



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 24-187

December 27, 2024

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.

On December 2, 2024, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid ("National Grid" or "Company") submitted a cost recovery and reconciliation filing with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") involving any remaining over- or under-recovery expenses incurred by National Grid prior to October 1, 2024, associated with the Company's implementation of its enhanced vegetation management pilot program ("EVM Pilot"). The Company submitted the filing pursuant to its vegetation management pilot provision ("VMP") tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 1563, and the Department's directives in the Company's most recent base distribution rate proceeding, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 23-150. The Department docketed the matter as D.P.U. 24-187.

Pursuant to its VMP tariff, the Company recovers EVM Pilot costs through two rate factors: the vegetation management factor ("VMF") and the vegetation management reconciliation factor ("VMRF"). EVM Pilot costs are allocated to each rate class based on allocation percentages established in the Company's most recent base distribution rate proceeding, D.P.U. 23-150. The VMF recovers eligible EVM Pilot operations and maintenance ("O&M") expenses incurred by the Company during the prior calendar year, with the recovery period beginning March 1 each year if authorized by the Department. The VMRF recovers from or credits to customers with interest the difference between the revenue billed through the VMF from the prior period and the allowed O&M expenses authorized for recovery by the Department for the prior period. The Department approved the EVM Pilot and original VMP tariff in Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 17-92 (2018), and modified the pilot parameters and annual filing requirements in subsequent proceedings. Pursuant to the directives in D.P.U. 23-150, the EVM Pilot concluded on September 30, 2024.

Based on the Department's findings in D.P.U. 23-150 and effective October 1, 2024, enhanced circuit-related work conducted under the pilot became a permanent component of the Company's overall vegetation management program, and the Department transferred a representative level of costs associated with this work to base distribution rates. The Department also permitted the EVM Pilot mechanism to stay in place to allow for the recovery of prudently

incurred EVM Pilot costs incurred through September 30, 2024. The tariff will remain in place until final reconciliations for cost recovery have been completed.

In the instant proceeding, the Company proposes the following VMFs and VMRFs for effect March 1, 2025:

<u>Rate Class</u>	<u>Proposed VMFs (\$/kWh)</u>	<u>Proposed VMRFs (\$/kWh)</u>
R-1/R-2	0.00032	0.00003
G-1	0.00028	0.00002
G-2	0.00024	0.00002
G-3	0.00011	0.00001
Streetlighting	0.00055	0.00005

The proposed VMFs are designed to recover \$4,817,705 in pilot costs incurred through September 30, 2024. The proposed VMRFs include a reconciliation adjustment of \$474,170, consisting of a true-up of costs of \$116,515 for the period October 2023 through December 2023, and a prior-period under-recovery with interest of \$357,655.

If the Company's request is approved as proposed, and based on the rates in effect at the time of the Company's filing, the monthly bill impact for a typical Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, residential basic service customer on Rate R-1 using 600 kilowatt-hours ("kWh") of electricity would result in a monthly bill decrease of \$0.05, or less than 0.1 percent. Bill impacts for all other rate classes will vary based on customer class and usage. Customers should contact the Company for specific bill information.

The Department will accept written comments on the Company's filing until close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, February 5, 2025**. Any person who otherwise desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall file a petition for leave to intervene no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, February 5, 2025**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. Receipt by the Department, not mailing, constitutes filing and determines whether a petition has been timely filed. A petition filed late may be disallowed as untimely, unless good cause is shown for waiver under 220 CMR 1.01(4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 CMR 1.03(1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10.

All documents should be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and kerri.phillips@mass.gov. In addition, one copy of all written comments and petitions to intervene should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Christopher R. Tuomala, Esq., at christopher.tuomala@nationalgrid.com. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 24-187); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic file name should identify the document but should not exceed 50 characters in length. Importantly, all large files submitted must be broken down into electronic files that do not exceed 20 MB. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted to the Department's

website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter “24-187”) at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>. At this time, a paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Company’s offices or the Department.

To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments or intervene in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission, as detailed above, is sufficient. If a member of the public is unable to send written comments by e-mail, a paper copy may be sent to Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 3rd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. Please note that in the interest of transparency any comments will be posted to our website as received and without redacting personal information, such as addresses, telephone numbers, or e-mail addresses. As such, consider the extent of information you wish to share when submitting comments.

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

For further information regarding the Company’s filing, please contact the Company’s attorney through the e-mail identified above. For information regarding this Notice, please contact Kerri DeYoung Phillips, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at kerri.phillips@mass.gov.