

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 24-195

January 8, 2025

Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of a mid-term modification to its Phase II Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program.

On December 19, 2024, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy ("NSTAR Electric" or "Company") filed with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") a petition for approval of a mid-term modification to its 2023-2026 Phase II electric vehicle infrastructure program ("Phase II EV program" or "EV program") that was approved, with modifications, by the Department in Electric Vehicles, D.P.U. 21-90/D.P.U. 21-91/D.P.U. 21-92 (2022); D.P.U. 21-90-A/D.P.U. 21-91-A/D.P.U. 21-92-A (2023). The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 24-195.

In its filing, NSTAR Electric proposes five modifications to its Phase II EV program. Specifically, the Company seeks:

- to eliminate the Department's requirement to deduct third-party funding from the combined make-ready and EV supply equipment ("EVSE") incentives that a program participant is eligible to receive through its EV program. The Company proposes instead that third-party funding designated for a specific purpose (e.g., EVSE) be deducted from only the eligible EV program incentives designated for the same purpose and only if the combined third-party funding and EV program incentives for make-ready, EVSE, or networking would exceed 100 percent of the program participant's actual and eligible make-ready, EVSE, or networking costs. NSTAR Electric maintains that this change will allow the EV program to fund the monetary gap between a program participant's third-party funding and the EV program's make-ready, EVSE, and networking incentives. NSTAR Electric does not seek an increase to its EV program budget associated with this proposed program modification;
- approval of an additional \$5 million to expand its fleet segment to include support for approximately six medium- and heavy-duty fleets. NSTAR Electric proposes to offer make-ready rebates to private or publicly-owned fleets that operate in its service territory and tiered EVSE rebates of up to 100 percent for eligible government-owned fleets based on the environmental justice criteria that they meet. The Company states that expansion of its fleet segment to include additional medium- and heavy-duty fleets is consistent with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts's transportation electrification goals and will also support the deployment of charging infrastructure for zero-emission school buses

funded through the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program;

- approval to implement a pilot program to support the purchase of approximately 25 bidirectional chargers for medium- and heavy-duty fleet customers and to provide EVSE rebates to cover the incremental costs to upgrade to bidirectional charging equipment, primarily at school bus sites. The Company states the pilot program will allow it to test the dispatch capabilities of the bidirectional charging equipment for use in the future. To fund this pilot program, NSTAR Electric proposes to shift \$500,000 from its residential segment budget to its fleet segment budget;
- approval to implement a residential managed charging program with passive and active managed charging components that provides customers with a one-time \$50 enrollment incentive and \$10 monthly rebates when 90 percent of their EV charging occurs outside the peak hours of 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., including weekends and holidays. The Company also proposes to offer a "scheduled charging" service to its managed charging customers that routinely charge their vehicles during peak hours. NSTAR Electric proposes to shift \$3 million from its residential segment budget to fund the managed charging program; and
- to adjust the rebate incentive structure for its public and workplace segment to reduce the rebate levels for direct current fast chargers ("DCFC"). NSTAR Electric maintains that a reduction to the DCFC rebate levels for its public and workplace segment is necessary to prevent depletion of its public and workplace segment budget at the expense of Level 2 projects and to maximize its remaining EV program budget by spreading it across more projects. The Company does not seek an increase to its EV program budget for this proposal.

If the Department approves the mid-term modification to the Phase II EV program and the associated \$5 million incremental budget increase as proposed, the Company states that customers will experience the following bill increases on July 1, 2025:

- an average residential customer (R-1) in Eastern Massachusetts using 530 kilowatt-hours ("kWh") of electricity per month will experience a monthly bill increase of \$0.05 or 0.03 percent;
- an average residential customer (R-1) in Western Massachusetts using 545 kWh of electricity per month will experience a monthly bill increase of \$0.06 or 0.03 percent;
- an average low-income residential assistance customer (R-2) in Eastern Massachusetts using 475 kWh of electricity per month will experience a monthly bill increase of \$0.03 or 0.03 percent;
- an average low-income residential assistance customer (R-2) in Western Massachusetts using 585 kWh of electricity per month will experience a monthly bill increase of \$0.03 or 0.03 percent; and

- bill impacts for commercial and industrial customers will vary. These customers should contact the Company for specific bill impact information.

On December 19, 2024, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, filed with the Department a petition for approval of a mid-term modification to its Phase III EV infrastructure program, which the Department has docketed as D.P.U. 24-196. Also, on December 20, 2024, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil filed with the Department a petition for approval of a mid-term modification to its EV infrastructure program, which the Department has docketed as D.P.U. 24-197. The Department has not consolidated these proceedings; however, the Department seeks to investigate them in parallel to the extent feasible given the overlap of issues.

The Department will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the Company's petition on **Wednesday, February 5, 2025, beginning at 3:00 p.m.** The hearing will be virtual and use Zoom videoconferencing. Attendees can join the public hearing by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87660410767>, from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only access to the public hearing, attendees can dial in at **(646) 931-3860 (not toll free)** and then enter the **Meeting ID# 876 6041 0767**. If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public hearing, please send an email by **Monday, February 3, 2025**, to scott.seigal@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address.

Any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Monday, February 10, 2025**. Please note that in the interest of transparency any comments will be posted to our website as received and without redacting personal information, such as addresses, telephone numbers, or email addresses. Therefore, consider the extent of information you wish to share when submitting comments. The Department strongly encourages public comments to be submitted by email using the methods described below. If, however, a member of the public is unable to send written comments by email, a paper copy may be sent to Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110.

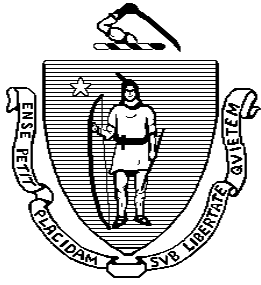
Any person who desires to participate otherwise in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall file a petition for leave to intervene no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Monday, February 3, 2025**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. Receipt by the Department constitutes filing and determines whether a petition has been timely filed. A petition filed late may be disallowed as untimely, unless good cause is shown for waiver under 220 CMR 1.01(4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 CMR 1.03(1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10. All responses to petitions to intervene must be filed by the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the second business day after the petition to intervene was filed.

To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments or a petition to intervene in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission is sufficient. All documents must be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and scott.seigal@mass.gov. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 24-195); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and

(3) a brief descriptive title of the document. In addition, a copy of all comments or petitions to intervene should be sent to the Company's attorneys, John Habib, Esq., at jhabib@keeganwerlin.com and Michael Hershberg, Esq., at mhershberg@keeganwerlin.com. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "24-195") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>.

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), please contact the Department's ADA coordinator, Melixza Esenyie, at eeadiversity@mass.gov or by phone at (617) 626-1282.

For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's attorneys, identified above. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Scott Seigal, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at scott.seigal@mass.gov.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

ORDER OF NOTICE

D.P.U. 24-195

January 8, 2025

Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of a mid-term modification to its Phase II Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program.

NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy ("Company") shall publish the attached Notice of Public Hearing and Request for Comments ("Notice") no later than **January 17 2025** in either the Boston Globe or the Boston Herald.

In addition, the Company is required to serve a copy of the attached Notice no later than **January 13, 2025** on: (1) the service list in NSTAR Electric Company, D.P.U. 21-90; and (2) any person who has asked to be notified by the Company. The Company's service may be by electronic distribution, which the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") finds reasonable and consistent with the public interest.

Finally, the Company shall prominently display the Notice on its website from three business days following receipt of the Notice from the Department through the end of the comment period.

The Company shall make return of service and proof of publication, including proof of the required website posting, at the close of the comment period.

By Order of the Department,

/s/
Mark D. Marini, Secretary