



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND CABLE

### MEMORANDUM

#### BY E-MAIL ONLY

TO: Electronic Distribution List for Inquiry on Pole Attachments and Conduit Access on Public Rights of Way, D.P.U. 25-10/D.T.C. 25-1

FROM: Kerri DeYoung Phillips and Scott Seigal, Hearing Officers, Department of Public Utilities  
William Bendetson and Kevin Roberts, Hearing Officers, Department of Telecommunications and Cable

RE: Extension of Reply Comments Deadline

DATE: June 26, 2025

CC: Mark Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities  
Shonda Green, Director of Administration, Department of Telecommunications and Cable  
Other Interested Stakeholders

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#### I. INTRODUCTION

In this memorandum, the Department of Public Utilities (“DPU”) and the Department of Telecommunications and Cable (“DTC”) (together, the “Departments” or “agencies”) extend the reply comments deadline from Wednesday, July 23, 2025, to Friday, August 8, 2025.

#### II. BACKGROUND AND DEADLINE EXTENSION

On January 17, 2025, the Departments jointly issued an [Order Opening Inquiry](#) to explore utility pole attachment, conduit access, double pole, and related considerations applicable to utility work conducted on public rights-of-way (“ROWs”) in the Commonwealth. The Departments’ inquiry is specific to our shared authority under M.G.L. c. 164, § 34B (double poles) and M.G.L. c. 166, § 25A (pole attachments and conduit access), as well as the legislative directive to the Department of Public Utilities to open a proceeding to facilitate ROW or pole-mounted electric vehicle supply equipment. See An Act Promoting a Clean Energy Grid, Advancing Equity and Protecting Ratepayers, St. 2024, c. 239, § 134. The Departments docketed this inquiry as D.P.U. 25-10/D.T.C. 25-1.

The Departments originally established a March 18, 2025 initial comment deadline that was subsequently extended to May 8, 2025. The Departments also established a July 23, 2025 reply comment deadline. To date, the Departments have received comments from approximately 50 interested stakeholders. Comments and information filed in this matter will help to inform a future joint rulemaking proceeding to be initiated by the Departments involving the agencies' shared regulations, [220 CMR 45.00](#) ("Pole Attachment, Duct, Conduit and Right-of-Way Complaint and Enforcement Procedures").<sup>1</sup>

Further, the Departments [scheduled](#) technical sessions for the week of June 23, 2025, to discuss multiple questions and issues involving utility poles and conduit and related utility work conducted on public rights-of-way. The technical sessions have included presentations prepared by: (1) the primary utility pole owners in the Commonwealth, Verizon New England Inc., d/b/a Verizon Massachusetts ("Verizon") and the three investor-owned electric distribution companies ("EDCs"), NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil; (2) the New England Connectivity and Telecommunications, Inc., on behalf of its members, Breezeline, Charter Communications, Comcast, and Cox Communications; (3) CTIA – The Wireless Association; (4) CRC Communications, LLC d/b/a GoNetSpeed; and (5) Cape Light Compact JPE.

On June 18, 2025, the Departments issued a [memorandum](#) establishing the final agenda for the technical sessions. To foster additional discussion at the technical sessions and solicit feedback through reply comments, the June 18 memorandum included an [attachment](#) with potential amendments prepared by the DTC to the agencies' shared regulations.

On June 20, 2025, the EDCs submitted a letter requesting an extension to the reply comment deadline from Wednesday, July 23, 2025, to Friday, August 8, 2025, due to staffing constraints and to have additional time to evaluate and respond to the DTC's proposed amendments. Verizon supported the EDCs' request and for the extension to apply to all stakeholders.

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<sup>1</sup> All documents issued by the agencies and submitted by interested stakeholders in this proceeding, including technical session presentations, are available through the DPU's online File Room through the following link: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/dpu/fileroom/#/dockets/docket/11442>. The same information is also available through the DTC's online File Room through the following link after entering "25-1" for the docket number: <https://services.oca.mass.gov/dtc/frmReleasedCalendar.aspx>.

After due consideration, the agencies deem a limited extension to the reply comment deadline to be reasonable. Accordingly, we extend the reply comment filing deadline for all interested stakeholders to Friday, August 8, 2025.

### III. CONCLUSION

For questions regarding this memorandum, please contact the Hearing Officers at [kerri.phillips@mass.gov](mailto:kerri.phillips@mass.gov), [scott.seigal@mass.gov](mailto:scott.seigal@mass.gov), [william.bendetson@mass.gov](mailto:william.bendetson@mass.gov), and [kevin.roberts@mass.gov](mailto:kevin.roberts@mass.gov).