate to determine:

- The cause and origin;
- Whether the pipeline operator is in violation of federal or state safety regulations; and
- What actions the operator must take to prevent or eliminate a recurrence.

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<sup>48</sup> G.L. c. 164, § 105A. The statute was amended by Section 81 of Chapter 8 of the Acts of 2021, An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy, approved March 26, 2021. Prior to that, penalties were capped at \$200,000 per violation for each day that the violation continues or \$2,000,000 for any related series of violations.

During 2022, there were no reportable incidents.

### **Intrastate LNG/LPG Facilities**

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LNG and LPG plants are important parts of the gas supply system in Massachusetts. Particularly in the winter months, LNG and LPG plants provide a significant source of gas during peak demand times. Ensuring the safe and effective operation of these plants has always been a priority for the Pipeline Safety Division.

The Pipeline Safety Division comprehensively inspects each LNG and LPG plants once every three and five years, respectively. In addition, the Pipeline Safety Division conducts specialized inspections at each LNG and LPG plant at least once in a 24-month period. The Pipeline Safety Division is responsible not only for the safety and reliability of these plants, but also for their security, which the Pipeline Safety Division continually monitors through on-site inspections, reviews of procedures, and reviews of operating and maintenance records.

In 2022, the Divisions did comprehensive inspections of each LNG and LPG plant in accordance with this inspection cycle.

### **Damage Prevention Program**

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Massachusetts' Dig Safe law requires any person who proposes to excavate in a public way or on private property to pre-mark the excavation site and notify the Dig Safe Call Center of the intent to excavate. The Dig Safe Call Center then contacts all operators of underground gas pipelines, electric utilities, telecommunication utilities, and cable television utilities in the area of the excavation. These operators must mark the locations of their facilities in advance of the excavation to minimize the risk of potential damage by the excavation. The excavator must take adequate precautions to prevent damage to the facilities while digging.

Any person aware of possible violations of Dig Safe procedures should report them to the Pipeline Safety Division's Damage Prevention Program. Utility operators are mandated by regulation to report possible Dig Safe violations. The Division investigates the reports, issues NOPVs with Consent Orders where warranted, conducts informal reviews (either through conferences with the respondents or written submissions), and performs field inspections as necessary. Where the Pipeline Safety Division has reason to believe that a violation has occurred or is occurring, it issues a written decision and may impose a civil penalty. A respondent that disputes the written decision may request an adjudicatory hearing before the Department.

In 2022, the Division received reports of approximately 1,061 incidents involving possible violations. The Division issued 1,798 NOPVs and assessed \$27,250,000 in civil penalties. These revenues are not retained by the Department; instead, they are deposited into the Commonwealth's General Fund. In addition to penalties, the Division hosts quarterly first-time offender training to ensure excavators have knowledge of the laws, the Division's enforcement, and best practices. The Damage Prevention program also issued a Remedial Order to 154 excavators who failed to respond to the Division's Notices of Probable Violation. The Remedial Order is posted on the Department's File Room.

The Pipeline Safety Division has dedicated three Pipeline Utility Engineers to focus on damage prevention in addition to their other pipeline inspection duties. These engineers are responsible to responding to any report of a damaged pipeline with the release of gas. They are also proactively conducting site visits to drive change and awareness to damage prevention. Overall, this oversight has continued the trend of lowering the state damage rate every year. Last year, the total damage rate per thousand tickets was 1.55. For 2022, the total damage rate per thousand tickets was 1.31.

### **Steam Distribution**

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State regulations for steam distribution companies apply to every steam distribution company operating a plant, equipment, or facilities for the manufacture, production, transmission, furnishing, or distribution of steam to or

for the public for compensation within the Commonwealth. The steam regulations prescribe minimum safety requirements for the design, fabrication, installation, inspection, testing, operation, and maintenance of steam facilities by steam distribution companies. The Department has the authority to conduct examinations and investigations into a steam distribution company's safety performance, and to levy fines against steam distribution companies for failure to comply with the regulations. At present, there is only one steam distribution company in the state, Vicinity Energy, operating in Boston and Cambridge.

In 2022, the Pipeline Safety Division conducted 150 field inspections of steam distribution facilities. The Division also worked to streamline the format and content of the Annual Steam Safety Report (ASSR) to capture more accurate leak reporting data within the Boston and Cambridge steam distribution systems.

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## Gas Meter Testing

State law requires that the Pipeline Safety Division test each natural gas meter for volumetric accuracy and leakage once every seven years, or when the meter is removed from service. Gas companies and municipal gas departments ("operators") typically remove meters to be tested and replace them with previously approved meters. Operators then deliver meters to their meter shops, where one of the Pipeline Safety Division's compliance officers tests them to ensure that they are not leaking and that they are accurate, to ensure that a consumer is paying for the correct amount of gas. In 2022, the Pipeline Safety Division assessed \$2,179,080 in meter testing fees from operators. These revenues are not retained by the Department; instead, they are deposited into the Commonwealth's General Fund.

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## Consumer Complaints Regarding Meters

The Pipeline Safety Division assists the Department's Consumer Division in addressing consumer complaints pertaining to both electric and gas meters. For electric meters, a Pipeline Safety Division staff member observes while the meter in question is tested for accuracy. For gas meters, a Pipeline Safety Division compliance officer removes and tests the meter in question using calibrated meter-testing equipment.

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## Restoration of the Public Way after Utility Openings

In response to complaints from municipalities and the industry about the lack of repairs made to public roads after utility work is completed, the Department promulgated street restoration standards in 1998. The regulations set standards for soil compaction, paving, and other activities affecting road condition.

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## Partnership with Industry

The Division also worked with utilities and the Dig Safe Call Center to conduct training sessions for excavators. The sessions provide excavators with information about underground utility lines and precautions to take when excavating near those lines. Programs such as Managing Underground Safety Training are an important tool for preventing damage to underground pipelines and cables.

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## Precedent, Policies, and Practice

The Department is a national leader in gas pipeline safety. The Pipeline Safety Division's actions in response to violations of the pipeline safety regulations have gained the recognition of USDOT and other pipeline safety organizations across the United States. With more LNG plants than any other state, the Commonwealth's LNG safety regulations are among the most stringent in the country.

Massachusetts has continued to address the important issue of replacement or abandonment of aging pipe consisting of unprotected bare steel, cast iron, or unprotected coated steel. The Department's regulations require pipeline operators to prioritize and replace segments of unprotected bare steel and cast-iron pipe in

accordance with Department developed criteria. In addition, companies must replace or abandon cast iron pipes, subject to specific criteria, when third party excavation occurs nearby.

In 2014, the Massachusetts State Legislature passed *An Act Relative to Natural Gas Leaks* (“Gas Leaks Act”). The Gas Leaks Act permits local distribution companies to submit to the Department annual plans to repair or replace aged natural gas infrastructure in the interest of public safety. On October 31 of each year since then, pursuant to the Gas Leaks Act, seven<sup>49</sup> gas distribution companies (Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company each d/b/a National Grid, The Berkshire Gas Company, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities, Eversource Gas of Massachusetts and NSTAR each d/b/a Eversource Energy) submit GSEPs setting forth their proposals for replacing aged pipe during the upcoming construction year. The companies include timelines to replace all aged infrastructure on an accelerated basis, specifying annual replacement pace and program end dates. By April 30 of each following year, the Department issues an Order approving or amending each company’s GSEP.

The GSEP Orders specify that operators of natural gas distribution systems use the Distribution Integrity Management Plan (“DIMP”) to prioritize the replacement of aged pipelines. DIMP is contained in the USDOT’s pipeline safety regulations. The Pipeline Safety Division reviews each operator’s DIMP program for accuracy and compliance with 49 C.F.R. Part 192. The Pipeline Safety Division also reviews the proposed GSEPs to ensure that each operator’s plan complies with its DIMP program.

## 2022 Pipeline Safety Division Accomplishments

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In summary, in 2022 the Pipeline Safety Division:

- Conducted natural gas facility inspections, resulting in the issuance of 79 NOPVs for violations of pipeline safety regulations and assessed gas pipeline operators a total of \$12,981,000 in civil penalties;
- Tested 195,353 meters of various sizes, resulting in the assessment of \$2,179,080 in testing fees;
- Completed 2,097 pipeline safety inspections;
- Completed 150 steam inspections;
- Completed the following mandated program reviews for all gas operators:
  - LNG
  - Master Meters
  - Drug & Alcohol;
  - Public Awareness Plan; and
  - DIMP.
- Implemented two work plan agreements with two separate utilities to address several areas of noncompliance. The work plans have quarterly compliance goals and if they are not met, penalties can issue.
- Issued multi-million-dollar NOPVs to two non-gas facility operators who had reported thousands of damage prevention violations in one quarter alone. The NOPVs related to failure to mark out facilities in the timeframes required by the laws and regulations.
- Received approximately 1,061 reports of Dig Safe violations, issued 1,798 NOPVs for violations of the Dig Safe Law, and assessed \$27,250,000 in civil penalties from Dig Safe violators;
- Implemented new regulations of professional engineers by natural gas companies;

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<sup>49</sup> Six gas companies now submit GSEPs. As of March 15, 2020, Boston Gas Company, Colonial Gas Company, and National Grid operate as one company within the National Grid USA holding company system.

- Since 2018, the state has reduced the total damage rate per thousand tickets by 47% (2018 – 2022 went from 2.47 to 1.31).



## RATES AND REVENUE REQUIREMENTS DIVISION

### Overview

The Rates and Revenue Requirements Division (“Rates Division”) is responsible for providing the technical expertise to determine the appropriate levels of revenues to recover through rates and to determine the rate design for the four investor-owned electric distribution companies, six investor-owned natural gas companies (also called local distribution companies or LDCs), and 18 investor-owned water companies conducting business in Massachusetts. The technical support provided by the Rates Division includes expertise in economics, finance, accounting, and public policy. The Rates Division also reviews a diverse range of additional filings including various municipal light plants’ annual depreciation increase requests and towing rate increase proposals. In addition, the Rates Division assists the Electric Power Division with providing technical expertise on public policy programs such as electric grid modernization, review of long-term renewable energy contracts, net metering, electric vehicles, and alternative rate designs. The Rates Division also assists the Gas Division with review of certain components of the LDAC filings and with public policy programs such as Geothermal Pilots.

The Rates Division assists the Department’s Legal Division in developing the evidentiary record in adjudicatory proceedings concerning the rates, accounting, finances, tariffs, and terms & conditions of the investor-owned natural gas, electric, and water companies doing business in Massachusetts. The Department’s decisions in these proceedings are directly appealable to the Supreme Judicial Court under G.L. c. 25, § 5.

The regulation of the Commonwealth’s investor-owned natural gas, electric, and water utilities requires the Rates Division to:

- Review and investigate requests to change base distribution rates in accordance with G.L. c. 164, §94, as well as review Offers of Settlement regarding base distribution rates;
- Analyze electric distribution company filings including the annual reconciliation of basic/default service, transmission, transition costs and revenues, grid modernization investments, interconnection cost allocations, electric vehicles program costs, residential assistance adjustments and programs, pension and PBOP costs, Attorney General consultant expenses, and net metering costs;
- Analyze annual adjustments to base distribution rates in compliance with revenue decoupling mechanisms (“RDM”) and performance-based ratemaking (“PBR”) mechanisms approved in base rate cases;
- Analyze adjustments to rates associated with capital expenditure (“Cap-Ex”) recovery filings;
- Analyze adjustments to LDC rates associated with the replacement of leak prone mains and services in accordance with Gas System Enhancement Program (“GSEP”);
- Analyze financing petitions (issuing securities);
- Analyze merger and acquisition proposals;
- Assist in determining the annual assessment of electric, gas, and water utilities;
- Analyze cost deferral requests and accounting matters;
- Analyze adjustments to rates and storm funds associated with storm cost recovery filings;
- Resolve disputes on the purchase of streetlights by municipalities from an electric distribution company, pursuant to G.L. c 164 § 34A;
- Assist other Divisions in implementing the provisions of the Green Communities Act, the Energy Act of 2012, the Energy Diversity Act of 2016, the Clean Energy Act of 2018, the 2021 Climate Act, 2022 Clean Energy Act, retail power supply markets, and service quality investigations where expertise in Rates and Revenue Requirements is needed;

- Provide information and assistance to the public, government agencies, press, private industries, and other government officials where expertise in rates is needed; and
- Provide technical support to the Department in the defense of decisions that are appealed to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

Additionally, the Rates Division maintains tariff logs for the investor-owned electric distribution, natural gas, and water companies conducting business in Massachusetts, as well as the municipal light plants and water and fire districts in Massachusetts, and reviews annual return filings.

## **Review of Requests to Change Base Distribution Rates**

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The Rates Division investigates petitions to change base rates as follows:

- Reviewing the filings (both petitioning company and intervenor proposals);
- Reviewing public comments and attending public hearings;
- Participating in informal technical conferences;
- Issuing information requests to the petitioning company and intervenors;
- Drafting pre-hearing memoranda for the Commission;
- Cross examining the petitioning company and intervenor witnesses during evidentiary hearings;
- Developing the evidentiary record;
- Developing and discussing with the Commission various options for resolution of issues;
- Preparing draft Department Orders per the directives from the Commission; and
- Reviewing compliance filings.

Changes to base rates are typically based on historic test year cost of service regulation or PBR. The Department sets base rates using cost of service pricing principles where electric, gas, and water rates are based upon the cost to serve various classes of ratepayers. Under cost-of-service pricing, the Rates Division reviews the costs incurred by utility companies during an historic test year adjusted for known and measurable changes to determine the reasonableness of such costs and to determine whether they were prudently incurred. The categories of costs include the companies' annual operation and maintenance expenses, depreciation, taxes, capital investments, cost of debt, and return on equity for shareholders. Appropriate annual expenses plus a return on rate base (i.e., return on net capital investment and working capital) make up the company's cost of service or the revenue requirement upon which rate structures must be designed to recover. Establishing base rates under PBR typically requires a determination of cast-off rates (using traditional cost-of-service regulation), and then adjusting the rates each year going forward for the PBR term by economy-wide inflation minus a productivity offset, and a consumer dividend, with provisions for exogenous costs and earnings sharing.

Once the company's cost of service has been determined, a rate structure must be established that affords the company a reasonable opportunity to earn its allowed rate of return while meeting other policy goals. Rate structure is the level and pattern of prices that customers are charged for the use of utility services. A customer class rate structure is a function of the cost of serving that rate class and the design of rates calculated to recover that cost. In setting rates, the Department balances its goals for utility rate structure by taking into consideration multiple factors such as economic efficiency, continuity, fairness, earnings stability, and simplicity.

For water companies, the traditional review of rate cases through adjudicatory proceedings is not always cost effective because the administrative costs of preparing and litigating a rate case for a small water company can equal or exceed the rate relief sought. To streamline the regulatory process, the Department has created a Settlement Intervention Staff, or SIS, comprised of Rates Division staff and Legal Division staff, that independently reviews rate requests and conducts off the record negotiations with water company officials and intervenors. The SIS does not have direct communication with the Commission regarding pending cases. Rather, the SIS and the other parties on the case may submit a proposed rate settlement to the Commission. An

adjudicatory team comprised of Rates Division and Legal Division staff review the proposed settlement and make recommendations to the Commission. The Commission may approve the settlement, return it to the settling parties with suggested modifications, or reject it with or without subsequent evidentiary hearings. To date, this process has saved the Department, water companies, and ratepayers considerable amounts of time, resources, and expenses.

The Department's regulatory authority over investor-owned water systems is in certain areas concurrent with that of the MassDEP. In situations where crossover issues are involved, such as in water conservation and adequacy of service, Rates Division staff work with staff at the MassDEP to ensure that the provisions of the agencies' respective duties are implemented in a harmonious manner.

In 2022, the Rates Division reviewed and issued Final Orders on two base distribution rate filings.

1. D.P.U. 22-22, NSTAR Electric Company (November 30, 2022).
  - a. NSTAR Electric filed its rate case on January 14, 2022. Pursuant to statute, DPU had ten months to investigate and make a determination on the rates. Evidentiary hearings concluded on July 27, 2022. The record closed on September 27, 2022. The Department issued its Order on November 30, 2022 reducing the requested increase from approximately \$89 million to \$64 million. New rates will take effect on January 1, 2023.
2. D.P.U. 22-20, The Berkshire Gas Company (October 27, 2022) (Settlement).
  - a. On June 24, 2022, the Berkshire Gas rate case settlement was filed with the DPU. In lieu of a fully litigated rate case, the Settling Parties (Attorney General and the Company) agreed to a total distribution rate increase of \$5.7 million, with a \$3.6 million increase occurring on January 1, 2023, and a \$2.1 million increase occurring on January 1, 2024. Other than these two increases, the Company will not increase or redesign base distribution rates to become effective prior to November 1, 2025. The Company also agreed to transfer \$125,000 to the Attorney General within 10 days of the DPU's approval of the settlement for the purposes of assisting the Attorney General in the discharge of its duties under G.L. c. 93A and G.L. c. 12, § 11E (money to fund or assist funding programs or initiatives to help customers pay or lower their natural gas bills). The DPU's Order approving the Settlement issued on October 27, 2022. New rates will take effect on January 1, 2023.

## **Review of Annual Performance-Based Ratemaking Adjustments**

In addition to reviewing changes to base rates, the Rates Division is responsible for reviewing proposed annual PBR adjustments. PBR refers to the use of incentives and adjustments to rates based on a formula as a means of setting utility rates – in contrast to traditional rate-of-return rate making, which is based on a company's cost of service. The PBR allows these companies to adjust their base distribution rates annually through the application of a revenue-cap formula that accounts for – among other factors – economy-wide inflation minus a productivity offset and consumer dividend and adjusted for the incremental cost of events beyond each company's control that have a significant impact on its revenue requirement (i.e., exogenous events). In 2022, the Rates Division was responsible for ensuring that the annual PBR adjustment filings from NSTAR Electric Company, Massachusetts Electric/Nantucket Electric Company, NSTAR Gas Company, and Boston Gas Company were in compliance with directives approved in each company's last base rate proceedings. In 2022, the Department approved the continuation of NSTAR Electric's prior PBR mechanism with further modifications.

In 2019, the Massachusetts Department of Revenue provided guidance that changed the method that municipalities may use to value property in calculating property tax assessments. In 2022, the Department determined that additional tax costs resulting from the change in valuation method met the standard to be recovered as an exogenous cost through the PBR mechanism in the D.P.U. 21-107-A Order for NSTAR Gas.

In 2022, the Department received petitions for exogenous cost recovery in the annual PBR filings of NSTAR Electric, D.P.U. 22-120 and NSTAR Gas, D.P.U. 22-121.

In D.P.U. 22-138, National Grid (Gas and Electric) filed a petition for deferral of the exogenous cost to be included for recovery in a subsequent annual PBR filing. In reviewing the exogenous cost proposals in the annual PBR filings, the Department was responsible for determining that the companies' individual circumstances satisfied the standard of review, and that the filings were consistent with the Company's tariffs.

## **Review of Electric Utility Annual Reconciliation Filings**

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As part of the continued implementation of Chapter 164 of the Acts of 1997 (the "Electric Restructuring Act"), the Department annually conducts a reconciliation (or true up) and adjustment to the rate for each electric company's transition, basic service, and transmission factors. Under the Electric Restructuring Act, each electric distribution company may collect:

- Those stranded or transition costs associated with divesting its generation business that it cannot mitigate;
- The costs it incurs to procure electric power to meet its basic service obligations; and
- The costs it incurs on behalf of its retail customers to provide transmission service.

In a true-up, the Rates Division evaluates the costs and revenues that each electric distribution company proposes to reconcile to determine if they meet the requirements of the Restructuring Act and its restructuring plan. Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company's Electric Division terminated its transition factor at the end of 2020. Transition factors for Massachusetts Electric/Nantucket Electric and NSTAR Electric are currently credits to ratepayers.

## **Review of Requests to Change Reconciling Rates**

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In addition to reviewing changes to base rates, the Rates Division is responsible for reviewing proposed rate changes to items for which the companies are allowed to collect their actual costs (i.e., where dollar-for-dollar recovery is intended). These items include Attorney General consultant costs, the pension and post-retirement benefit adjustment factors ("PAFs"), and the Residential Assistance Adjustment Factors ("RAAFs").<sup>50</sup> Further, the Department has approved, where appropriate, storm cost recovery adjustment factors to recover costs associated with major storms. The annual cable surcharge for Nantucket Electric is also a reconciling rate mechanism that is reviewed by the Rates Division.

Another reconciling factor is the RDM, that allows the electric and gas companies to reconcile the revenues collected from base distribution rates with the revenue requirement approved by the Department in the companies' last base rate cases, pursuant to the revenue decoupling plan approved by the Department. RDM adjustments are filed annually for the electric distribution companies and semi-annually for the gas companies.

Further, for Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light's Electric Division, the Department approved a Capital Expenditure, or Cap-Ex Mechanism that allows the company to recover the revenue requirement associated with a pre-determined amount of its annual capital investment incurred since its prior rate case.

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<sup>50</sup> PAFs are factors designed to annually recover a company's costs related to providing their employees with pensions. RAAFs are designed to recover costs related to low-income discounts and arrearage management programs.

## Gas System Enhancement Plans (“GSEPs”)

In 2014, legislation was passed allowing gas companies to each file with the Department a plan to address old natural gas infrastructure via the accelerated repair or replacement of such infrastructure. Pursuant to this legislation, the gas companies filed GSEPs for review and approval by the Department.

Rates staff played a primary role in the review of the 2021 GSEPs. The 2021 GSEPs covered the 2022 construction year and were approved by the Department, with modifications, in April 2022. The GSEP reconciliation filings were made in May of 2022 and approved in October of 2022. Subsequent GSEP filings, which cover the 2023 construction year, were filed in October of 2022, and are under review by the Rates Division staff.

During the 2021 GSEP construction year, the LDCs spent approximately \$511 million to replace 255 miles of leak-prone mains and 17,619 associated services.

## Review of Financing Requests

The Rates Division is also responsible for the review of financing petitions. Financing petitions include the issuance of debt or equity securities, as well as investment of funds or guaranteeing the indebtedness of other companies. The primary focus in such cases is to carry out statutory mandates that require utilities to issue only those securities reasonably necessary for utility operations and to avoid overcapitalization. During 2022, the Rates Division evaluated and approved 3 financing petitions involving a total of \$359.6 million. As of the end of 2022, one financing petition is pending for Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company in D.P.U. 22-141.

Capital Stock Approved		
Company	Bond or Notes	Approval Date
NSTAR Gas	\$325,000,000	6/14/22
Whitinsville Water	\$2,600,000	10/28/22
MMWEC	\$32,000,000	12/15/22

## Mergers and Acquisitions

Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 96, the Rates Division reviews all intrastate merger and acquisition proposals that are filed with the Department to determine if they are in the ratepayers’ best interests. The Rates Division analyzes each proposal’s effect on:

- Rates;
- Service Quality;
- Net Savings;
- Competition;
- The financial integrity of the post merger entity;
- Fairness in the distribution of resulting benefits between shareholders and ratepayers;
- Societal effects such as job loss and economic development;
- Long-term strategies to ensure a reliable and cost-effective delivery system;
- Any anticipated disruption in service; and
- Other factors that may negatively affect customer service.



## Coordination of Annual Assessments

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Pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 18, electric and gas companies that do business in Massachusetts are subject to an annual assessment on a percentage of their intrastate revenues. The Rates Division is responsible for gathering the revenue figures for the electric and gas utilities and assisting the Legal Division in preparing the annual assessment Orders.

## Review of Utility Accounting Matters

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Utility companies are required to maintain their books in accordance with Department regulation. To maintain uniformity of accounting, utilities are required to submit questions concerning the appropriate interpretation of the Department's accounting regulations to the Department. The Rates Division also reviews requests involving accounting practices, including requests by companies to defer expenses on their books for later consideration of recovery in a base rate proceeding.

## Review of Annual Returns filed with the Department

The Rates Division requires all utilities in the Commonwealth to file an annual return with the Department. The Rates Division reviews these annual returns to make sure that there are no deficiencies. The Rates Division maintains files of these annual returns and posts them on the Department's website. The number of operating utilities, private and municipal, under the jurisdiction of the Department and filing annual returns for the year ending December 31, 2021 was as follows:

Utilities Required to File Annual Returns	
Gas Companies	7
Electric Companies	7
Water Companies	14
Municipal Lighting Plants	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>

The above returns were analyzed and checked by the Department for compliance with the rules of the Department and/or the Uniform System of Accounts and were amended, when necessary, after issuance of a deficiency notice to the reporting utilities and MLPs. The number of utilities with remaining deficiencies and delinquencies are as follows:

Deficient and Delinquent Annual Returns	
Gas Companies	0
Electric Companies	0
Water Companies	7
Municipal Lighting Plants	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

## Review of Storm Funds

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The Department has approved storm funds and storm cost recovery factors for various electric distribution companies. The storm funds annually receive a Department-approved amount of funds that is recovered through base distribution rates and that may be used by the electric distribution company to recover its operation and maintenance costs associated with extraordinary storms that are incremental to the costs already collected in base rates and that are deferred for recovery to the storm fund. During 2022, the Rates Division continues its review of requests for cost recovery through the storm fund mechanisms of 36 storm-fund eligible events, and three exogenous storm cost events.



## Oversight of Municipal Utilities

The Department's role in regulating municipal light plants is limited in comparison to the jurisdiction exercised over investor-owned utilities. Municipal light plant rates are set by public officials in the municipality acting under legislative mandate and therefore do not require the close scrutiny and measure of Department supervision that is authorized or required in the case of investor-owned utilities. For example, the Department does not have authority over municipal light plant financing and does not have authority to suspend and investigate the rates of municipal light plants. The Department generally defers to the ratemaking authority and policies vested by statute in the municipality unless the rates are prohibited by statute or rise to the level of undue discrimination.

The Department's jurisdiction over municipal light plants can be summarized as follows:

- Requiring annual returns pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 63;
- Requiring that accounting records be maintained in accordance with the Department's Uniform System of Accounts pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 63;
- Requiring rate filings pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 58, 59;
- Reviewing and approving changes in depreciation accrual rates from the statutory permitted three percent set forth in G.L. c. 164, § 57;
- Requiring compliance with the Department's billing and termination regulations in accordance with 220 C.M.R. §§ 25.00 et seq.; and
- Hearing petitions from customers who have been denied service, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 60.

The following is a list of the municipal lighting plants with their percentages of earnings which, from returns filed in 2022 for the year ended December 31, 2021, appear to have violated the provisions of the statute requiring such plants to reduce their rates when they have earned a profit in excess of the eight percent allowed:

MLP	Percent
Norwood	13.19% on gross plant
Danvers	8.39% on gross plant

Eight municipal light plants (Georgetown, Groton, Merrimack, Paxton, Peabody, South Hadley, Wellesley, and Westfield) reported net operating losses on the sales of electricity during 2021. Other than in the case of Paxton, the municipal light plants reported sufficient net income from other sources, such as contract work and miscellaneous non-operating revenues, to offset their net operating losses.

## Review of Municipal Depreciation Requests

Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 57, municipal utilities may include in their rates an annual provision for depreciation expense equal to three percent of depreciable plant (plant less land and land rights), unless otherwise allowed by the Department. As municipal utilities rely on depreciation funds as a source of funds for plant improvements and expansions without resorting to outside financing, municipal utilities may seek authorization to increase their depreciation rate for a particular year. During 2022, the Rates Division evaluated and approved two requests for increases in municipal depreciation rates. As of the end of 2022, four requests for an increase in municipal depreciation rates were still pending.

## Review of Customer Complaints

The Rates Division assists the Department's Consumer Division in the review of rate and billing disputes by residential customers and water quality complaints. In addition, because billing disputes by commercial and industrial customers are not generally handled by the Consumer Division, the Rates Division has at times

provided informal assistance in resolving these billing disputes, primarily through review and interpretation of the applicable tariffs. The Rates Division staff periodically meets with Consumer Division staff to inform them of changes that result from the Department's directives in base distribution rate cases.

## **Public Information**

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Another important responsibility of the Rates Division is to provide timely and accurate information to the general public and elected officials regarding activities in the electric, gas, and water industries. This task requires working with other regulatory agencies, consumer groups, public interest groups, power suppliers, and utility companies to help them understand Department regulations and policies. The Rates Division also assists in the development of agency regulations to address the changing circumstances in the utility industry such as new utility business models, distributed energy resources, alternative ratemaking proposals, grid modernization initiatives, and new financial accounting standards. The Rates Division also works with the Department's Consumer Division to draft policy recommendations regarding consumer issues.

## **2022 Rates Division Major Activities**

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During 2022, the Rates Division participated in over 100 docketed matters, including rate cases, Cap-Ex filings, financing requests, grid modernization factor filings and/or investigations, GSEPs, GRECs, pension and PBOP adjustment factor filings, annual performance-based ratemaking adjustment filings, revenue decoupling adjustment factor filings, SMART program filings, utility-owned solar program related filings, storm fund or storm cost recovery filings, annual electric true-ups reconciliation filings, vegetation management/resiliency tree work filings, municipal depreciation requests, and several other uncategorized filings.

## TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY DIVISION

### Overview

Since its inception in 2016, the Transportation Network Company (“TNC”) Division has been a national leader in its regulation of rideshare companies and their drivers. Notably, the TNC Division is unique throughout the United States rideshare regulatory landscape in that it conducts a secondary background check of drivers and monitors their criminal activity continuously. Generally, the TNC Division’s activities include the following:

- Conducting driver background checks;
- Suspending ineligible drivers;
- Processing driver appeals;
- Fielding driver inquiries;
- Performing compliance audits of TNCs;
- Conducting investigations into TNC business practices;
- Administering enforcement actions against TNCs; and
- Collecting and analyzing TNC data.

Additionally, in light of recent legislation, the TNC Division is creating requirements for TNCs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the number of rides provided with fuel efficient and zero emission vehicles.

### Background Checks

Prior to becoming a rideshare driver or returning to the road in Massachusetts, each applicant must undergo a two-part background check. First, a rideshare company performs a multi-state check of the applicant’s criminal and driving histories and – if the applicant meets the TNC Division’s suitability standard – the rideshare company forwards the applicant’s information to the TNC Division. Then, the TNC Division performs its own comprehensive Massachusetts-specific background check, obtaining Criminal Offender Record Information, Warrant Management System information, Sex Offender Registry Information, and Registry of Motor Vehicles’ driving history. Additionally, the TNC Division conducts a yearly background check on all drivers.

### Subsequent Activity Monitoring

Although not required by statute, in 2019 the TNC Division embarked on an extensive coordinated effort with the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services (“DCJIS”) to engage in continuous monitoring of driver criminal activity. As a result of this effort, the TNC Division became the first – and remains the only – non-criminal justice agency in Massachusetts to conduct continuous criminal monitoring. This enables the TNC Division to receive daily alerts on new offenses and take appropriate action immediately.

### Application Processing

Since 2017, the TNC Division has conducted over 400,000 background checks. Below is an accounting of approvals and denials along with suspensions and revocations performed by the TNC Division in 2022, along with an accounting of appeals-related data for the year:

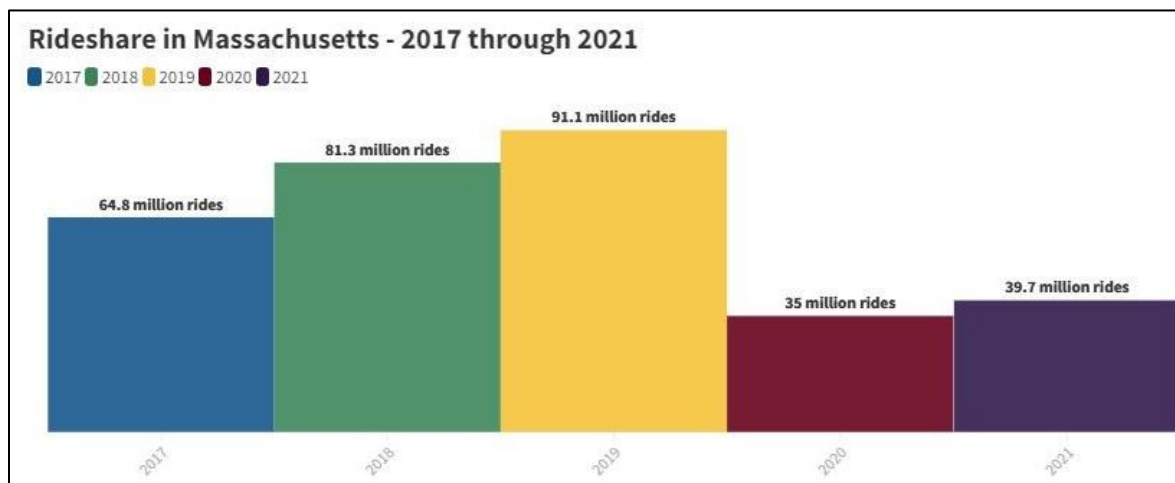
Driver Background Check Clearance Certificates January 1, 2022-December 31, 2022	
Approved Applications	124,671
Denied Applications	6,849
Revoked or Suspended Clearance Certificates	2,545

### Driver Denial, Suspension, and Revocation Appeals January 1, 2022-December 31, 2022

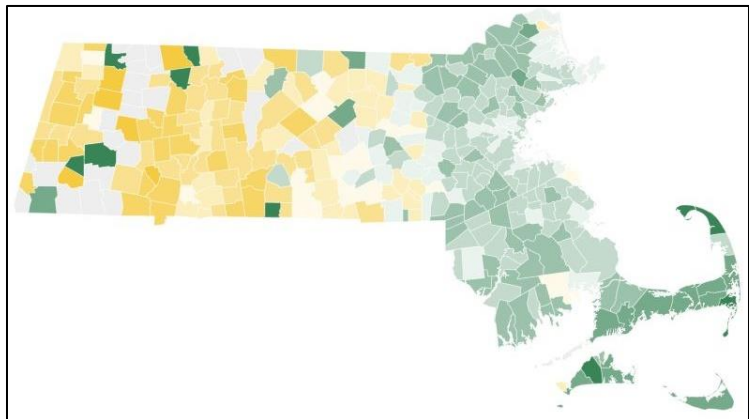
Appeals Docketed	1,021
Suitability Hearings Held	202

## Ride Data

Each year, the TNC Division receives aggregated ride data from Massachusetts rideshare companies and creates an interactive website – [mass.gov/rideshare](https://mass.gov/rideshare) – to report on the impact of rideshare on cities and towns. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic starting in 2020, rideshare usage declined dramatically. In 2021, however, there was about a 12.5% statewide increase in rides, although the industry largely remains below pre-pandemic levels. The bar graph below provides yearly totals of rides since 2017, when the TNC Division began collecting this information:



The 2021 recovery in ride volume was largely experienced in the eastern half of the Commonwealth, especially in the greater Boston area and the Cape and Islands. In central and western Massachusetts, ride volume continued to fall in some cities and towns. This map at right represents the percentages of increases (in green) and further decreases (in yellow) in rideshare usage throughout Massachusetts in 2021 as compared to 2020.



## Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Trust Fund

On February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, rideshare companies submit \$0.20 for each ride that started within Massachusetts in the previous calendar year. In 2022, the TNC Division collected \$7.9 million as a result of the 39.7 million rides that started in Massachusetts in 2021. Below is a table of the assessment totals since the TNC Division began collecting funds:

Trust Fund Report		
Year	Total Rides	Per-Ride Assessment Total
2021	39.7 million	\$7.9 million
2020	35 million	\$7 million
2019	91.1 million	\$18.2 million
2018	81.3 million	\$16 million
2017	64.8 million	\$12.9 million

The funds received from the per-ride assessment are disbursed  $\frac{1}{2}$  to the municipality in which the ride originated,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  to the Commonwealth Transportation Fund. Annually, cities and towns must report to the TNC Division on their use of the funds, which are in turn published to the TNC Division's website, [mass.gov/rideshare](https://mass.gov/rideshare).

### New Legislation

On August 10, 2022, Governor Baker signed H5060, *An Act Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind*, and H5151, *An Act Relative to Massachusetts's Transportation Resources and Climate*. This legislation contains within it a significant increase in the amount of data that rideshare companies will be required to report to the TNC Division. The new data includes granular information related to each trip performed by each company on a monthly basis, including fields such as date and time of the trip, cost of the trip, and geographic position data for the trip at minute-by-minute intervals. The legislation also allows the TNC Division to enter into confidential data sharing agreements with approved entities for the purposes of congestion management, transportation planning, or emissions tracking. The legislation further goes on to require the TNC Division to promulgate regulations related to greenhouse gas emission reduction and electric vehicle usage by rideshare companies.

## TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT DIVISION

### State Safety Oversight Agency

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has designated the Department of Public Utilities (“DPU”) to serve as the State Safety Oversight Agency (“SSOA”) for the rail fixed guideway public transportation system. Pursuant to federal regulations (49 CFR §674), a state with a rail fixed guideway public transportation system has primary responsibility for overseeing the safety of the system and must establish a SSOA. In Massachusetts, the only rail fixed guideway public transportation system is the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (“MBTA”). Pursuant to G.L. c. 161A, § 3(i), 49 CFR 674.7, and 220 CMR 151.02, the DPU is responsible for overseeing the implementation of MBTA’s compliance with its safety policies and standards. The Transportation Oversight Division’s Rail Transit staff perform all SSOA activities.

### Training and Certification of Rail Transit Staff

The Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program (“PTSCTP”), established at 49 C.F.R. Part 672, establishes a uniform curriculum for safety training that consists of minimum requirements for the technical proficiency of rail transit safety personnel. It also sets forth requirements for the certification and training of SSOA personnel and contractors who conduct safety audits and examinations of rail transit systems (“designated personnel”). Designated personnel must complete training requirements within three years of hire. Thereafter, refresher training must be completed every two years.

Designated staff must complete specific training courses conducted by the FTA and the Transportation Safety Institute (“TSI”). The DPU’s Technical Training Plan requires that staff satisfy the 17 mandated competency areas. In addition, the DPU added an additional five competency areas, for a total of 22 competency areas. Training is completed by a combination of in-person and virtual classroom training, as well as on the job training in the field. Some courses are taken through the MBTA’s Learning Management System (“LMS”).

All new Rail Transit staff at the Department, regardless of prior experience, are required to complete Rail Nomenclature on the TSI website within one month of their start date. Rail Nomenclature is an e-learning offering that covers the basic terminology and components used in rail transit systems. Within three years of hire, Rail Transit staff must also complete the following seven training courses:

1. SMS Awareness – 1 hour course;
2. Safety Assurance – 2-hour course;
3. SMS Principles for Transit – 20-hour course;
4. Effectively Managing Transit Emergencies – 22-hour course;
5. Transit Rail System Safety – 36-hour course;
6. Transit Rail Incident Investigation – 36-hour course; and
7. SMS Principles for SSO Programs – 16-hour course.

### Accident Investigations

Federal regulations permit a SSOA to assign the investigation of accidents and incidents to a rail transit agency (49 CFR §674.35). Pursuant to the DPU’s regulations at 220 CMR, the DPU designates the investigations to the MBTA. While the MBTA conducts the investigation of accidents and incidents, the Rail Transit staff observe and participate to ensure the investigation was done carefully and thoroughly. If the Rail Transit staff observe that an investigation is improperly or ineffectively conducted, the DPU could take supervision of an investigation.

The DPU’s Rail Transit staff observes the MBTA’s investigation of an accident from beginning to end for the purpose of ensuring that the MBTA’s investigation into the cause and circumstances of the incident are



“sufficient and thorough.” The DPU’s Rail Transit staff rotates on-call duty to respond to an incident, begin observing the MBTA’s investigation activities, and develop a preliminary understanding of the circumstances and causes of the incident. While on scene, the Rail Transit staff take notes, photos, and meet with MBTA personnel. The MBTA conducts various investigations, including holding fact finding or after-action meetings, interviewing employees, reviewing video or audiotape, and testing vehicles or equipment. The DPU may attend and observe all activities to inform the DPU’s determination that an investigation is “sufficient and thorough” and that the root and contributory causes of the accident are properly identified. Within 48 hours of the incident, the MBTA issues its own initial report on an accident to the DPU. Rail Transit staff may issue document requests, view videotape, attend post incident fact findings or other after actions, and conduct interviews, all oriented toward collecting information about the incident and observing the MBTA’s investigation.

Within 60 days of the incident, the MBTA must issue a final report to the DPU. The final report describes the incident and identifies its root cause(s) and contributing factors. Rail Transit staff reviews the final report and evaluates whether the MBTA’s description of the accident and identification of a cause(s) matches Rail Transit staff’s observations and conclusions. The final report must be formally accepted by the DPU before an investigation is closed. Many final reports also include recommendations for Corrective Action Plans (“CAPs”) to address the cause(s) of the accident and prevent it from happening again.

### **FTA Reportable Events and State Reportable Events**

Generally, there are two categories of incidents that are reported to the DPU. First, the Federal Transit Administration (“FTA”) requires that certain accidents and incidents are reported to the FTA and the DPU within two hours. These are commonly referred to as “FTA Reportable.”

The FTA has established definitions of three types of safety events: accidents, incidents, and occurrences. The MBTA must notify the DPU and the FTA within two hours of any event classified as an accident. An “accident” is an event that involves any of the following: a loss of life; a report of a serious injury to a person; a collision involving a rail transit vehicle; a runaway train; an evacuation for life safety reasons; or any derailment of a rail transit vehicle, at any location, at any time, whatever the cause.

Additionally, the DPU has defined a group of incidents that fall into the FTA’s definition of incident or occurrence that the MBTA must report to the DPU. These are commonly referred to as “State Reportables.”

As of December 7, 2022, the DPU observed and participated in 97 investigations conducted by the MBTA, comprised of 43 FTA Reportable events and 54 State Reportable events. These 97 investigations do not include investigations that the DPU began monitoring in 2021.

### **Participation in National Transportation Safety Board (“NTSB”) Investigations**

The NTSB may assume jurisdiction over investigations of accidents at a rail property. Should the NTSB assume jurisdiction over such an investigation, the NTSB may request DPU assistance. At the onset of such an NTSB investigation, the DPU becomes a party to the investigation and Rail Transit staff sign an agreement to keep all details of the investigation confidential. Rail Transit staff assist by providing observations and notes, attending interviews, and providing knowledge about the operation of the MBTA rail system.

#### **Green Line Collision 2021**

During 2022, Rail Transit staff continued supporting the NTSB in closing out an investigation of a Green Line collision in July 2021. In the week following the accident in 2021, most of the Rail Transit staff assisted the NTSB with the investigation by attending site visits, interviews, and meetings. In February 2022, SSOA staff attended a technical review meeting for the parties to the investigation conducted by NTSB to review and discuss the factual aspects of the report.

After review of the factual report, the DPU’s role and the role of all the other parties concludes. NTSB issues the final report on investigations with the NTSB’s findings and recommendations. Based on the NTSB’s recommendations, the MBTA creates CAPs and submits them to the DPU for review and acceptance.

### Red Line Fatality at Broadway

Later in 2022, the Rail Transit staff assisted the NTSB’s investigation into a fatality on the Red Line at Broadway Station on April 10, 2022. Consistent with procedure, the Rail Transit staff immediately deployed to the scene of the accident. The morning following the accident, six Rail Transit staff attended the NTSB’s initial meeting to open an investigation. Two Rail Transit staff members (one Engineer and one Compliance Officer) participated throughout the investigation, including through interviews, an inspection of the subject car, reviewing videotape, and a reenactment of the incident. This investigation is ongoing.

## **Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan**

Federal regulations require rail fixed guideway public transportation systems, such as the MBTA, to have a Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (“PTSAP” or “Agency Safety Plan”) that includes the processes and procedures to effectively manage safety risks. The PTSAP must include a plan for implementing a Safety Management System (“SMS”). The SSOA must review and verify the compliance of the PTSAP with federal requirements. The MBTA last submitted a PTSAP to the DPU on June 25, 2021, and the DPU reviewed and approved the PTSAP on July 22, 2021. MBTA updated its PTSAP and presented it to the MBTA Board on December 15, 2022. After obtaining the MBTA Board’s approval of the PTSAP, the MBTA forwarded the PTSAP to DPU for review. The DPU approved the PTSAP on December 28, 2022.

The DPU has responsibility for assessing the effectiveness of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan and conducts Risk Monitoring Activities throughout the year. The DPU conducted a total of 331 Risk Monitoring Activities in 2022 (as of December 7, 2022). The total activities listed below totals somewhat less than in past years due to the Rail Transit staff’s participation in Safety Management Inspection activities:

<b>Risk Monitoring Activities (as of December 7, 2022)</b>	
Document Reviews	5
Field Observations	218
Inspections	11
Event Investigations Initiated and Tracked	97
<b>Total</b>	<b>331</b>

## **Corrective Action Plans**

A Corrective Action Plan (“CAP”) is a plan that outlines steps and solutions (or “corrective actions”) that will be taken to manage a hazard or safety issue. A CAP can have one or more corrective actions and includes a schedule for when each individual corrective action will be implemented and completed. The DPU tracks CAPs developed by the MBTA to ensure the approach and timelines to resolving the issue are acceptable and practicable. From time to time, the DPU may issue a directive to the MBTA to create a CAP if the MBTA has not already done so.

Prior to the 2022 Safety Management Inspection, described further below, the MBTA had 29 CAPs monitored by DPU. The FTA’s Safety Management Inspection resulted in additional, new CAPs that the DPU is currently monitoring. DPU meets regularly with MBTA Safety Department to discuss the MBTA’s progress in implementing the 29 (“non-SMI”) CAPs and associated required actions. In addition, DPU attends the meetings conducted by the FTA with the MBTA to monitor implementation of the SMI CAPs.

## Safety Management Inspection by Federal Transit Administration

On April 14, 2022, the Federal Transit Administration (“FTA”) notified the MBTA General Manager that the FTA’s Office of Transit Safety and Oversight would conduct a Safety Management Inspection (“SMI”) of the MBTA’s transit operations and maintenance programs in response to several safety events. The letter also noted that the SMI would assess the effectiveness and role played by the DPU. During the FTA’s investigation, the DPU was allowed to attend and observe most investigation activities.

On June 15, 2022, the FTA issued a Special Directive requiring the DPU to oversee the MBTA’s CAPs to address four immediate concerns identified in the SMI. In addition, the DPU was directed to submit a CAP to the FTA describing how the DPU will monitor the MBTA’s implementation of the MBTA CAPs.

Rail Transit staff began weekly unannounced visits to the MBTA Operations Control Center to ensure employees are not working excessive hours, that there is appropriate staff coverage, and to verify sufficient internal documentation and tracking materials. Rail Transit staff also began weekly visits to rail yards and car houses to verify the implementation of new yard procedures and ensure the MBTA conducts a pre-trip “circle check” on each vehicle before the vehicle goes into service. Rail Transit staff also conducted extensive monitoring of the recent Orange Line “surge” through field visits, attending multiple daily meetings, and attending on site Safety Briefings.

### SMI Final Report

The FTA issued its SMI Final Report (“Report”) on August 31, 2022. The Report accompanied four Special Directives to the MBTA and one Special Directive to the DPU. Special Directive 22-13 to DPU required four primary actions. For each action, the DPU must create a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to address the FTA’s concerns.

First, the DPU must conduct a workload assessment and hire staff accordingly. The workload assessment should determine the number of hours and human resources required to oversee MBTA safety and the significant number of Corrective Action Plans undertaken by the MBTA to improve safety and safety performance. DPU’s consultant will conduct the workload assessment utilizing a tool created by the FTA. Utilizing the workload assessment, DPU’s Human Resources must develop a Hiring Plan for DPU’s Rail Transit Division to address both short and long-term staffing needs. Following the Report, the DPU has been further assessing the compliment of staff and resources needed to continue to expand the DPU’s Rail Transit Division. The DPU has posted several positions including:

- Public Utilities Engineer;
- Auditor;
- Compliance Officer;
- Director of Rail Transit Safety; and
- Assistant General Counsel.

Currently, there are two Public Utilities Engineers, two Compliance Officers, one Auditor, and one Program Manager in the DPU’s Rail Transit Division that work on rail safety oversight. The DPU is also continuing efforts to engage a consulting firm to bring additional field staff on board to augment the Rail Transit staff. Increasing the number of full-time employees dedicated to rail safety oversight is critical to increasing safety oversight of the MBTA. The DPU seeks to fill all positions with additional staff and increase the numbers of dedicated staff beyond previous levels. Although the FTA has not formally approved the DPU’s pending CAP associated with the workload assessment and hiring plan, the DPU is proceeding with implementation toward completion of this activity.

Second, the DPU was directed to complete a legal assessment regarding its organizational independence from the MBTA. The DPU was required to make a demonstration of its independence initially when FTA certified DPU as the SSOA, then again for the FTA's 2019 audit of the DPU. The current assessment of the DPU's independence will include a review of organizational mechanisms, including recusals, limited reporting relationships, and other features that provide legal separation between the two agencies and ensure DPU's independence to take enforcement action against MBTA. The DPU submitted a Corrective Action Plan outlining the process for the legal assessment. Although the FTA has not formally approved the DPU's pending CAP associated with the legal assessment, the DPU is proceeding with implementation toward completion of this activity and intends to submit the assessment to the FTA by January 30, 2023.

Third, the FTA directed the DPU to determine whether an assessment of the MBTA's fatigue management approach for rail transit officials and maintenance and engineering personnel is necessary and, if so, conduct the assessment. The DPU has engaged a consultant to perform the assessment of the MBTA's fatigue management policies and approach. When completed, the assessment will be distributed to the MBTA Board of Directors, the MBTA General Manager and MBTA Chief Safety Officer, and may include a directive to the MBTA to create a CAP to address any gaps or deficiencies in its approach to fatigue management. Fatigue management is related to staffing levels at the MBTA, therefore a CAP or CAPs may involve recruitment and hiring, as well as limiting the hours an employee may work.

Fourth, the FTA also directed the DPU to undertake actions to improve its ability to address safety issues and concerns at the MBTA.

DPU has adopted all CAPs resulting from all FTA Special Directives, so that the DPU must track the implementation of all CAPs and hold MBTA accountable for implementing them. The DPU submitted a process to FTA to outline the steps the DPU will take to evaluate the effectiveness of a CAP and oversee the timely implementation and close-out of these CAPs, in coordination with FTA. The Department will create an Inspection and Verification Plan for each CAP that identifies specific activities and deadlines to ensure the MBTA's completion of the required actions, together with a milestone schedule for completion of the MBTA's required actions.

## **Letter Directives to MBTA and Enforcement Procedure**

The DPU may issue orders directing the MBTA to take action. If necessary, to enforce orders, the DPU may initiate a formal legal process through the Office of the Attorney General. Historically, enforcement action has been unnecessary. The MBTA and DPU staff are most often able to work through the safety concern at issue and identify potential resolutions through creation of a CAP.

As an alternative to issuing an order, the DPU may issue a letter directive to the MBTA to address a risk or hazard requiring action. The letter directive may require immediate action and may be a first step in addressing a safety risk, or a letter directive may require the MBTA to create a CAP that sets out longer-term actions.

### **Pre-Trip Safety Checks**

The DPU issued a letter directive after an incident in a rail yard involving the uncontrolled movement of a train on July 25, 2002. The DPU directed the MBTA to submit a written checklist to be used by MBTA Motorpersons ("Motorpersons") to conduct a safety check of a train prior to putting the train into service or moving a train in the yard. Although the MBTA was conducting a full investigation of the incident, the circumstances called for immediate action. The creation and dissemination of a Safety Checklist is an immediate measure to address the uncontrolled movement of a train.

The letter directed the MBTA to ensure that Motorpersons utilize a checklist to verify basic safety features of a train prior to putting the train into service or moving a train in the yard. Motorpersons are not solely responsible for verifying a train's safety; instead, several other procedures and personnel are and should be

involved in pre-service inspections and verifications. However, Motorpersons should have the tools and training to conduct a safety check as the last step before putting a train into service or moving a train within a yard.

### Green Line Overspeeding

In response to ongoing collisions and derailments – specifically the June 1, 2022, collision at Government Center and the July 30, 2021 accident at the intersection of Pleasant Street and Commonwealth Avenue – the DPU determined that it was necessary to issue an Order directing the MBTA to create a CAP to address overspeeding on the Green Line. Although the MBTA has attempted to address speeding through its Safety Rules Compliance Program’s (“SRCP”) speed monitoring program and the development of the planned Green Line Train Protection System (“GLTPS”), the DPU is not satisfied that these corrective actions are effectively addressing this public safety issue. The DPU has concerns regarding the accuracy of the reported Green Line speeding data. Rail Transit staff attend the MBTA’s monthly SRCP committee meetings and review the data reported by the committee. Although the SRCP consistently conducts subway inspections, there are rarely, if ever, any violations captured in the data. During April and May 2022, the DPU conducted 46 radar observation tests at various Green Line locations. Rail Transit staff recorded 30 instances of speeding, and of those six instances were more than five miles per hour over the posted speed limit. The discrepancy between the MBTA’s report and the DPU’s field experience raised questions regarding the accuracy or effectiveness of the MBTA’s SRCP audits of the subway. The CAP submitted by the MBTA to the DPU is currently open and monitored by the DPU.

### **Observation and Attendance at MBTA Meetings**

In addition to field observations, document reviews and inspections, the DPU attends several MBTA committee meetings to assess the effectiveness of internal processes and structures. As mentioned above, the Rail Transit staff attends the Safety Rules Compliance Program meetings on an ongoing basis.

In addition, the Rail Transit staff meet regularly with the MBTA Safety Department regarding hazard tracking and management. Hazard Management means identifying a hazard, assessing the level of risk, and what actions will be taken to control the risk or eliminate the hazard altogether. The MBTA is responsible for assessing and rating identified risks and ensuring they are being tracked. The risk rating is based on how severe and how often the hazard occurs. The DPU tracks and reviews the MBTA’s identified hazards on a regular basis and may also identify additional hazards through DPU’s own field observations and inspections. The DPU may also direct the MBTA to reassess the hazard rating and develop a formal corrective action plan.

Rail Transit staff meets regularly with MBTA Safety to review the status of MBTA CAPs. As detailed in the section on accident investigations, Rail Transit staff attend most, if not all, fact findings and after-action meetings following an accident or incident. The Transportation Oversight Director meets weekly with the MBTA Chief Safety Officer, and biweekly with the General Manager.

### **Safety Certification of Capital Projects**

Pursuant to federal regulations, the DPU’s jurisdiction extends to monitoring the MBTA’s safety certification process for large projects in engineering and construction, like the Green Line Extension (“GLX”). In 2022, Rail Transit staff completed a review of the MBTA’s safety certification of GLX Union and Medford Branches.

The GLX project included the relocation of existing commuter/freight railroad tracks; construction of approximately 4.7 miles of light rail double track and systems; relocation of the existing Lechmere station; construction of six new stations; construction or rehabilitation of 1.26 miles of viaduct; replacement or rehabilitation of eight bridges; construction of a vehicle maintenance and storage facility (“VMSF”) and an administration building; implementation of new power, signals, and communications equipment; construction of a community path; and procurement of 24 light rail vehicles (“LRVs”).



Starting in November 2020, the DPU began to increase oversight of the GLX project to assure that the DPU would be ready to concur with the GLX project team and MBTA following the safety certification process prior to revenue service. The DPU increased oversight of the safety certification process by attending Safety Management Working Group (“SMWG”) meetings, participating in emergency drills, and conducting site visits throughout the project construction, testing and commissioning and safety certification verification phases of the project. Prior to the commencement of revenue service, the DPU conducted a thorough review of the Safety and Security Certification Verification Report (“SSCVR”) and supporting documentation. The DPU concurred that the GLX project was ready to transition to revenue service by letters dated March 21, 2022, for Branch 1 and December 11, 2022, for Branch 2.

## Common Carrier Oversight

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### Overview

The Common Carrier Oversight function of the Division has three areas of jurisdiction and serves both consumer protection and critical public safety functions. First, the Division performs regulatory oversight of intrastate passenger for hire common carriers that transport 10 or more people in a vehicle within the Commonwealth such as a vehicle for charter service. The second area of oversight is the Division’s jurisdiction over certain tow company charges. The Division sets the maximum tow rate and fees associated with involuntary tows through a rulemaking process. The third area of regulatory oversight is over household goods moving companies within the Commonwealth. The Division uses the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s (“FMCSA”) legal guidelines to determine if a common carrier meets the requirements to obtain a DPU Certificate.

Regulated common carriers are subject to fees for services such as licensing, inspection, and examination. These revenues are not retained by the Department but instead are deposited directly into the Commonwealth’s General Fund. During 2022, the Transportation Division generated approximately \$143,000 in revenues which were deposited into the Commonwealth’s General Fund.

### Hazardous Waste Certification

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The Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”) requires all companies seeking authority to transport hazardous waste within the Commonwealth to obtain a Certificate of Compliance from the Transportation Oversight Division. The Division has the responsibility to review the companies’ federal rating status and compliance with the federal Unified Carrier Registration Program (“UCR”). If the company is in good standing with both the federal rating and the UCR Plan, the Division issues a Certificate of Compliance to the company and the DEP. There were five companies seeking a Certificate from the Division in 2022.

### Unified Carrier Registration Plan

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The Transportation Oversight Division’s Common Carrier section is designated to administer and manage the UCR in the Commonwealth. The UCR Act requires all interstate motor carriers to pay a fee to their base state based on the fleet size they operate in interstate commerce. The revenue is used for motor carrier safety programs, enforcement, or the administration of the UCR plan. Massachusetts is one of 41 states participating in the program. The UCR Agreement is established by federal law in the UCR Act, which is part of the federal highway reauthorization bill known as the *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act, A Legacy for Users* (“SAFETEA-LU”), Public Law 109-59, enacted August 10, 2005. The UCR Agreement is found in 49 United States Code (“USC”) section 14504a. The UCR plan replaced the Single State Registration plan (“SSR”).

When the UCR Plan was enacted, Congress set a cap on the funds that each state could receive from the plan. The Act directed that UCR funds be used for commercial motor vehicle safety, education, and enforcement.



The Massachusetts cap is \$2,282,887.00. The Transportation Oversight Division has received the full cap amount each year since 2017. The funds are directed to the UCR Trust account which supports the Common Carrier section of the Transportation Division. Per the UCR Act, any funds received above the cap amount are reverted to the plan.

There are 15,230 interstate motor carriers in the Commonwealth. The Division provides full time telephone support to the interstate motor carriers domiciled within the State. The Division issues registration emails, post cards and reminders to motor carriers to register each year. Enforcement for the program is conducted by the state police and commences each year on January 1<sup>st</sup>. There are six registration brackets in which motor carrier fleets can be registered. Per the Act, the Division is required to audit the highest two categories in the registration brackets and audit a percentage of the remaining four brackets as prescribed by the UCR Board of Directors. The Division is also required to audit up to 100 registration anomalies that occur yearly. The staffing for the program is one full time employee and the Transportation Oversight Assistant Director, who was appointed by the Federal Secretary of Transportation to serve as the Chair of the Unified Carrier Registration Board of Directors.

### Licensing of Certain Common Carriers

Pursuant to G.L. c. 159B, § 3, and G.L. c. 159A, § 7 and §11A, the Transportation Oversight Division licenses common carriers transporting people or property “for-hire.” This includes motor coach, bus, livery, duck boats sightseeing, tow companies and household movers. During 2022, the Transportation Oversight Division conducted 77 licensing hearings:

Licensing Hearings in 2022	
Bus/Livery Companies	28
Tow Companies	23
Household Movers	26
<b>Total Licensing Hearings</b>	<b>77</b>

### Inspections of Passenger For-Hire Companies and Transit Authorities

The Division is responsible for oversight of the safety of equipment and operations of all Massachusetts regional transit authorities and passenger for-hire bus/livery companies based in Massachusetts, including transit bus systems, motor coaches, and sightseeing vehicles. The Division has nine Bus Inspectors certified by Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (“FMCSA”) to conduct comprehensive commercial vehicle inspections in accordance with the code of federal regulation and the North American Standard of Inspection Procedures. In addition, each Division Inspector holds a certification specific to commercial vehicle passenger inspections. The MA State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Team is the designated lead agency in the Commonwealth to conduct inspections and audits on behalf of FMCSA. The Division works within a Memorandum of Understanding with the MA State Police to partner together in the oversight of passenger for hire commercial vehicle safety and enforcement. Division Inspectors must meet several annual vehicle inspections prescribed by FMCSA to maintain federal certification. To our knowledge no other State employees in the Commonwealth hold this level of federal vehicle inspection certification. Division Bus Inspectors are called upon by the MA State Police and local jurisdictions as subject matter experts to conduct post vehicle crash inspections on passenger for hire vehicles. As of November 30, 2022, Transportation Oversight Division Bus Inspectors performed 2,834 bus safety inspections:

Bus Safety Inspections (as of November 30, 2022)	
Bus, Duck, Limo Inspections	2,105

Transit Bus Inspections	573
Vehicles Placed Out of Service	120
Compliance Reviews	36
<b>Total Bus Safety Inspections</b>	<b>2,834</b>

### Destination-Specific Bus Company Compliance Inspections

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Transportation Oversight Division Bus Inspectors, along with the Massachusetts State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Team, perform Joint Passenger Carrier Compliance Inspections (“Compliance Inspection Program”) to check passenger-for-hire vehicles, motor coaches and drivers for safety and regulatory compliance. The random inspections are conducted at multiple locations throughout the Commonwealth at sites with a high frequency of subject vehicles. Locations include South Station, Logan Airport, Fan Pier, and Faneuil Hall. As of November 30, 2022, the Compliance Inspection Program generated citations totaling \$13,230.

Working with the State Police and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (“FMCSA”), a passenger-carrier, destination-specific vehicle and driver inspection schedule is created quarterly to reflect seasonal trends specific to various programs scheduled throughout the calendar year. The inspection locations and times are designed to prevent passenger disruption wherever possible. The compliance schedule includes two passenger-carrier compliance checks per month at various locations such as Logan Airport, Boston’s Seaport District, and the South Station Bus Terminal. The Compliance Inspection Program is funded through the Unified Carrier Registration (“UCR”) Program, which supports random inspections to ensure that passenger carriers are operating with the correct authority, proper insurance levels, safe drivers, and safe equipment. The Compliance Inspection Program directly increases the safety of commercial vehicles and drivers operating on the Commonwealth’s roadways. During the Compliance Inspection Program there are many companies identified with no federal or state authority to operate as a for hire passenger carrier. The Transportation Oversight Division issues a Cease & Desist order to companies identified without authority to operate.

Destination Inspections with State Police	
Total Vehicle Inspections	336
Total Violations	333
Total Vehicles Placed Out of Service	42
Total Drivers Placed Out of Service	28
<b>Total Citation Fines Issued</b>	<b>\$13,230</b>

### Safety Analysis Investigations

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#### Compliance Reviews

In a partnership with the FMCSA office in Burlington, MA, five Transportation Oversight Division Bus Inspectors have been federally certified to conduct comprehensive federal investigations of intrastate passenger for hire common carriers. Many of the common carriers authorized by the DPU to conduct intrastate passenger for hire commerce also hold federal authority to operate interstate. In accordance with the code of federal regulations, FMCSA is required to conduct Safety Analysis Investigations (“SAI” or “CR”) on interstate common carriers every three years. The SAI is a program that audits the common carrier’s safety operations, driver files, driver medical certifications, driver records, driver hours of service logs, drug and alcohol testing programs, reasonable suspicion training, vehicle inspections and vehicle preventive maintenance programs. The staff are required to conduct six SAIs per federal fiscal year to maintain this certification. The results of an SAI audit could result in FMCSA suspending the common carrier’s authorization to operate both inter and intrastate. This causes the common carrier’s vehicle registrations to be suspended and the common carrier is

prohibited from operating until the safety issues are corrected with FMCSA. In addition, there are monetary fines that are imposed by FMCSA. Fines can range from a few thousand dollars to tens of thousands of dollars. During 2022, one common carrier was placed out of service and prohibited from operating by FMCSA.

## Safety Assessments

Transportation Oversight Division Bus Inspectors who are not certified to conduct Safety Analysis Investigations conduct what FMCSA refers to as a “Safety Assessment” (“SA”). The SAs are a type of audit designed to provide a regulated carrier with an overview of its compliance with various federal safety regulations. Unlike an FMCSA Compliance Review (49 CFR Part 385.109), which is a comprehensive audit performed at the request of the FMCSA, the results of the SA are not reported to FMCSA; rather, the SA is an outreach and education tool that the Department provides to carriers to help them identify and resolve deficiencies without a fine or penalty.

## Vehicle Decals and Permits

Vehicle specific decals and permits (for trucks and buses) are required by law to denote a licensed common carrier. In 2022, the Transportation Oversight Division issued decals and permits, collecting over \$100,560 in revenues that were deposited into the Commonwealth’s General Fund.

## Motor Bus Certificates

For-hire vehicles with a capacity to carry 10 or more passengers are regulated by the Division. The drivers of Division-regulated vehicles are required to hold a motor bus certificate. The Division issues these certificates to Class B and Class C drivers who have obtained the passenger endorsement on their licenses. Non-commercial drivers with a license to operate 14 passenger vehicles are required to obtain a 14-passenger restricted motor bus certificate. The Division administers the 14-passenger restricted motor bus certificate on-road driver evaluation exams. The motor bus certificate is valid until a driver turns 70 years of age. After turning 70 years of age, drivers must provide updated Department of Transportation medical certificates to renew their certificate every six months.

Motor Bus Certificates Issued (New and Renewals)	
Motor Bus New & Renew Issued	457
14 Passenger Restricted Road Tests	196
<b>Total Certificates Issued</b>	<b>653</b>

## Tow and Moving Companies

In 2022, the Transportation Oversight Division conducted 96 audits of randomly selected tow companies to monitor compliance with the Department’s towing regulations and rates published at 220 CMR §272. The audits identified various violations with respect to the rates charged for “involuntary tows” which include police and public authority ordered tows (e.g., arrest, snow emergencies, street cleaning, etc.) as well as trespass tows. In 2022, five tow companies signed Consent Agreements and each paid a \$100.00 fine to resolve violations discovered during an audit. In addition to tow company audits, the Transportation Oversight Division investigated 40 consumer tow complaints and four moving company complaints resulting in \$145.20 refunded to consumers.

## APPENDIX 1: 2022 SITING BOARD DECISIONS AND SITING DIVISION'S DEPARTMENT ORDERS

- NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, EFSB 22-01
- NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, EFSB 19-06/D.P.U. 19-142/19-143
- NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, D.P.U. 20-67
- Cranberry Point Energy Storage, LLC, EFSB 21-02/D.P.U. 22-59 (Referral and Consolidation Order)
- NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy and New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid, EFSB 21-04/D.P.U. 21-149 (Referral and Consolidation Order)
- Medway Grid, LLC, EFSB 22-02/D.P.U. 22-18/22-19 (Referral and Consolidation Order)
- NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, EFSB 22-03/D.P.U. 22-21 (Referral and Consolidation Order)
- Mayflower Wind Energy LLC, EFSB 22-04/D.P.U. 22-67/22-68 (Referral and Consolidation Order)
- Eversource Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, EFSB 22-05/D.P.U. 22-69 (Referral and Consolidation Order)

## APPENDIX 2: DEPARTMENT ORDERS ISSUED IN 2022

Docket #	Caption	Order Date
21-53	Geothermal Demonstration Project Implementation Plan submitted by NSTAR Gas Company doing business as Eversource Energy.	1/4/2022
20-93	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, to the Department of Public Utilities for approval of recovery of costs associated with one Solar Phase III generation facility located in Charlton, Massachusetts, constructed pursuant to Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 16-104, and in accordance with the Solar Cost Adjustment Provision, M.D.P.U. No. 1440.	1/5/2022
21-07	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, to the Department of Public Utilities for approval of its annual reconciliation filing for recovery of costs through its Solar Cost Adjustment Provision Tariff.	1/5/2022
21-103	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid in support of Additional Light Emitting Diode Streetlight Offerings and revisions to the existing Company-owned street lighting tariff, Street and Area Lighting – Company-Owned Equipment Rate S-1.	1/5/2022
21-118	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy to the Department of Public Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 69I, for Review and Approval of its Long-Range Forecast and Supply Plan for the five-year forecast period November 1, 2021, through October 31, 2026.	1/7/2022
21-10	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 69I, for Review and Approval of its Long-Range Forecast and Supply Plan for the five-year period 2020-2025.	1/12/2022

17-05-H	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, each doing business as Eversource Energy, Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.00 for Approval of General Increases in Base Distribution Rates for Electric Service and a Performance Based Ratemaking Mechanism.	1/14/2022
21-BSF-D4	Basic Service Filing of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid for the period February 1, 2022 through April 30, 2022 for Industrial Customers.	1/14/2022
22-22	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company, doing business as Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.00, for Approval of a General Increase in Base Distribution Rates for Electric Service and a Performance Based Ratemaking Plan.	1/19/2022
18-131	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for review and approval of their proposed Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Factor Filing for rates to be effective January 1, 2019.	1/26/2022
21-GAF-P6	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2021/22 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2021.	1/31/2022
21-120	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	1/31/2022
21-121	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	1/31/2022
21-122	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil (Gas Division), pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	1/31/2022
21-123	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	1/31/2022
21-124	Petition of Boston Gas Company, d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	1/31/2022
21-125	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	1/31/2022
21-126	Petition of the towns of Aquinnah, Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Chilmark, Dennis, Eastham, Edgartown, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Oak Bluffs, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Tisbury, Truro, Wellfleet, West Tisbury, and Yarmouth, and Dukes County, acting together as the Cape Light	1/31/2022



	Compact JPE, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	
21-127	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil (Electric Division), pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	1/31/2022
21-128	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	1/31/2022
21-129	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	1/31/2022
21-SQ-10	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil's 2020 Service Quality Report filed pursuant to Service Quality Standards for Electric Distribution Companies and Local Gas Distribution Companies, D.P.U. 12-120-D (2015).	2/4/2022
21-SQ-11	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid's 2020 Service Quality Report filed pursuant to Service Quality Standards for Electric Distribution Companies and Local Gas Distribution Companies, D.P.U. 12-120-D (2015).	2/4/2022
21-SQ-12	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid's 2020 Service Quality Report filed pursuant to Service Quality Standards for Electric Distribution Companies and Local Gas Distribution Companies, D.P.U. 12-120-D (2015).	2/4/2022
21-SQ-13	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy's 2020 Service Quality Report filed pursuant to Service Quality Standards for Electric Distribution Companies and Local Gas Distribution Companies, D.P.U. 12-120-D (2015).	2/4/2022
21-44-A	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil, to the Department of Public Utilities for approval of its annual reconciliation filing for recovery of costs through its Solar Cost Adjustment tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 328.	2/7/2022
21-GC-27	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and CertainTeed, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	2/7/2022
21-148	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, requesting approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Capital Expenditure Adjustment Factors for effect March 1, 2022.	2/7/2022
11-54	Petition of the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the Department of Public Utilities, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 93, requesting a review	2/8/2022



	of the price of gas provided by New England Gas Company related to environmental response costs.	
20-75	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on Its Own Motion Into Electric Distribution Companies' (1) Distributed Energy Resource Planning and (2) Assignment and Recovery Costs for the Interconnection of Distributed Generation.	2/8/2022
21-POR-01-A	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid pursuant to the Company's Tariffs M.D.P.U. Nos. 1420 and 1421, § 8B, for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Companies' Standard Complete Billing Percentages for effect May 1, 2021, under the Company's Purchase of Receivables Program.	2/9/2022
21-POR-02-A	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy pursuant to § 8B.2.b of the Company's Terms and Conditions - Competitive Suppliers and Competitive REA Suppliers for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's Standard Complete Billing Percentages for effect May 1, 2021, under the Company's Purchase of Receivables Program.	2/9/2022
19-55-E	Inquiry by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Distributed Generation Interconnection.	2/9/2022
21-SQ-01	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2021 Service Quality Reports of the Local Gas Distribution Companies, filed pursuant to Service Quality Standards for Electric Distribution Companies and Local Gas Distribution Companies, D.T.E. 12-120-D (2015) and D.P.U. 12-120-D, Attachment A (2015).	2/10/2022
21-SQ-02	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2021 Service Quality Reports of the Local Gas Distribution Companies, filed pursuant to Service Quality Standards for Electric Distribution Companies and Local Gas Distribution Companies, D.T.E. 12-120-D (2015) and D.P.U. 12-120-D, Attachment A (2015).	2/10/2022
21-SQ-03	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2021 Service Quality Reports of the Local Gas Distribution Companies, filed pursuant to Service Quality Standards for Electric Distribution Companies and Local Gas Distribution Companies, D.T.E. 12-120-D (2015) and D.P.U. 12-120-D, Attachment A (2015).	2/10/2022
21-SQ-04	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2021 Service Quality Reports of the Local Gas Distribution Companies, filed pursuant to Service Quality Standards for Electric Distribution Companies and Local Gas Distribution Companies, D.T.E. 12-120-D (2015) and D.P.U. 12-120-D, Attachment A (2015).	2/10/2022
21-SQ-05	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2021 Service Quality Reports of the Local Gas Distribution Companies, filed pursuant to Service Quality Standards for Electric Distribution Companies and Local Gas Distribution Companies, D.T.E. 12-120-D (2015) and D.P.U. 12-120-D, Attachment A (2015).	2/10/2022
21-SQ-06	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2021 Service Quality Reports of the Local Gas Distribution Companies, filed pursuant to Service Quality Standards	2/10/2022

	for Electric Distribution Companies and Local Gas Distribution Companies, D.T.E. 12-120-D (2015) and D.P.U. 12-120-D, Attachment A (2015).	
21-SQ-08	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2021 Service Quality Reports of the Local Gas Distribution Companies, filed pursuant to Service Quality Standards for Electric Distribution Companies and Local Gas Distribution Companies, D.T.E. 12-120-D (2015) and D.P.U. 12-120-D, Attachment A (2015).	2/10/2022
21-SQ-09	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2021 Service Quality Reports of the Local Gas Distribution Companies, filed pursuant to Service Quality Standards for Electric Distribution Companies and Local Gas Distribution Companies, D.T.E. 12-120-D (2015) and D.P.U. 12-120-D, Attachment A (2015).	2/10/2022
20-ERP-02	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its 2020 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	2/10/2022
20-ERP-04	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2020 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	2/10/2022
20-ERP-05	Petition of Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of its 2020 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	2/10/2022
20-ERP-06	Petition of Liberty Utilities for approval of its 2020 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	2/10/2022
20-ERP-07	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2020 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	2/10/2022
21-ERP-02	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its 2021 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	2/10/2022
21-ERP-04	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2021 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	2/10/2022
21-ERP-05	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of its 2021 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	2/10/2022
21-ERP-06	Petition of Liberty Utilities for approval of its 2021 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	2/10/2022
21-ERP-07	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company and Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts each d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2021 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	2/10/2022

21-126	Petition of the Towns of Aquinnah, Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Chilmark, Dennis, Edgartown, Eastham, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Oak Bluffs, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Tisbury, Truro, Wellfleet, West Tisbury, and Yarmouth, and Dukes County, acting together as the Cape Light Compact JPE, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	2/14/2022
21-144	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval of the Company's annual vegetation management factor compliance filing and cost recovery pursuant to the Company's Vegetation Management Pilot Provision tariff.	2/15/2022
21-120-A	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	2/15/2022
21-121-A	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	2/15/2022
21-122-A	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil (Gas Division), pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	2/15/2022
21-123-A	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	2/15/2022
21-124-A	Petition of Boston Gas Company, d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	2/15/2022
21-125-A	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	2/15/2022
21-126-A	Petition of the towns of Aquinnah, Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Chilmark, Dennis, Eastham, Edgartown, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Oak Bluffs, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Tisbury, Truro, Wellfleet, West Tisbury, and Yarmouth, and Dukes County, acting together as the Cape Light Compact JPE, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	2/15/2022
21-127-A	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil (Electric Division), pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	2/15/2022
21-128-A	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	2/15/2022

21-129-A	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	2/15/2022
22-22	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company, doing business as Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.00, for Approval of a General Increase in Base Distribution Rates for Electric Service and a Performance Based Ratemaking Plan.	2/17/2022
20-145	Joint Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, for Approval of Revised Model Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Program Tariff.	2/22/2022
21-26	Petition of the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Council's 2021 budget.	2/22/2022
22-03	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, to the Department of Public Utilities for approval of its annual reconciliation filing for recovery of costs through its Solar Cost Adjustment Provision Tariff.	2/23/2022
21-74	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for review and approval of its Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan.	2/23/2022
21-103	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid in support of Additional Light Emitting Diode Streetlight Offerings and revisions to the existing Company-owned street lighting tariff, Street and Area Lighting – Company-Owned Equipment Rate S-1.	2/24/2022
22-02	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid for approval of their annual Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for effect March 1, 2022.	2/28/2022
22-04	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid, for approval of their annual Pension/PBOP Adjustment Factors for effect March 1, 2022.	2/28/2022
22-BSF-C1	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy's Basic Service Filing.	2/28/2022
22-01	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval of their 2021 electric reconciliation filing effective March 1, 2022, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	2/28/2022
21-GAF-P1	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2021/22 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2021.	2/28/2022

21-GAF-P4	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2021/22 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2021.	2/28/2022
21-GAF-P5	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2021/22 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2021.	2/28/2022
21-GAF-P6	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2021/22 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2021.	2/28/2022
21-GC-28	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Aggregate Industries—Northeast Region, Inc. (Dennis), pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	3/1/2022
21-GC-29	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Vibram Corporation pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	3/1/2022
21-GC-30	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Concrete Block Insulating Systems, Inc., pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	3/1/2022
22-GC-02	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and New England Baptist Hospital, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	3/1/2022
22-15	Inquiry by the Department of Public Utilities, on its own motion, into revisions to the Model Terms and Conditions related to gas supplier service approved in Natural Gas Unbundling, D.T.E. 98-32-D (2000).	3/2/2022
22-22	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company, doing business as Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.00, for Approval of a General Increase in Base Distribution Rates for Electric Service and a Performance Based Ratemaking Plan.	3/9/2022
21-03	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for recovery of incremental operations and maintenance expenses associated with eight qualifying weather events that occurred between January 2019 and December 2019.	3/11/2022
22-22	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company, doing business as Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.00, for Approval of a General Increase in Base Distribution Rates for Electric Service and a Performance Based Ratemaking Plan.	3/11/2022



22-GC-01	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Sprague Operating Resources, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	3/15/2022
20-121	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy to the Department of Public Utilities to recover investment and ongoing maintenance costs associated with its Solar Expansion Program pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 67C and NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, D.P.U. 16-105 (2016).	3/18/2022
20-123	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 66C, to the Department of Public Utilities Seeking to Recover Actual and Projected Costs Associated With its Solar Program.	3/18/2022
22-BSF-B1	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy's Basic Service Filing for Western Massachusetts Electric Company.	3/18/2022
22-BSF-C1	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy's Basic Service Filing.	3/18/2022
22-BSF-A2	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval of Basic Service Rates for June 1, 2022 through November 30, 2022.	3/21/2022
22-BSF-D1	Basic Service Filing of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid	3/22/2022
20-145	Joint Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, for Approval of Revised Model Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Program Tariff.	3/28/2022
20-145	Joint Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, for Approval of Revised Model Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Program Tariff.	3/28/2022
20-145	Joint Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, for Approval of Revised Model Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Program Tariff.	3/28/2022
21-SQ-11	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid's 2020 Service Quality Report filed pursuant to Service Quality Standards for Electric Distribution Companies and Local Gas Distribution Companies, D.P.U. 12-120-D (2015).	3/28/2022
22-GC-03	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Brandies University, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	3/31/2022



22-GC-05	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	3/31/2022
22-BSF-A2	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval of Alternative Basic Service Procurement.	3/31/2022
21-38	Investigation of the Department of Public Utilities, on its own motion, instituting a rulemaking pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 2, and 220 CMR 2.00, to amend 220 CMR 20.00, Steam Distribution Companies.	4/13/2022
22-ASMT-01	General Assessment of the Department of Public Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 18, for fiscal year 2022.	4/21/2022
22-ASMT-02	Electric Trust Assessment of the Department of Public Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 12O and G.L. c. 25, § 18, for fiscal year 2022.	4/21/2022
22-ASMT-03	Storm Trust Fund Assessment of the Department of Public Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 12P, and G.L. c. 25, § 18, for fiscal year 2022.	4/21/2022
22-ASMT-04	Steam Distribution Company Assessment of the Department of Public Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 18A, for Fiscal Year 2022.	4/21/2022
20-64	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of Proposed Electric Vehicle Program Factors.	4/21/2022
21-37	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of its 2020 Annual Interconnection Timeline Enforcement Metric Report.	4/22/2022
21-43	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2020 Annual Interconnection Timeline Enforcement Metric Report.	4/22/2022
21-42	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2020 Annual Interconnection Timeline Enforcement Mechanism Report.	4/22/2022
22-17	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for Approval of their 2022 Energy Efficiency Reconciling Factors, for effect May 1, 2022.	4/22/2022
22-29	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for review and approval of their basic service costs adder rate adjustment for effect May 1, 2022.	4/25/2022
22-05	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy, for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2022 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022.	4/25/2022
22-06	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2022 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022.	4/25/2022

22-09	Petition of Boston Gas Company and the former Colonial Gas Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval of their Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2022 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022.	4/25/2022
22-10	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2022 Off-Peak Period, for effect May 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022.	4/25/2022
22-11	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil, for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2022 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2022, through October 31, 2022.	4/25/2022
22-12	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corporation d/b/a Liberty Utilities for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2022 Off-Peak Period, for effect May 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022.	4/25/2022
22-16	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, to the Department of Public Utilities for approval of recovery of costs associated with a Solar Phase III generation facility located in Northbridge, Massachusetts, constructed pursuant to Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 16-104 (2016), and in accordance with the Solar Cost Adjustment Provision, M.D.P.U. No. 1474.	4/25/2022
22-23	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Program Factors for effect May 1, 2022.	4/25/2022
22-24	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for Approval of its 2022 Smart Grid Pilot Program Rate Adjustment and Reconciliation Filing.	4/25/2022
21-120-B	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	4/25/2022
21-121-B	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	4/25/2022
21-122-B	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil (Gas Division), pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	4/25/2022
21-123-B	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	4/25/2022
21-124-B	Petition of Boston Gas Company, d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	4/25/2022

21-125-B	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	4/25/2022
21-126-B	Petition of the towns of Aquinnah, Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Chilmark, Dennis, Eastham, Edgartown, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Oak Bluffs, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Tisbury, Truro, Wellfleet, West Tisbury, and Yarmouth, and Dukes County, acting together as the Cape Light Compact JPE, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	4/25/2022
21-127-B	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil (Electric Division), pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	4/25/2022
21-128-B	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	4/25/2022
21-129-B	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	4/25/2022
21-120	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	4/25/2022
21-121	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	4/25/2022
21-122	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil (Gas Division), pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	4/25/2022
21-123	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	4/25/2022
21-124	Petition of Boston Gas Company, d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	4/25/2022
21-125	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	4/25/2022
21-126	Petition of the towns of Aquinnah, Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Chilmark, Dennis, Eastham, Edgartown, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Oak Bluffs, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Tisbury, Truro, Wellfleet, West Tisbury, and Yarmouth, and Dukes County, acting together as the Cape Light	4/25/2022

	Compact JPE, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	
21-127	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil (Electric Division), pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	4/25/2022
21-128	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	4/25/2022
21-129	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	4/25/2022
21-25	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, to the Department of Public Utilities for approval of recovery of costs associated with one Solar Phase III generation facility located in Attleboro, Massachusetts, constructed pursuant to Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 16-104, and in accordance with the Solar Cost Adjustment Provision, M.D.P.U. No. 1455.	4/26/2022
21-GSEP-01	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2022 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2022.	4/28/2022
21-GSEP-02	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for Approval of its 2022 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2022.	4/28/2022
21-GSEP-03	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of its 2022 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2022.	4/28/2022
21-GSEP-04	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for Approval of its 2022 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2022.	4/28/2022
21-GSEP-05	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of its 2022 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2022.	4/28/2022
21-GSEP-06	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2022 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2022.	4/28/2022
22-23	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Program Factors for effect May 1, 2022.	4/29/2022

18-94	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid for recovery of incremental storm-related expenses associated with the March 2, 2017 and March 14, 2017 storms, pursuant to D.P.U. 15-155-A.	4/29/2022
21-146	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval of a Supplemental Budget for its Electric Vehicle Market Development Program.	4/29/2022
22-OGAF-BERK	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2022, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/29/2022
22-OGAF-EGMA	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2022, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/29/2022
22-OGAF-FGE	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2022, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/29/2022
22-OGAF-GRID	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2022, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/29/2022
22-OGAF-LIB	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2022, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/29/2022
22-OGAF-NSTAR	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2022, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/29/2022
22-POR-01	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid pursuant to the Companies' Tariffs M.D.P.U. Nos. 1420 and 1421, § 8B, for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Companies' Standard Complete Billing Percentages for effect May 1, 2022, under the Company's Purchase of Receivables Program.	4/29/2022
22-POR-02	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy pursuant to § 8B.2.b of the Company's Terms and Conditions-Competitive Suppliers and Competitive Renewable Energy Attribute Suppliers for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's Standard Complete Billing Percentages for effect May 1, 2022, under the Company's Purchase of Receivables Program.	4/29/2022
21-145	Petition of Ipswich Electric Light Department for authorization and approval to increase its depreciation rate to five percent for the calendar year 2021.	4/29/2022
21-117	Petition of the Shrine of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker for electrical service to be provided by the Marblehead Municipal Electric Light Department	5/6/2022



20-67	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 72 for Approval to Construct and Operate a New 115-kV Transmission Line from Carver to Kingston.	5/6/2022
22-GC-06	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and North Shore Medical Center, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	5/10/2022
22-GC-07	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Brigham and Women's Faulkner Hospital, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	5/10/2022
22-GC-08	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Newton-Wellesley Hospital, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	5/10/2022
22-GC-09	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and McLean Hospital, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	5/10/2022
20-117	Petition of the City of Fitchburg for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	5/17/2022
22-BSF-B2	Basic Service Filing of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy.	5/18/2022
22-34	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil, to the Department of Public Utilities for approval of its annual reconciliation filing for recovery of costs through its Solar Cost Adjustment tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 368.	5/20/2022
22-33	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil, for Approval of its 2022 Energy Efficiency Reconciling Factors, for effect June 1, 2022.	5/27/2022
22-BSF-C2	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, Basic Service Filing.	5/27/2022
22-60	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its revised Basic Service Adjustment filing effective June 1, 2022, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	5/27/2022
22-48	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Program Factors for effect June 1, 2022.	5/27/2022
22-48	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Program Factors for effect June 1, 2022.	5/27/2022
22-49	Petition of Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid for the cable facilities surcharge factors for effect beginning June 1, 2022 for the second of the two submarine cables that serve the island of Nantucket.	5/31/2022
22-OGAF-LIB	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities for approval of its revised gas adjustment factor filing effective June 1, 2022, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	5/31/2022



22-OGAF-FGE	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2022, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	5/31/2022
22-OGAF-BERK	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00 for approval of its 2022 off-peak gas adjustment factor filing, effective May 1, 2022.	5/31/2022
22-OGAF-GRID	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00 for approval of its 2022 off-peak gas adjustment factor filing, effective May 1, 2022.	5/31/2022
21-128-C	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	6/1/2022
21-129-C	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	6/1/2022
22-02	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid for approval of their annual Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for effect March 1, 2022.	6/1/2022
21-SQ-11	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid's 2020 Service Quality Report filed pursuant to Service Quality Standards for Electric Distribution Companies and Local Gas Distribution Companies, D.P.U. 12-120-D (2015).	6/1/2022
22-32	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for Approval of an Agreement to Purchase Renewable Natural Gas from Fall River RNG LLC and of the Liberty RNG Program.	6/1/2022
21-112	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for a base distribution rate revenue adjustment pursuant the settlement approved in Eversource Energy/Bay State Gas Company, D.P.U. 20-59/19-140/19-141 (2020).	6/3/2022
20-24	Petition of the Town of Westwood for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	6/7/2022
22-26	Petition of Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Department for authorization and approval to increase its depreciation rate to five percent for the calendar year 2022.	6/7/2022
22-51	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's Freetown capital investment project proposal under the Provisional Program established by the Department in Provisional System Planning Program, D.P.U. 20-75-B (2021).	6/9/2022

22-52	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's Plainfield-Blandford capital investment project proposal under the Provisional Program established by the Department in Provisional System Planning Program, D.P.U. 20-75-B (2021).	6/9/2022
22-53	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's Dartmouth-Westport capital investment project proposal under the Provisional Program established by the Department in Provisional System Planning Program, D.P.U. 20-75-B (2021).	6/9/2022
22-54	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's Plymouth capital investment project proposal under the Provisional Program established by the Department in Provisional System Planning Program, D.P.U. 20-75-B (2021).	6/9/2022
22-55	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's Cape Cod capital investment project proposal under the Provisional Program established by the Department in Provisional System Planning Program, D.P.U. 20-75-B (2021).	6/9/2022
22-61	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's Shutesbury capital investment project proposal under the Provisional Program established by the Department in Provisional System Planning Program, D.P.U. 20-75-B (2021).	6/9/2022
22-08	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for authorization and approval: (1) to issue long-term debt securities in an amount not to exceed \$325 million, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 14; and (2) for an exemption from the advertising requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15.	6/14/2022
22-GREC-01	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for review and approval of the reconciliation of its 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	6/15/2022
22-GREC-02	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company, pursuant to G.L. c 164 § 145, for review and approval of the reconciliation of its 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors	6/15/2022
22-GREC-03	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for review and approval of the reconciliation of its 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factor.	6/15/2022
22-GREC-04	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for Approval of the Reconciliation of its 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plan and Review and Approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	6/15/2022

22-GREC-05	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for Approval of the Reconciliation of its 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plan and Review and Approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors	6/15/2022
22-GREC-06	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for review and approval of the reconciliation of its 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	6/15/2022
22-GC-10	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Wellesley College, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	6/16/2022
22-GC-11	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and The Gillette Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	6/16/2022
22-GC-13	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Northeast Hospital Corporation, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	6/16/2022
22-BSF-D2	Basic Service filing of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for the period August 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022.	6/21/2022
22-63	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of Proposed Electric Vehicle Program Factors for effect July 1, 2022.	6/24/2022
22-63	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of Proposed Electric Vehicle Program Factors for effect July 1, 2022.	6/24/2022
21-79	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil requesting approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Capital Investment Report for Calendar Year 2020 and Capital Cost Adjustment Factors.	6/24/2022
22-75	Massachusetts Clean Energy Center Request for Fiscal Year 2023 Funding Pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 19(d).	6/27/2022
22-46	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, for Approval of its 2022 Energy Efficiency Reconciling Factors, for effect July 1, 2022.	6/27/2022
22-OGAF-LIB	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00 for approval of its 2022 off-peak gas adjustment factor filing, effective May 1, 2022.	6/27/2022
22-50	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its Grid Modernization Program Factors for effect July 1, 2022.	6/28/2022
n/a	2021 Annual Report Concerning Self-Generation	6/29/2022

22-70	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of two long-term contracts for procurement of offshore wind energy generation, pursuant to St. 2008, c. 169, § 83, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; St. 2021, c. 8 § 91 et seq.; and St. 2021, c. 24, §§ 69, 72; and 220 CMR 23.00.	6/30/2022
22-71	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of two long-term contracts for procurement of offshore wind energy generation, pursuant to St. 2008, c. 169, § 83, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; St. 2021, c. 8 § 91 et seq.; and St. 2021, c. 24, §§ 69, 72; and 220 CMR 23.00.	6/30/2022
22-72	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of two long-term contracts for procurement of offshore wind energy generation, pursuant to St. 2008, c. 169, § 83, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; St. 2021, c. 8 § 91 et seq.; and St. 2021, c. 24, §§ 69, 72; and 220 CMR 23.00.	6/30/2022
19-07-C	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Initiatives to Promote and Protect Consumer Interests in the Retail Electric Competitive Supply Market.	7/6/2022
21-133	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its annual Storm Cost Recovery Adjustment Factor for effect January 1, 2022.	7/6/2022
21-133	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its annual Storm Cost Recovery Adjustment Factor for effect January 1, 2022.	7/6/2022
21-100	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities, On Its Own Motion, Instituting a Rulemaking Pursuant to the Acts of 2021, c. 8, §§ 82-85, G.L. c. 30A, § 2, and 220 CMR 2.00 to Amend the Net Metering Regulations at 220 CMR 18.00.	7/8/2022
22-32	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for Review and Approval of an Agreement to Purchase Renewable Natural Gas from Fall River RNG LLC and of the Liberty RNG Program.	7/13/2022
21-11	Adjudicatory hearing in the matter of a possible violation of G.L. c. 82, § 40, 40A-40E, and 220 CMR 99.09, by A.D. Paolini, LLC, relative to D.P.U. 19-DS-0516.	7/15/2022
21-12	Adjudicatory hearing in the matter of a possible violation of G.L. c. 82, § 40, 40A-40E, and 220 CMR 99.09, by A.D. Paolini, LLC, relative to D.P.U. 19-DS-0379.	7/15/2022
22-13	Adjudicatory hearing in the matter of a possible violation of G.L. c. 82, § 40, 40A-40E, and 220 CMR 99.09, by R.P. Marzilli & Company Inc., relative to D.P.U. 19-DS-0500.	7/15/2022

22-32	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for Review and Approval of an Agreement to Purchase Renewable Natural Gas from Fall River RNG LLC and of the Liberty RNG Program.	7/21/2022
21-60	Petition for Waiver of Jurisdiction under G.L. c. 164 § 96(c) Regarding National Grid USA Sale of The Narragansett Electric Company in Rhode Island.	7/26/2022
21-60	Petition for Waiver of Jurisdiction under G.L. c. 164 § 96(c) Regarding National Grid USA Sale of The Narragansett Electric Company in Rhode Island.	7/26/2022
22-OGAF-LIB	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities for approval of its revised gas adjustment factor filing effective June 1, 2022, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	7/27/2022
22-OGAF-NSTAR	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00 for approval of its 2022 off-peak gas adjustment factor filing, effective May 1, 2022.	7/27/2022
22-OGAF-GRID	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00 for approval of its 2022 off-peak gas adjustment factor filing, effective May 1, 2022.	7/27/2022
22-31	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities, for revisions to a regulated money pool agreement, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 17A.	7/29/2022
18-153	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid for recovery of incremental operations and maintenance expenses associated with qualifying weather events that occurred between 2013 and 2016.	8/4/2022
22-25	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid for a Waiver of the Department of Public Utilities' Basic Service Procurement Requirements.	8/15/2022
21-56	Petition of Hopkinton LNG Corporation d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of the demand charge, effective November 1, 2021, developed pursuant to the gas service agreement between NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy and Hopkinton LNG Corporation.	8/17/2022
22-BSF-B3	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy Basic Service Rates Filing (Western Massachusetts).	8/17/2022
20-120-B	Petition of Boston Gas Company, doing business as National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.00, for Approval of a General Increase in Base Distribution Rates for Gas Service and a Performance Based Ratemaking Plan.	8/17/2022
21-131	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2021 electric reconciliation filing effective January 1, 2022, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	8/18/2022

21-138	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2021 electric reconciliation filing effective January 1, 2022, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	8/18/2022
22-BSF-C3	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, Basic Service Rates.	8/25/2022
19-52-B	Petition of Town of Stoughton for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	8/25/2022
20-91-A	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into: (1) the Ratemaking Proposal of the Electric and Gas Companies Subject to the Department's Jurisdiction for the Treatment of Costs Related to the Financial Impacts of the State of Emergency Declared Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic; and (2) Alternative Bill Payment Options for Customers.	8/25/2022
22-OGAF-EGMA	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00 for approval of its 2022 off-peak gas adjustment factor filing, effective May 1, 2022.	8/29/2022
22-OGAF-GRID	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00 for approval of its 2022 off-peak gas adjustment factor filing, effective May 1, 2022.	8/29/2022
22-OGAF-NSTAR	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00 for approval of its 2022 off-peak gas adjustment factor filing, effective May 1, 2022.	8/29/2022
18-153	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for recovery of incremental operations and maintenance expenses associated with qualifying weather events that occurred between 2013 and 2016.	8/30/2022
20-117-A	Petition of the City of Fitchburg for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	8/30/2022
21-84	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 3.12, for Approval of Calendar Year 2020 Gas Business Enablement Program Costs and Gas Business Enablement Factors.	8/30/2022
15-120-E	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Plan.	9/7/2022
15-121-E	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Plan.	9/7/2022
15-122-E	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, each d/b/a Eversource Energy, for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of their Grid Modernization Plan.	9/7/2022



15-120-F	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, d/b/a National Grid for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Plan.	9/7/2022
15-121-F	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Plan.	9/7/2022
15-122-F	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, each d/b/a Eversource Energy, for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of their Grid Modernization Plan.	9/7/2022
20-75-C	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its Own Motion into Electric Distribution Companies' (1) Distributed Energy Resource Planning and (2) Assignment and Recovery of Costs for the Interconnection of Distributed Generation	9/12/2022
n/a	Letter Order regarding Electric-Sector Modernization Plans	9/12/2022
22-62	Geothermal Energy Demonstration Project Implementation Plan submitted by Boston Gas Company doing business as National Grid.	9/13/2022
22-BSF-A4	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval of Basic Service Rates for December 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023.	9/14/2022
21-85	Petition of Avalon Bay Communities, Inc. for an Exception to the Net Metering Regulations pursuant to 220 CMR 18.09 and to the Single Parcel Rule, pursuant to Net Metering and Interconnection of Distributed Generation, D.P.U. 11-11-C (2012).	9/15/2022
22-94	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for approval of a mid-term modification of its 2022-2024 Three Year Energy Efficiency Plan.	9/16/2022
22-86	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy to the Department of Public Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 69I, for Review and Approval of its Long-Range Forecast and Supply Plan for the period November 1, 2021, through October 31, 2026.	9/21/2022
20-91	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into (1) the Ratemaking Proposal of the Electric and Gas Companies Subject to the Department's Jurisdiction for the Treatment of Costs Related To the Financial Impacts of the State of Emergency Declared Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic and (2) Alternative Bill Payment Options for Customers.	9/21/2022
20-91	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into (1) the Ratemaking Proposal of the Electric and Gas Companies Subject to the Department's Jurisdiction for the Treatment of Costs Related To the Financial Impacts of the State of Emergency Declared Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic and (2) Alternative Bill Payment Options for Customers.	9/21/2022

22-73	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for review and approval of a Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan for effect October 1, 2022.	9/26/2022
22-74	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for review and approval of a Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan for effect October 1, 2022.	9/26/2022
21-83	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its annual pension adjustment factor reconciliation filing for effect November 1, 2021.	9/27/2022
21-93	Petition of Boston Gas Company and the former Colonial Gas Company each d/b/a National Grid for approval of their annual pension adjustment factor reconciliation filing for effect November 1, 2021.	9/27/2022
21-94	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its annual gas division and electric division pension adjustment factor reconciliation filing for effect November 1, 2021 (gas) and January 1, 2022 (electric).	9/27/2022
21-97	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities for approval of its annual pension adjustment factor reconciliation filing for effect November 1, 2021.	9/27/2022
21-98	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of their annual pension adjustment factor reconciliation filing for effect November 1, 2021.	9/27/2022
22-BSF-D3	Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid's Basic Service filing for the periods November 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023 for the residential and commercial customer groups.	9/27/2022
n/a	FTA's Safety Management Inspection report	9/29/2022
22-BSF-A4	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of alternative Basic Service Procurement methods for the supply period of December 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023.	9/29/2022
22-BSF-C3	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of Basic Service Rates for October 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.	9/30/2022
22-74	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for review and approval of a Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan Filing for effect October 1, 2022.	9/30/2022
15-120	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, d/b/a National Grid for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Plan.	9/30/2022
15-121	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Plan.	9/30/2022
15-122	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, each d/b/a Eversource Energy, for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of their Grid Modernization Plan.	9/30/2022

21-80	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its Grid Modernization Plan for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	9/30/2022
21-81	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid for approval of its Grid Modernization Plan for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	9/30/2022
21-82	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its Grid Modernization Plan for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	9/30/2022
20-24	Petition of the Town of Westwood for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	9/30/2022
20-117	Petition of the City of Fitchburg for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	9/30/2022
20-19	Petition of the Town of Cohasset for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	10/5/2022
20-20	Petition of the Town of Marshfield for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	10/5/2022
20-21	Petition of the Town of Scituate for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	10/5/2022
20-22	Petition of the Town of Rochester for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	10/5/2022
20-23	Petition of the Town of Uxbridge for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	10/5/2022
22-64	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of a Proposed Solar Facility in Yarmouth, Massachusetts Pursuant to St. 2021, c. 8, § 77.	10/5/2022
22-65	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of Proposed Solar Facilities in Brockton and Lawrence, Massachusetts Pursuant to St. 2021, c. 8, § 77.	10/5/2022
21-114	Investigation into Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts' Recovery of Costs Associated with the Shrewsbury Training Facility.	10/5/2022
22-93	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 60.1, for Approval of Calendar Year 2021 Gas Business Enablement Program Costs and Gas Business Enablement Factors.	10/5/2022
22-57	Petition of Hopkinton LNG Corporation d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its annual demand charge, effective November 1, 2022, pursuant to the gas service agreement between Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy and Hopkinton LNG Corporation.	10/6/2022
22-58	Petition of Hopkinton LNG Corporation d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of the demand charge, effective November 1, 2022, developed pursuant to the gas	10/6/2022

	service agreement between NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy and Hopkinton LNG Corporation.	
22-74	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for review and approval of a Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan Filing for effect October 1, 2022.	10/6/2022
21-80	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Plan for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	10/7/2022
21-81	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Plan for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	10/7/2022
21-82	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Plan for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	10/7/2022
22-74	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for review and approval of a Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan.	10/19/2022
21-141	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for review and approval of its proposed Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Factor Filing for rates to be effective January 1, 2022.	10/25/2022
22-01	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval of their 2021 electric reconciliation filing effective March 1, 2022, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	10/26/2022
21-107	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's 2021 performance-based ratemaking adjustment for effect November 1, 2021.	10/27/2022
22-20	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.00, for approval of a rate settlement for base distribution rates effective January 1, 2023.	10/27/2022
22-93	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of Calendar Year 2021 Gas Business Enablement Program Costs and Gas Business Enablement Factors.	10/27/2022
22-87	Petition of Whitinsville Water Company to the Department of Public Utilities, pursuant to M.G.L c. 165, §2, and M.G.L c. 164, § 14, for approval and authorization to issue and sell, Term Notes in the aggregate principal amount of up to \$2,600,000.	10/28/2022
22-66	In the matter of various Respondents concerning compliance with the Dig Safe Law, G.L. c. 82, §§ 40-40E or Dig Safe Regulations, 220 CMR 99.00.	10/28/2022
22-66-1	A & B Landscaping	10/28/2022
22-66-2	A1 Drilling & Blasting	10/28/2022

22-66-3	Alleva Excavating	10/28/2022
22-66-4	Allied Paving Corporation	10/28/2022
22-66-5	Allied Paving Corporation	10/28/2022
22-66-6	Allied Paving Corporation	10/28/2022
22-66-7	American Environmental, Inc.	10/28/2022
22-66-8	Anderson Construction & Excavation, Inc.	10/28/2022
22-66-9	Anthony Valdala Masonry	10/28/2022
22-66-10	API Construction	10/28/2022
22-66-11	Arbor Care Tree Service	10/28/2022
22-66-12	Atlantic Excavation & Utility	10/28/2022
22-66-13	B.C. Murphy Landscape and Design	10/28/2022
22-66-14	Bald Hill Builders	10/28/2022
22-66-15	Baltazar Contractors, Inc.	10/28/2022
22-66-16	Barletta Heavy Division & Engineering	10/28/2022
22-66-17	Bartlett & Steadman Co., Inc.	10/28/2022
22-66-18	Bay State Sewage Disposal	10/28/2022
22-66-19	Baystate Engineering Corporation	10/28/2022
22-66-20	Baystate Engineering Corporation	10/28/2022
22-66-21	Beery Fence	10/28/2022
22-66-22	Bellingham Motor Sales	10/28/2022
22-66-23	Bergeron Outdoor Services	10/28/2022
22-66-24	Bill Andrade & Sons, Inc.	10/28/2022
22-66-25	Bostonian Excavation, Inc.	10/28/2022
22-66-26	Bouley Landscaping	10/28/2022
22-66-27	BP Landscaping	10/28/2022
22-66-28	Braza Construction Co.	10/28/2022
22-66-29	Cabral Electric	10/28/2022
22-66-30	Calabrese Construction	10/28/2022
22-66-31	Camco Landscape	10/28/2022

22-66-32	Cape Cod Septic Services	10/28/2022
22-66-33	Carri Corp.	10/28/2022
22-66-34	Carusso & McGovern Construction, Inc.	10/28/2022
22-66-35	Cassidy Corp.	10/28/2022
22-66-36	Catalano Masonry and Hardscape	10/28/2022
22-66-37	Charles River Express, LLC	10/28/2022
22-66-38	Cliff Construction	10/28/2022
22-66-39	CM Site Development	10/28/2022
22-66-40	CN Corporation	10/28/2022
22-66-41	Cody Pearson	10/28/2022
22-66-42	Commonwealth Construction & Utilities	10/28/2022
22-66-43	Commonwealth Construction & Utilities	10/28/2022
22-66-44	Costa Development	10/28/2022
22-66-45	Dagle Electrical Company	10/28/2022
22-66-46	D'Allessandro Corp.	10/28/2022
22-66-47	D'Allessandro Corp.	10/28/2022
22-66-48	D'Allessandro Corp.	10/28/2022
22-66-49	D'Allessandro Corp.	10/28/2022
22-66-50	Dardah Landscape and Masonry	10/28/2022
22-66-51	DaRosa Asphalt Service	10/28/2022
22-66-52	DeFelice Corporation	10/28/2022
22-66-53	Demolition Joe	10/28/2022
22-66-54	Diaz Construction Company	10/28/2022
22-66-55	DT Landscape	10/28/2022
22-66-56	Dulany Home Improvement, Inc.	10/28/2022
22-66-57	E.Q. Enterprises	10/28/2022
22-66-58	Emanouil Brothers	10/28/2022
22-66-59	Environmentally Designed Landscapes	10/28/2022
22-66-60	Exterior Scale Services, Inc.	10/28/2022



22-66-61	Extreme Excavating, Inc.	10/28/2022
22-66-62	FR Landscaping, Paving, Snow Removal LLC	10/28/2022
22-66-63	Gagliarducci Construction	10/28/2022
22-66-64	Gary Linsky	10/28/2022
22-66-65	GFM Enterprises	10/28/2022
22-66-66	Gino Perdoni Co.	10/28/2022
22-66-67	Golden Way Construction & Landscaping	10/28/2022
22-66-68	Gordon Fraser, Inc.	10/28/2022
22-66-69	Granite State Curbing	10/28/2022
22-66-70	Granite Street Realty Corp.	10/28/2022
22-66-71	Gressya Construction	10/28/2022
22-66-72	Griffin Brook Landscaping	10/28/2022
22-66-73	GTA Landscaping	10/28/2022
22-66-74	GTA Landscaping	10/28/2022
22-66-75	GTA Landscaping	10/28/2022
22-66-76	Harper Elm General Contractors	10/28/2022
22-66-77	Herzog Landscaping	10/28/2022
22-66-78	Heyland Development	10/28/2022
22-66-79	Hi Volt Line Construction and Maintenance, Inc.	10/28/2022
22-66-80	Inglewood General Contractors	10/28/2022
22-66-81	J Pandella & Sons	10/28/2022
22-66-82	J.T. Lynch Construction	10/28/2022
22-66-83	James Egan Land Design Associates	10/28/2022
22-66-84	James Furtado Excavating	10/28/2022
22-66-85	JC Construction	10/28/2022
22-66-86	JC Construction	10/28/2022
22-66-87	K & M Custom Homes & Improvements	10/28/2022
22-66-88	K. DaPonte Construction Corp.	10/28/2022
22-66-89	Kelly Remodeling	10/28/2022

22-66-90	Kent Brothers LLC	10/28/2022
22-66-91	King Landscape	10/28/2022
22-66-92	KJM Construction	10/28/2022
22-66-93	Landscape Visions	10/28/2022
22-66-94	Larovere Companies	10/28/2022
22-66-95	Linskey Excavating, Co.	10/28/2022
22-66-96	Longfellow Design Build	10/28/2022
22-66-97	LVMJ Corporation	10/28/2022
22-66-98	MA Home Improvements	10/28/2022
22-66-99	Mark Sundman Builders	10/28/2022
22-66-100	McIver Brothers	10/28/2022
22-66-101	McNamara Brothers	10/28/2022
22-66-102	MDR Construction Company Inc	10/28/2022
22-66-103	Michael S. Coffin Landscape Construction	10/28/2022
22-66-104	Middlesex Site Prep	10/28/2022
22-66-105	MJD Excavating Inc.	10/28/2022
22-66-106	Mr. Rooter	10/28/2022
22-66-107	North American Excavating	10/28/2022
22-66-108	North Shore Pavement	10/28/2022
22-66-109	Northern Atlantic Plumbing	10/28/2022
22-66-110	NPL Construction Company	10/28/2022
22-66-111	Pardini Driveways	10/28/2022
22-66-112	Parterre Garden Services	10/28/2022
22-66-113	Pelican Landscaping	10/28/2022
22-66-114	Plow King	10/28/2022
22-66-115	Premier Generator	10/28/2022
22-66-116	Prides Construction	10/28/2022
22-66-117	Proia Construction	10/28/2022
22-66-118	R&D Site Development	10/28/2022

22-66-119	R. Sasso & Sons Construction	10/28/2022
22-66-120	R.H. Contractors	10/28/2022
22-66-121	R.H. Gallo Builders	10/28/2022
22-66-122	R.H. White Construction, Inc.	10/28/2022
22-66-123	R.J. Bevilacqua Construction	10/28/2022
22-66-124	R.M. Pacella, Inc.	10/28/2022
22-66-125	R.M. Pacella, Inc.	10/28/2022
22-66-126	R.M. Pacella, Inc.	10/28/2022
22-66-127	R.P. Marzilli Construction	10/28/2022
22-66-128	R.P. Marzilli Construction	10/28/2022
22-66-129	Ready Rooter Excavation	10/28/2022
22-66-130	Reliable Masonry & Landscaping	10/28/2022
22-66-131	Ribeiro Construction	10/28/2022
22-66-132	Robell Excavating	10/28/2022
22-66-133	Rocchio Corp	10/28/2022
22-66-134	Roche Building	10/28/2022
22-66-135	Route 132 Motors	10/28/2022
22-66-136	SLT Construction Corporation	10/28/2022
22-66-137	Spillane's Nursery	8/23/1929
22-66-138	Spillane's Nursery	10/28/2022
22-66-139	Stone Pro Builders	10/28/2022
22-66-140	Summit Construction	10/28/2022
22-66-141	T&M Equipment Corporation	10/28/2022
22-66-142	T. Fuoco Jr. Paving and Excavation	10/28/2022
22-66-143	The Nunes Companies	10/28/2022
22-66-144	Thomas Monahan	10/28/2022
22-66-145	Tim Acton Landscaping, Inc.	10/28/2022
22-66-146	Tom Snell Construction	10/28/2022
22-66-147	Trainor Construction	10/28/2022

22-66-148	Trainor Construction	10/28/2022
22-66-149	Walsh Contracting Corporation	10/28/2022
22-66-150	WAM General Contractor	10/28/2022
22-66-151	WF Landscape Services	10/28/2022
22-66-152	William E. Tatro Construction	10/28/2022
22-66-153	Zacarias Tree Service	10/28/2022
22-66-154	Zen Associates	10/28/2022
22-BSF-D3	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid for Approval of Basic Service Rates for November 1, 2022 through January 1, 2023.	10/28/2022
22-GREC-01	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for Approval of the Reconciliation of its 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for Review and Approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/31/2022
22-GREC-02	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for review and approval of the reconciliation of its 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/31/2022
22-GREC-03	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for review and approval of the reconciliation of its 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/31/2022
22-GREC-04	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for Approval of the Reconciliation of its 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plan and Review and Approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/31/2022
22-GREC-05	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for Review and Approval of the Reconciliation of its 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for Review and Approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/31/2022
22-GREC-06	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for Approval of the Reconciliation of its 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plan and Review and Approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/31/2022
22-121	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's 2022 performance-based ratemaking adjustment for effect November 1, 2022.	10/31/2022

22-88	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2022 Peak Period, November 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023.	10/31/2022
22-89	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2022 Peak Period, November 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023.	10/31/2022
22-91	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2022 Peak Period, November 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023.	10/31/2022
22-98	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2022 Peak Period, November 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023.	10/31/2022
22-101	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2022 Peak Period, November 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023.	10/31/2022
22-102	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2022 Peak Period, November 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023.	10/31/2022
21-118	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy to the Department of Public Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 69I, for Review and Approval of its Long-Range Forecast and Supply Plan for the five-year forecast period November 1, 2021, through October 31, 2026.	10/31/2022
22-122	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for a base distribution rate revenue adjustment pursuant the settlement approved in Eversource Energy/Bay State Gas Company, D.P.U. 20-59/19-140/19-141 (2020).	10/31/2022
22-14	Petition of the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Council's 2022 budget.	10/31/2022
22-PGAF-BERK	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00, 6.11 for approval of its 2022/23 local distribution adjustment factor and peak gas adjustment factor filings, for effect November 1, 2022.	10/31/2022
22-PGAF-EGMA	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2022/23 local distribution adjustment factor and peak gas adjustment factor filings, for effect November 1, 2022.	10/31/2022
22-PGAF-FGE	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00, 6.11 for approval of its 2022/23 local distribution adjustment factor and peak gas adjustment factor filings, for effect November 1, 2022.	10/31/2022

22-PGAF-GRID	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00, 6.11 for approval of its 2021/22 local distribution adjustment factor and peak gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2022.	10/31/2022
22-PGAF-NSTAR	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2022/23 local distribution adjustment factor and peak gas adjustment factor filings, for effect November 1, 2022.	10/31/2022
22-PGAF-LIB	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2022/23 local distribution adjustment factor and peak gas adjustment factor filings, for effect November 1, 2022.	10/31/2022
21-60	Petition for Waiver of Jurisdiction under G.L. c. 164 § 96(c) Regarding National Grid USA Sale of The Narragansett Electric Company in Rhode Island.	11/1/2022
22-122	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for a base distribution rate revenue adjustment pursuant the settlement approved in Eversource Energy/Bay State Gas Company, D.P.U. 20-59/19-140/19-141 (2020).	11/1/2022
22-70	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of two long-term contracts for procurement of offshore wind energy generation, pursuant to St. 2008, c. 169, § 83, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; St. 2021, c. 8 § 91 et seq.; and St. 2021, c. 24, §§ 69, 72; and 220 CMR 23.00.	11/4/2022
22-71	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of two long-term contracts for procurement of offshore wind energy generation, pursuant to St. 2008, c. 169, § 83, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; St. 2021, c. 8 § 91 et seq.; and St. 2021, c. 24, §§ 69, 72; and 220 CMR 23.00.	11/4/2022
22-72	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of two long-term contracts for procurement of offshore wind energy generation, pursuant to St. 2008, c. 169, § 83, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; St. 2021, c. 8 § 91 et seq.; and St. 2021, c. 24, §§ 69, 72; and 220 CMR 23.00.	11/4/2022
22-56	Petition of Harbor Electric Energy Company for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Capacity and Support Charge True-Up Adjustment for 2021.	11/8/2022
22-154	Remedial Order, Beacon Communities	11/10/2022
22-155	Remedial Order, Trinity Managment	11/10/2022
22-156	Remedial Order, Lesley Management	11/10/2022
22-157	Remedial Order, The Simon Companies	11/10/2022
22-159	Remedial Order, Cruz Companies	11/10/2022



22-160	Remedial Order, Brownstone Gardens	11/10/2022
22-161	Remedial Order, The Community Builders	11/10/2022
22-162	Remedial Order, The Dolben Company	11/10/2022
22-164	Remedial Order, Charlame Park Homes	11/10/2022
22-165	Remedial Order, Townhomes of Beverly	11/10/2022
22-166	Remedial Order, Churchill Forge Properties	11/10/2022
22-168	Remedial Order, Jones St. Investment Partners	11/10/2022
22-169	Remedial Order, POAH Communities	11/10/2022
22-66-84	James Furtado Excavating	11/10/2022
22-GC-04	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of the First Amendment to the Firm Transportation Service Agreement between The Berkshire Gas Company and Onyx Specialty Papers, Inc., pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	11/14/2022
21-73	Petition of Avalon Bay Communities, Inc. for an Exception to the Net Metering Regulations pursuant to 220 CMR 18.09 and to the Single Parcel Rule, pursuant to Net Metering and Interconnection of Distributed Generation, D.P.U. 11-11-C (2012).	11/14/2022
20-29	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for review by the Department of Public Utilities of its annual storm reserve adjustment factor filings pursuant to its storm reserve adjustment mechanism tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 65C.	11/17/2022
22-GC-12	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Simmons University, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	11/17/2022
22-GC-14	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Chelsea Sandwich, LLC pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	11/17/2022
22-BSF-B4	Basic Service Filing of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy	11/18/2022
22-124	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for review and approval of its basic service costs adder rate adjustment for effect December 1, 2022.	11/22/2022
22-PGAF-GRID	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2022/23 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2022.	11/23/2022
22-PGAF-EGMA	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2022/23 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2022.	11/23/2022

22-PGAF-NSTAR	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2022/23 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2022.	11/23/2022
22-164	In the matter of Charlame Park Homes I concerning compliance with 49 CFR Part 192.	11/23/2022
22-BSF-C4	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of an Alternative Basic Service Procurement Plan.	11/28/2022
22-BSF-A4	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of alternative Basic Service Procurement methods for the supply period of December 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023.	11/29/2022
21-134	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for review and approval of its Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Factor Filing for rates to be effective January 1, 2022.	11/29/2022
22-ERP-04	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2022 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	11/29/2022
22-ERP-05	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of its 2022 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	11/29/2022
22-ERP-06	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of its 2022 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	11/29/2022
22-ERP-07	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company and Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts each d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2022 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	11/29/2022
22-ERP-08	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2022 annual electric Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	11/29/2022
22-ERP-09	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of its 2022 annual electric Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	11/29/2022
21-80-B	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Plan for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	11/30/2022
21-81-B	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Plan for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	11/30/2022

21-82-B	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Plan for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	11/30/2022
22-22	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company, doing business as Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.00, for Approval of a General Increase in Base Distribution Rates for Electric Service and a Performance Based Ratemaking Plan.	11/30/2022
22-GC-19	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Boston College pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	12/1/2022
22-GC-20	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Baker Commodities, Inc., pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	12/1/2022
22-GC-21	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Rousselot Peabody, Inc., pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	12/1/2022
13-131-B	Petition of the Town of Natick for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	12/2/2022
14-69-B	Petition of Towns of Aquinnah, Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Chilmark, Dennis, Eastham, Edgartown, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Oak Bluffs, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Tisbury, Truro, Wellfleet, West Tisbury, and Yarmouth, and the Counties of Barnstable and Dukes, acting together as the Cape Light Compact, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	12/2/2022
16-131-A	Petition of the Town of Bellingham for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	12/2/2022
22-125	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Geothermal Energy Provision Cost Recovery Filing.	12/5/2022
22-100	Investigation of the Department of Public Utilities, on its own motion, instituting a rulemaking pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 2, and 220 CMR 2.00, to amend 220 CMR 100.00 and 220 CMR 101.00.	12/5/2022
22-POR-04	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil pursuant to the Company's Tariff M.D.P.U. No. 314, § 8B for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's Standard Complete Billing Percentages for Effect December 1, 2022 under the Company's Purchase of Receivables Program.	12/6/2022
22-124	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for review and approval of its basic service costs adder rate adjustment for effect December 1, 2022.	12/6/2022

22-66-15	In the matter of various Respondents concerning compliance with the Dig Safe Law, G.L. c. 82, §§ 40-40E or Dig Safe Regulations, 220 CMR 99.00.	12/7/2022
22-GC-18	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for the approval of the Second Amendment to the Firm Transportation Agreement between the Company and Specialty Minerals, Inc., pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	12/7/2022
22-82	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil requesting approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Capital Investment Report for Calendar Year 2021 and Capital Cost Adjustment Factors for effect January 1, 2023.	12/7/2022
21-120	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	12/8/2022
21-121	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	12/8/2022
21-122	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (Gas Division), pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	12/8/2022
21-123	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	12/8/2022
21-124	Petition of Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company each d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	12/8/2022
21-125	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	12/8/2022
21-126	Petition of the Towns of Aquinnah, Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Chilmark, Dennis, Edgartown, Eastham, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Oak Bluffs, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Tisbury, Truro, Wellfleet, West Tisbury, and Yarmouth, and Dukes County, acting together as the Cape Light Compact JPE, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	12/8/2022
21-127	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (Electric Division), pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	12/8/2022
21-128	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	12/8/2022

21-129	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2021 through 2024.	12/8/2022
22-107	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Authorization by the Department of Public Utilities to Distribute Gas in the Town of Douglas, Massachusetts, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 164, § 30.	12/9/2022
22-BSF-D4	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid for approval of Basic Service rates for February 1, 2023 through April 30, 2023, for its Industrial Customer Group	12/9/2022
22-32-C	Petition of of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for Review and Approval of an Agreement to Purchase Renewable Natural Gas from Fall River RNG LLC and of the Liberty RNG Program.	12/9/2022
22-43	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for the recovery of incremental operations and maintenance expenses associated with fourteen (14) qualifying events which occurred between February 2020 to December 2020.	12/12/2022
22-104	Petition of the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric for authorization and approval to issue revenue bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness in an amount not to exceed \$32,000,000 pursuant to St. 1975, c. 775, §§ 5(p), 9, 11, and 17.	12/14/2022
22-85	Petition of Middleborough Municipal Gas and Electric Department for authorization and approval to increase its depreciation rate to five percent for the calendar year 2022.	12/14/2022
20-117-B	Petition of the City of Fitchburg for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	12/15/2022
19-65-A	Petition of the City of Boston for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	12/15/2022
21-132	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company and NSTAR Gas Company each d/b/a Eversource Energy, for approval of their annual Pension/PBOP Adjustment Factors for effect January 1, 2022.	12/16/2022
22-97	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its annual gas division and electric division pension adjustment factor reconciliation filing for effect November 1, 2022 (gas) and January 1, 2023 (electric).	12/16/2022
22-40	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy's 2018-2021 Grid Modernization Plan and Final Prudence Review of the Associated Costs.	12/20/2022
22-41	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid's 2018-2021 Grid Modernization Plan and Final Prudence Review of the Associated Costs.	12/20/2022

22-42	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil's 2018-2021 Grid Modernization Plan and Final Prudence Review of the Associated Costs.	12/20/2022
21-82-C	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Plan for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	12/21/2022
22-96	Petition of Marblehead Municipal Light Department for authorization and approval to increase its depreciation rate to five percent for the calendar year 2022.	12/21/2022
22-126	Petition of Rowley Municipal Lighting Plant for authorization and approval to increase its depreciation rate to five percent for the calendar year 2021.	12/21/2022
22-BSF-C4	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of Basic Service Rates for January 1, 2023 through March 31, 2023.	12/22/2022
22-GC-15	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03, for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Aggregate Industries -- Northeast Region, Inc. for service to its facility in Chelmsford, Massachusetts.	12/22/2022
22-GC-16	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03, for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Aggregate Industries Northeast Region, Inc. for service to a facility in Hyannis, Massachusetts, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	12/22/2022
22-GC-17	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03, for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Aggregate Industries - Northeast Region, Inc. for service to its facility in Saugus, Massachusetts.	12/22/2022
22-GSEP-01	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval of its 2023 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2023.	12/22/2022
22-GSEP-02	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for Approval of its 2023 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2023.	12/22/2022
22-GSEP-03	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of its 2023 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2023.	12/22/2022
22-GSEP-04	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty for Approval of its 2023 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2023.	12/22/2022



22-GSEP-05	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of its 2023 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2023.	12/22/2022
22-GSEP-06	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of its 2023 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2023.	12/22/2022
22-120	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Fifth Annual Performance Based Ratemaking Adjustment, for effect January 1, 2023.	12/22/2022
21-120-C	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	12/23/2022
21-121-C	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	12/23/2022
21-122-C	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil (Gas Division), pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	12/23/2022
21-123-C	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	12/23/2022
21-124-C	Petition of Boston Gas Company, d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	12/23/2022
21-125-C	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	12/23/2022
21-126-C	Petition of the towns of Aquinnah, Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Chilmark, Dennis, Eastham, Edgartown, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Oak Bluffs, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Tisbury, Truro, Wellfleet, West Tisbury, and Yarmouth, and Dukes County, acting together as the Cape Light Compact JPE, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	12/23/2022
21-127-C	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil (Electric Division), pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	12/23/2022
21-128-D	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	12/23/2022

21-129-D	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	12/23/2022
20-145-C	Joint Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of Revised Model Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Program Provision.	12/23/2022
22-22	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company, doing business as Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.00, for Approval of a General Increase in Base Distribution Rates for Electric Service and a Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan	12/23/2022
22-24	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for Approval of its 2022 Smart Grid Pilot Program Rate Adjustment and Reconciliation Filing.	12/27/2022
22-GC-25	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and First Church of Christ, Scientist, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	12/27/2022
22-GC-27	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Vicinity Energy Boston, Inc., for a facility on Kneeland Street in Boston, Massachusetts pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	12/27/2022
22-GC-28	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Vicinity Energy Boston, Inc., for a facility on Scotia Street in Boston, Massachusetts, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	12/27/2022
22-147	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its annual Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for effect January 1, 2023.	12/27/2022
22-BSF-D4	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid for Approval to Exclude Mystic Cost-of-Service Agreement Costs.	12/27/2022
21-50	Notice of Inquiry by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into procedures for enhancing public awareness of and participation in its proceedings.	12/28/2022
22-174	Advisory Ruling by the Department of Public Utilities on whether Clark Shores Water Corporation constitutes a water company within the meaning of G.L. c. 165, § 1A.	12/28/2022
22-130	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its annual Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for effect January 1, 2023.	12/28/2022
21-136	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy to the Department of Public Utilities to recover investment and ongoing maintenance costs associated with its Solar Expansion Program pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 67C and	12/28/2022

	NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, D.P.U. 16-105 (2016).	
22-15	Inquiry by the Department of Public Utilities, on its own motion, into revisions to the Model Terms and Conditions related to gas supplier service approved in Natural Gas Unbundling, D.T.E. 98-32-D (2000).	12/29/2022
22-132	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 66C, seeking to recover actual and projected costs associated with its Solar Program.	12/29/2022
22-133	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy to recover investment and ongoing maintenance costs associated with its Solar Expansion Program pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 67C and NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, D.P.U. 16-105 (2016).	12/29/2022
22-103	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of their annual pension adjustment factor reconciliation filing for effect November 1, 2022.	12/29/2022
22-135	Petition of the Towns of Aquinnah, Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Chilmark, Dennis, Edgartown, Eastham, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Oak Bluffs, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Tisbury, Truro, West Tisbury, Wellfleet and Yarmouth, and Dukes County organized and operating collectively as Cape Light Compact JPE, for Approval of its 2023 Energy Efficiency Reconciling Factors, for effect January 1, 2023.	12/29/2022
22-120	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Fifth Annual Performance Based Ratemaking Adjustment, for effect January 1, 2023.	12/29/2022
22-BSF-A4	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of alternative Basic Service Procurement methods for the supply period of December 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023.	12/29/2022
22-70	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of two long-term contracts for procurement of offshore wind energy generation, pursuant to St. 2008, c. 169, § 83, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; St. 2021, c. 8 § 91 et seq.; and St. 2021, c. 24, §§ 69, 72; and 220 CMR 23.00.	12/30/2022
22-71	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of two long-term contracts for procurement of offshore wind energy generation, pursuant to St. 2008, c. 169, § 83, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; St. 2021, c. 8 § 91 et seq.; and St. 2021, c. 24, §§ 69, 72; and 220 CMR 23.00.	12/30/2022
22-72	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of two long-term contracts for procurement of offshore wind energy generation, pursuant to St. 2008, c. 169, § 83, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; St. 2021, c. 8 § 91 et seq.; and St. 2021, c. 24, §§ 69, 72; and 220 CMR 23.00.	12/30/2022

20-16	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of two long-term contracts for procurement of Offshore Wind Energy Generation, pursuant to Section 83C of An Act Relative to Green Communities, St. 2008, c. 169, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12.	12/30/2022
20-17	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of two long-term contracts for procurement of Offshore Wind Energy Generation, pursuant to Section 83C of An Act Relative to Green Communities, St. 2008, c. 169, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12.	12/30/2022
20-18	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of two long-term contracts for procurement of Offshore Wind Energy Generation, pursuant to Section 83C of An Act Relative to Green Communities, St. 2008, c. 169, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12.	12/30/2022
22-145	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company and NSTAR Gas Company each d/b/a Eversource Energy, for approval of their annual Pension/PBOP Adjustment Factors for effect January 1, 2023.	12/30/2022
22-123	Petition by NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's 2022 Resiliency Tree Work Program Annual Compliance Filing.	12/30/2022
22-142	Petition by NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Annual Storm Cost Recovery Adjustment Factors for effect January 1, 2023.	12/30/2022
22-144	Petition of Harbor Electric Energy Company for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its 2023 Capacity and Support Charge, for effect January 1, 2023.	12/30/2022
22-108	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Exogenous Cost Recovery.	12/30/2022
22-108	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Exogenous Cost Recovery.	12/30/2022
22-GLR-01	Report on the Prevalence of Natural Gas Leaks in the Natural Gas System to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy, and the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, pursuant to An Act Relative to Natural Gas Leaks, St. 2014, c. 149, § 9.	12/30/2022
20-47	Department of Public Utilities' Notice of Probable Violation to Mega Energy of New England, LLC.	12/30/2022
22-134	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for review and approval of its Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Factor Filing for rates to be effective January 1, 2023.	12/30/2022
22-136	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for review and approval of their proposed Solar	12/30/2022

	Massachusetts Renewable Target Factor Filing for rates to be effective January 1, 2023.	
22-151	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for review and approval of its proposed Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Factor Filing for rates to be effective January 1, 2023.	12/30/2022
22-131	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2022 electric reconciliation filing effective January 1, 2023, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	12/30/2022
22-131	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2022 electric reconciliation filing effective January 1, 2023, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	12/30/2023
22-146	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2022 electric reconciliation filing effective January 1, 2023, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	12/30/2022
22-47	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's Marion-Fairhaven capital investment project proposal under the Provisional Program established by the Department in Provisional System Planning Program, D.P.U. 20-75-B (2021).	12/30/2022
21-90	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its Phase II Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program and Electric Vehicle Demand Charge Alternative Proposal.	12/30/2022
21-91	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval of its Phase III Electric Vehicle Market Development Program and Electric Vehicle Demand Charge Alternative Proposal.	12/30/2022
21-92	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program, Electric Vehicle Demand Charge Alternative Proposal, and Residential Electric Vehicle Time of Use Rate Proposal.	12/30/2022