



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

MEMORANDUM

TO: Service List in D.P.U. 17-140

FROM: Staci Rubin, Hearing Officer

RE: Joint Petition of Electric Distribution Companies for Approval of Model Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Tariff pursuant to An Act Relative to Solar Energy, St. 2016, c. 75, § 11(b), 225 CMR 20.00.,
D.P.U. 17-140, Rescheduled Evidentiary Hearings
March 29 – April 5, 2018

DATE: March 19, 2018

CC: Mark Marini, Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

On September 12, 2017, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, and NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, each d/b/a Eversource Energy (collectively “Electric Distribution Companies”) filed a Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target tariff (“SMART Provision”) to implement An Act Relative to Solar Energy, St. 2016, c. 75, § 11(b), G. L. c. 25A, § 6, and 225 CMR 20.00 (“SMART Program Regulations”). The SMART Program Regulations establish a voluntary statewide solar incentive program (“SMART Program”). 225 CMR 20.00. The SMART Regulations encourage the Electric Distribution Companies to jointly develop and submit a SMART Provision to the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) for review and approval. 225 CMR 20.02, 20.05(2), 20.07(3)(a)(11). The Department has docketed this petition as D.P.U. 17-140.

Last week, I issued a Hearing Officer Memorandum postponing evidentiary hearings, previously scheduled for March 14-16, 2018, due to the anticipated storm activation and

potential for widespread power outages (Hearing Officer Memorandum at 2 (March 12, 2018)). This Memorandum discusses rescheduled evidentiary hearing dates, a revised order of witness appearance, and further amended procedural schedule.

II. RESCHEDULED EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS

The Department will hold evidentiary hearings on the following dates: Thursday, March 29, 2018; Monday, April 2, 2018; Tuesday, April 3, 2018; and Thursday, April 5, 2018. The Department has determined that the scope of the evidentiary hearings will be limited to examination into all matters of the SMART Provision excluding Forward Capacity Market (“FCM”) matters (Hearing Officer Memorandum at 2-3 (March 7, 2018)). The Department intends to conduct examination into cost recovery on April 2 and 3, 2018.¹

The Department expects witnesses to appear as a panel where witnesses provided joint testimony or jointly provided responses to information requests. In consideration of several parties’ requests for specific schedules, below is the revised order of witness appearance:

Thursday, March 29, 2018

- Nathan Phelps
- Sheryl Musgrove, Karl Rábago

Monday, April 2, 2018

- June Wooding, Christopher Porter, Brian J. Rice, Karen M. Asbury (Solar Program Administrator)
- Brian J. Rice, Karen M. Asbury, Jeanne A. Lloyd, Ian Springsteel, Doug Horton (SMART Provision generally and cost recovery)

Tuesday, April 3, 2018

- Brian J. Rice, Karen M. Asbury, Jeanne A. Lloyd, Ian Springsteel, Doug Horton (SMART Provision generally and cost recovery)
- Brian J. Rice, Stephen J. Bruno, Chris Dube, Jeanne A. Lloyd (Metering)

¹ The Department may re-open discovery for the limited purpose of questioning estimated SMART Program costs.

Thursday, April 5, 2018

- Brian J. Rice, Karen M. Asbury, Jeanne A. Lloyd, Ian Springsteel, Robert Furino (SMART Provision generally and storage)
- Brian J. Rice, Stephen J. Bruno, Chris Dube, Jeanne A. Lloyd (Metering)
- Lon Huber

The Department does not require the presence at evidentiary hearings of witnesses whose testimony is limited to FCM matters. The Department expects that counsel and witnesses will be available during the time reserved for evidentiary hearings.

III. AMENDED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

The further amended procedural schedule is set forth below. The ground rules established on November 13, 2017, remain unchanged and in full effect. In setting an amended procedural schedule, the Department recognizes its obligation to conduct its proceeding in an orderly manner, including taking the necessary time to develop a complete evidentiary record, to afford parties due process, and to allow for deliberation by the Commission for issuance of a final Order.

Evidentiary Hearing Phase	
March 29, 2018; April 2, 3, 5, 2018	Evidentiary Hearings.
Briefing Phase	
April 23, 2018	Deadline for Intervenors to file initial briefs. ²
May 7, 2018	Deadline for Electric Distribution Companies to file initial brief.
May 14, 2018	Deadline for Intervenors to file reply briefs.

² Any Limited Participant seeking to file comments in accordance with the briefing schedule shall adhere to the deadlines applicable to the Intervenors.

Re: Rescheduled Evidentiary Hearings, Amended Schedule
March 19, 2018

May 21, 2018	Deadline for Electric Distribution Companies to file reply brief.
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For further information regarding this Memorandum, please contact me at
(617) 305-3592.