

**Table of Contents**

INTRODUCTION ..... vi

CONSUMER DIVISION..... 4

    Overview..... 4

    Responsibilities..... 4

        Investigation and Resolution of Customer Complaints ..... 4

        Utility Monitoring..... 4

        Municipal Aggregation ..... 5

DIVISION OF REGIONAL AND FEDERAL AFFAIRS ..... 6

    Overview..... 6

    Legal Proceedings..... 6

    Transmission..... 7

    Other Matters ..... 9

    2024 DRFA Accomplishments ..... 11

ELECTRIC POWER DIVISION..... 12

    Overview..... 12

    Electric Supply..... 13

        Competitive Power Supply ..... 13

        Municipal Aggregation ..... 14

        Basic Service..... 14

    Energy Efficiency ..... 15

    Renewable Energy and Storage, Net Metering, and the Interconnection of Distributed Generation..... 16

        Introduction..... 16

        Net Metering and the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) Program ..... 17

        Utility-Owned Solar..... 18

        Long-Term Contracts for Renewable Energy..... 19

        Electric Sector Modernization Plans..... 21

        Interconnection of Distribution Generation ..... 21

    Utility-Owned Storage..... 23

    Grid Modernization..... 23

    Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure ..... 24

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

- Distribution System Reliability and Safety..... 25
  - Reporting Requirements ..... 25
  - Annual Planning and Reliability Report ..... 26
  - Annual Emergency Response Plans and Activities ..... 26
  - Quarterly Significant Outage or Interruptions Report ..... 27
  - Quarterly Stray Voltage and Manhole Safety Report ..... 27
  - Semi-Annual Double Pole Reports ..... 27
  - Reporting of Outage Events ..... 27
  - Service Quality Performance Reports ..... 28
  - Vegetation Management ..... 29
  - Cybersecurity ..... 29
- 2024 Electric Power Division Accomplishments ..... 29
- DISTRIBUTED GENERATION OMBUDSPERSON ..... 31**
  - Overview ..... 31
  - Accessibility, Inquiries, Outreach, and Education ..... 31
  - Interconnection Dispute Resolution ..... 32
  - DG and Clean Energy Proceedings ..... 33
  - DG Ombudsperson 2024 Accomplishments ..... 34
- ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD AND DEPARTMENT SITING DIVISION ..... 35**
  - Overview ..... 35
  - Siting Board Responsibilities ..... 36
    - Overview ..... 36
    - Federal Licensing Proceedings ..... 38
    - Permit Override Authority ..... 38
    - Battery Energy Storage Systems ..... 39
    - Review of Transmission Facilities ..... 39
    - Review of Natural Gas Pipelines and Storage Facilities ..... 42
  - Department Siting Division Responsibilities ..... 43
    - Electric Transmission Facilities ..... 43
    - Eminent Domain and Survey Access ..... 44
    - Zoning Exemption Review ..... 44
  - 2024 Siting Division Accomplishments ..... 45

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

- LEGAL DIVISION..... 46
  - Overview ..... 46
  - Legal Division Responsibilities ..... 46
  - Types of Proceedings ..... 46
    - Formal Adjudications..... 46
    - Requests for Advisory Rulings ..... 48
    - Notice of Inquiry Proceedings ..... 48
    - Rulemakings ..... 49
    - Public Records ..... 50
  - 2024 Legal Division Accomplishments..... 50
- NATURAL GAS DIVISION..... 51
  - Overview ..... 51
  - Forecast and Supply Plans ..... 51
    - Substance of Forecast and Supply Plans Filed ..... 52
  - Reliability of Gas Supply ..... 52
  - Diversity of Gas Supplies ..... 54
  - Long-term Gas Supply Contracts..... 56
  - Non-Tariff Contracts..... 57
  - Requests for Cost Adjustments..... 57
  - Energy Efficiency ..... 58
  - Cooperation with the Rates and Revenue Requirements Division ..... 59
  - Service Quality..... 59
  - Future of Gas, D.P.U. 20-80 ..... 59
  - Geothermal Demonstration Pilot Projects ..... 61
  - Licensing of Gas Suppliers and Retail Agents ..... 62
  - Additional Gas Division Activities..... 63
    - Cybersecurity ..... 63
    - Gas Expansion Plans..... 63
    - Participation in Federal Policy Making ..... 63
    - Public Information and Review of Consumer Complaints ..... 64
  - 2024 Gas Division Accomplishments..... 64
- PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION ..... 65

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

Overview..... 65

Pipeline Safety Division Responsibilities..... 65

Pipeline Safety Division Gas Facility Inspections and Enforcement Actions..... 66

Investigation of Natural Gas Incidents ..... 67

Intrastate LNG/LPG Facilities ..... 68

Damage Prevention Program ..... 68

Steam Distribution ..... 69

Gas Meter Testing..... 69

Consumer Complaints Regarding Meters..... 69

Restoration of the Public Way after Utility Openings..... 70

Partnership with Industry..... 70

Precedent, Policies, and Practice ..... 70

2024 Pipeline Safety Division Accomplishments..... 71

**RAIL TRANSIT SAFETY DIVISION ..... 73**

Overview..... 73

Training and Certification of Rail Transit Staff..... 73

Accident Investigations..... 74

FTA Reportable Events and State Reportable Events ..... 74

Participation in NTSB Investigations ..... 76

Agency Safety Plans ..... 77

Corrective Action Plans (CAP)..... 77

Safety Management Inspection by Federal Transit Administration ..... 77

MBTA and Enforcement Procedure ..... 79

Observation and Attendance at MBTA Meetings..... 84

RBI: Risk-Based Inspections ..... 84

Safety Management Application for Rail Transit..... 84

2024 Rail Transit Safety Division Accomplishments..... 85

**RATES AND REVENUE REQUIREMENTS DIVISION ..... 86**

Overview..... 86

Review of Requests to Change Base Distribution Rates ..... 87

Review of Annual Performance-Based Ratemaking Adjustments ..... 93

Review of Electric Utility Annual Reconciliation Filings..... 93

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

- Review of Requests to Change Reconciling Rates ..... 94
- Gas System Enhancement Plans (GSEPs) ..... 94
- Review of Financing Requests..... 94
- Mergers and Acquisitions ..... 95
- Coordination of Annual Assessments ..... 95
- Review of Utility Accounting Matters..... 96
  - Review of Annual Returns filed with the Department..... 96
- Review of Storm Funds ..... 96
- Oversight of Municipal Utilities ..... 97
- Review of Municipal Depreciation Requests ..... 98
- Review of Customer Complaints ..... 98
- Public Information ..... 98
- 2024 Rates Division Accomplishments ..... 98
- TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY DIVISION ..... 100**
  - Overview ..... 100
  - Background Checks ..... 100
  - Subsequent Activity Monitoring..... 100
  - Application Processing ..... 101
  - Ride Data ..... 101
  - Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Trust Fund..... 102
  - 2024 TNC Division Accomplishments ..... 103
- TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT DIVISION ..... 104**
  - Overview ..... 104
  - Unified Carrier Registration Plan ..... 104
  - Licensing of Certain Common Carriers ..... 105
  - Inspections of Passenger For-Hire Companies and Transit Authorities..... 105
  - Destination-Specific Bus Company Compliance Inspections ..... 106
  - Federal Training Certification..... 107
  - Safety Analysis Investigations ..... 107
    - Compliance Reviews ..... 107
    - Vehicle Decals and Permits ..... 108
    - Motor Bus Certificates ..... 108

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

Tow and Moving Companies..... 108

Certification of Vehicles used for Transportation of Hazardous Waste ..... 108

2024 Transportation Oversight Division Accomplishments..... 109

APPENDIX 1: 2024 SITING BOARD DECISIONS AND SITING DIVISION’S  
DEPARTMENT ORDERS..... 110

APPENDIX 2: DEPARTMENT ORDERS ISSUED IN 2024..... 111



## 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 gas pipeline safety, the siting of certain energy facilities, and the safety of the transportation sector. The mission of the DPU is to ensure that consumer rights are protected and that utility companies are providing the most reliable service at the lowest possible cost. The DPU seeks to promote safety, security, reliability of service, affordability, equity, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 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. For 2024, the Commission was composed of Chair James M. Van Nostrand, Commissioner Cecile M. Fraser, and Commissioner Staci Rubin. Commissioner Fraser has served on the Commission since 2017. Commissioner Rubin’s service on the Commission commenced on April 10, 2023, while Chair Van Nostrand joined the Commission on May 1, 2023.

DPU’s significant successes of 2024:

- **Issuance of 768 orders across various dockets:** In addition to decisions on two major energy rate proceedings, the orders adopted measures to enhance public awareness and equitable participation in Department proceedings, which is key for maintaining transparency and expanding public engagement.
- **Issuance of new municipal aggregation guidelines:** The Department’s new guidelines drastically simplify the municipal aggregation application process and limit the amount of time DPU will take to review plans. Following the issuance of the new guidelines, the Department approved 28 municipal aggregation plans, and a total of 45 plans were approved this year. Municipal aggregation plans are critical for enabling municipalities to aggregate the electrical load of their residents and businesses to secure more competitive and greener energy sources, promoting local energy management and sustainability.
- **Updated Siting and Public Participation Processes:** In November, Governor Healey signed the 2024 Act Promoting a Clean Energy Grid, Advancing Equity and Protecting Ratepayers to accelerate clean energy development and create an equitable infrastructure siting process. Beginning in 2024 and throughout 2025, the DPU Siting Division/Energy Facilities Siting Board and the newly created Division of Public Participation will propose regulations to reform and expedite the siting and permitting of clean energy infrastructure while ensuring meaningful opportunities for community input and develop the Intervenor Funding Program for operation in 2026.

- **Approval of Electric Sector Modernization Plans:** In August, DPU approved the Electric Sector Modernization Plans (ESMPs) from the state’s electric distribution companies (EDCs) as strategic roadmaps to enable an equitable and cost-effective clean energy transition in Massachusetts. The proposed investments in these strategic plans aim to improve grid reliability and resiliency to withstand in anticipation of more frequent and extreme weather events. These investments are also designed to prepare the grid for rapid deployment of renewable energy sources, and to support energy storage and emerging electrification technologies essential for reducing carbon emissions.
- **Continued investigation into the role of natural gas in achieving the state’s 2050 climate goals:** DPU continued to implement the requirements of the D.P.U. 20-80 investigation, which is a central part of a broader effort to ensure that local distribution companies (LDCs) align their businesses with Massachusetts’ long-term net zero objectives.
- **Finalization of rulemakings amending gas safety regulations:** The DPU Pipeline Safety Division finalized a rulemaking adopting major changes to pipeline safety regulations in 220 CMR 101. The new regulations incorporate changes mandated by the 2021 Climate Act as well as first in the nation pipeline safety recommendations from the statewide Dynamic Risk audit and the National Transportation Safety Board after the 2018 Merrimack Valley incident.
- **Implementation of Safety Guidelines for Networked Geothermal Systems:** Our Pipeline Safety Division also finalized networked geothermal guidelines that prioritize safety while supporting the growth of geothermal energy, marking significant progress in renewable energy safety standards.
- **Transportation, TNC, and Consumer Focused Oversight:** Throughout 2024, the Department maintained its oversight responsibilities, including investigating consumer complaints, conducting field inspections, running background checks for Transportation Network Company drivers, and holding public hearings.
- **Released Language Access and Public Involvement Plans:** The DPU Environmental Justice and Public Participation Division released two policy documents to advance the implementation of environmental justice principles across the DPU’s work. The updated Language Access Plan outlines practices that the DPU now follows to ensure that people with limited English proficiency can meaningfully participate in its work through translated materials and interpretation services. The Public Involvement Plan provides a framework for effective public engagement and supporting public voices in the decision-making process.
- **Received federal audit reports of the Pipeline Safety and Rail Transit Safety Divisions indicating full compliance:** In August 2024, the Pipeline Safety Division received from the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration an annual evaluation indicating that the division earned the highest number of points indicating high performance and enhanced pipeline safety. In October 2024, the Rail Transit Safety Division received a stamp of approval from the Federal Transit Administration on safety oversight of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority in the 2024 triennial audit indicating high performance and a commitment to rail safety.

## **Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

The Department is pleased to submit this Annual Report pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 2. The Annual 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 2024.

## CONSUMER DIVISION

### Overview

---

The Consumer Division is the Department’s primary link with utility customers. The Consumer Division ensures 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

---

#### Investigation and Resolution of Customer Complaints

The Consumer Division assists customers with resolving problems they are having with their utility providers. The majority of consumer complaints concern billing disputes, credit issues, or poor quality of service allegations. In 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 2024, the Consumer Division processed a total of 8,123 complaints, leading to 4,455 referrals and investigations of 3,668 cases. These efforts led to utilities issuing bill adjustments totaling \$788,119.00, thereby returning funds to customers.

If a customer or utility company is not satisfied with the resolution of a complaint filed with the Consumer Division regarding 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 months. 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, which informs Department decisions about whether to grant energy supply licenses and renewals.<sup>1</sup>

To ensure compliance with Department regulations and policies, Consumer Division staff review documents pertaining to billing, protections from shutoffs, policies on abatements, and other

---

<sup>1</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.

## **Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

areas of consumer protection. The Consumer Division reviews utility billing materials, including bill formats, inserts, and notices—such as rate change notifications and informational letters sent to customers. Additionally, the Consumer Division may recommend modifications to these notices as needed to ensure they provide clear and accurate information.

### **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 aggregation plans and notices to customers to ensure appropriate customer education and outreach so that consumers can determine whether to participate in or opt out of a municipal program.

## DIVISION OF REGIONAL AND FEDERAL AFFAIRS

### Overview

---

The Division of Regional and Federal Affairs (DRFA) oversees the Department’s engagement and coordination with various stakeholders on regional and federal energy issues that impact the residents of Massachusetts.

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 (PAC) 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 Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC), 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

---

Throughout 2024, DRFA has been involved in matters before the federal courts and FERC, representing Massachusetts’ views on issues affecting system reliability, clean energy development, and consumer costs. The following is a sampling of DRFA activities in these matters:

- Intervened in approximately 18 new relevant FERC dockets;
- Continued to monitor over 20 active dockets;
- Summarized FERC’s monthly open meetings;
- Monitored FERC technical conferences on a broad range of issues including, gas-electric coordination, transmission planning and cost management, large loads co-located at generating facilities, and electric reliability standards;
- Participated in FERC-state briefings on key FERC orders;
- Supported and contributed to numerous NESCOE legal filings, including NESCOE’s request for clarification and rehearing of certain features of FERC Order 1920, NESCOE’s comments supporting ISO-NE’s Longer-Term Transmission Planning Phase 2 Tariff Changes, NESCOE’s comments on FERC’s Dynamic Line Ratings Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANOPR), and NESCOE’s comments on the proposed delay of Forward Capacity Auction 19; and
- Followed appeals of relevant FERC orders pending in Federal courts.

### Transmission

---

Bulk power transmission once again was a top priority for DRFA in 2024.

#### FERC Order 2023

As noted in the 2023 DPU Annual Report, FERC’s Order 2023 (Order 2023) mandates new policies and rules governing generator interconnection to the bulk power transmission system.

Order 2023 requires transmission providers (TPs) 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.

Order 2023 directed ISO-NE to make a compliance filing with FERC implementing many changes to ISO-NE’s existing tariff interconnection processes and rules. Through extensive stakeholder engagement, ISO-NE developed its compliance plan, filed it with FERC in May 2024, and requested an August 12 effective date. In September, ISO-NE informed stakeholders that FERC’s failure to rule on its Order 2023 compliance filing forced it to cease implementation of its proposed new cluster study-based interconnection process. Instead, ISO-NE will continue processing interconnection requests on a serial basis under its existing tariff authority pending a FERC order on its 2023 compliance proposal. DRFA, in coordination with EEA Federal and Regional Energy Affairs (FREAA), has actively monitored and participated in the development of ISO-NE’s proposed Order 2023 compliance efforts throughout 2024.

#### FERC Order 1920

FERC’s Order 1920, issued in May 2024, requires all TPs, including ISO-NE, to implement an array of new long-term regional and inter-regional transmission planning, project evaluation, cost allocation, and other reforms. The Order requires compliance filings in June 2025.

- Order 1920 includes a requirement for ISO-NE to establish a one-time six-month Engagement Period for Relevant State Entities to agree to and communicate to ISO-NE a Long-Term Transmission Cost Allocation Method(s) and/or State Agreement Process for potential inclusion in ISO-NE’s compliance filing. Relevant State Entities are defined as “any state entity responsible for electric utility regulation or siting electric transmission

facilities within the state or portion of a state located in the transmission planning region, including any state entity as may be designated for that purpose by the law of such state.” In September, ISO-NE initiated the Engagement Period, extending through March 2025.

- In October, ISO-NE announced it was deferring work on Order 1920 compliance, citing the significant challenges to Order 1920 on rehearing and appeal, and recent statements from FERC Commissioners suggesting the potential for meaningful updates to the rule. ISO-NE cautioned that Order 1920 compliance would require major effort over 6-8 months to make extensive changes to the transmission planning process and expressed wariness with taking on this work prior to potential material rule changes. In the interim, ISO-NE will focus on implementing the Longer-Term Transmission Planning (LTTP) process, including NESCOE’s efforts to launch the first LTTP RFP (see below). ISO-NE further stated that depending on the timing of a FERC rehearing order, it may consider requesting an extension to the compliance deadline if needed to develop a deliberate approach to compliance.
- On November 21, 2024, FERC issued Order 1920-A, in response to requests for rehearing and clarification of Order 1920. Order 1920-A further enhanced the role of Relevant State Entities in Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning, especially their role in shaping scenario development and cost allocation.
- In coordination with FREA, DRFA monitored and participated in ISO-NE’s Order 1920 compliance efforts in 2024 and will continue this effort in 2025.

### FERC Order 1977

FERC’s Order 1977, issued in May 2024, revises FERC rules to implement Section 216 of the Federal Power Act, as amended by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Amended Section 216 authorizes FERC to issue permits for eligible transmission projects located in United States Department of Energy (USDOE)-designated National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (*i.e.*, FERC backstop siting authority). The new rules enable FERC to invoke its backstop siting authority in certain circumstances, such as when states have denied a siting application or have not acted on an application after more than one year. FERC’s backstop siting authority includes granting eminent domain authority to permitted projects. In coordination with FREA, DRFA monitored the implications of Order 1977 on siting of new transmission facilities.

### Other Transmission Planning Efforts

In 2024, DRFA participated in several other efforts to reform transmission planning processes in New England, including the following:

- As noted in the 2023 DPU Annual Report, in 2022 FERC approved ISO-NE’s tariff change that permits 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). Using this 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 (2050 Transmission Study). ISO-NE completed

the 2050 Transmission Study in 2023. In 2024, the New England states, together through NESCOE, worked with ISO-NE to develop a Phase 2 tariff process that will allow the states to act upon proposed solutions that ISO-NE may identify via Phase 1 planning studies such as the 2050 Transmission Study, including a process for transmission project selection and cost allocation. FERC approved ISO-NE's Phase 2 tariff change in 2024. The states, through NESCOE, quickly acted to use this new transmission planning tool by sending a letter to ISO-NE identifying transmission needs the states would like to address in a potential request for proposals (RFP). The letter contains the states' thoughts on scoping an RFP, targeting transmission upgrades needed to address historical congestion between mid-Maine and Boston identified as a high priority need in the 2050 Transmission Study. NESCOE presented this proposal to the PAC and is seeking stakeholder feedback. NESCOE plans to finalize the RFP scope and, pursuant to the tariff, formally request ISO-NE to initiate the RFP process. In coordination with FREA, DRFA worked with NESCOE and the other states throughout 2024 to finalize the Phase 2 process and develop the NESCOE request to ISO-NE.

- The states, again working through NESCOE, initiated an effort designed to reform the process by which New England transmission owners (TOs) undertake asset condition projects which are upgrades or replacement of existing transmission facilities to address reliability needs. The number and cost of these asset condition projects have grown significantly over time and the existing process provides insufficient opportunity for states and other stakeholders to review and meaningfully participate in their planning and oversight. Throughout 2024 the states through NESCOE have requested the TOs to provide greater information and justification for asset condition project need, selected solutions and cost oversight. The TOs have responded with important reforms to the existing asset condition project process. In late 2024 the states through NESCOE are turning their attention to broader cost oversight of transmission investments and a process for rightsizing asset condition projects to serve longer-term regional transmission needs. DRFA worked in coordination with FREA on this matter in 2024.

### Other Matters

---

In 2024, DRFA actively engaged in multiple initiatives aimed at reforming regional wholesale markets. These efforts focused on ensuring that the markets encourage the entry of new clean energy resources, while maintaining system reliability.

Market reform efforts focused principally on ISO-NE's Capacity Auction Reforms (CAR) project. CAR encompasses both: (1) Resource Capacity Accreditation, by which ISO-NE will revise its methodology to assess, measure, and plan for the adequacy of the capacity resources it buys through the forward capacity market; and (2) ISO-NE's proposal to move from a three-year forward annual capacity market to a prompt (spot) and seasonal capacity market design. In 2024, DRFA worked with FREA and NESCOE staff to review ISO-NE's CAR proposals.

DRFA also actively participated in several projects that have the potential to impact the cost and reliability of electricity for Massachusetts consumers, with a particular focus on efforts directed towards mitigating New England's winter season energy adequacy risk. Examples include:

- In 2023, ISO-NE completed development of its Probabilistic Energy Adequacy Tool (PEAT) to conduct analysis of regional energy shortfall risks under extreme weather events. In 2024, ISO-NE began using PEAT to develop a Regional Energy Shortfall Threshold (REST), a reliability-based threshold that reflects the region’s level of risk tolerance with respect to energy shortfalls during extreme weather. REST will address three elements: (1) When: the periodicity (e.g., annual, seasonal, etc.) and the time horizon over which the region’s energy shortfall risk is assessed against the REST; (2) How: the event selection process to be used when applying PEAT to assess the region’s energy shortfall risk against the REST; and (3) What: the key risk metrics and the “threshold(s)”, or criteria, that define the region’s level of risk tolerance with respect to energy shortfall in extreme weather. In 2024, ISO-NE evaluated how best to design the REST metric(s) and proposed the Maximum Normalized 7-day Energy Shortfall as one potential candidate. This metric would estimate the region’s energy shortfall as a percentage of its demand over rolling 7-day periods within the REST-selected 21-day weather event. Next steps in this work effort include adoption of the REST metric(s) and then developing a plan to operationalize REST (e.g., will REST obligate the region to develop and apply specific regional energy risk mitigation solutions?) ISO-NE plans to continue to develop the REST design with the NEPOOL Reliability Committee in 2025. DRFA monitored and participated in the development of ISO-NE’s REST efforts throughout 2024.
- DRFA actively participated in the NECPUC retail demand response (DR) working group in 2024. This group brings together state regulators, industry representatives, and other stakeholders to assess how retail DR, retail rates, and load flexibility programs within the ISO-NE region could support (1) winter energy adequacy, (2) peak demand reduction, (3) real-time operational reliability (e.g., ramping), and (4) better matching demand with renewable energy generation. The goal is to develop a framework that states can use to design and implement retail programs consistent with their individual state policies, regulations, and statutes to address regional wholesale market needs. The group completed an assessment of existing programs and best practices and divided into two workshop tracks. One track is focused on wholesale issues (i.e., integration with, and compensation from, ISO-NE). The other focuses on retail program design issues (e.g., rates, technology types, etc.). Each track held initial meetings with informational presentations and solicited stakeholder input on topics that need to be addressed to develop a final product that will be useful and actionable. In support of this effort, NECPUC retained Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (LBNL) to research: (1) pathways for retail DR access to wholesale markets; and (2) retail winter DR potential, program design considerations, and wholesale market value. LBNL’s work should be completed in mid-2025. DRFA worked in coordination with FREA on this matter in 2024.
- DRFA contributed to the six New England states’ comments on ISO New England’s proposed 2025 operating and capital budget, requesting, among other things, that ISO-NE examine organizational cost savings opportunities, do more in monitoring and helping to contain costs as the transmission system as it expands, and explore opportunities to address environmental justice concerns.

## **2024 DRFA Accomplishments**

---

- Participated actively in several efforts to reform regional wholesale markets in New England;
- Participated in several efforts to reform transmission planning processes in New England;
- Represented the DPU in ISO-NE and NEPOOL stakeholder processes;
- Represented the DPU on state-level forums, including the NECPUC Retail Demand Response and Load Flexibility Working Group, Massachusetts Interagency Offshore Wind Council, and the Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel;
- Intervened in, and monitored, 18 new FERC dockets, in addition to over 20 actively ongoing dockets; and
- Contributed to or reviewed over twenty filings, comments, and letters submitted by NESCOE and NECPUC in regional and federal forums, including comments in FERC proceedings.

**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, d/b/a Unitil; Massachusetts Electric Company (MECo) and Nantucket Electric Company (Nantucket Electric), each d/b/a National Grid;<sup>2</sup> and NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource).

The mission of EPD is to ensure that the electric distribution companies in Massachusetts provide safe, secure, and reliable electric service while promoting affordability, equity, and greenhouse gas emission reductions. EPD also oversees and implements initiatives that encourage clean and renewable energy. EPD is responsible for the development and implementation of the polices 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 Clean Energy Act, and other energy and climate related legislation.<sup>3</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, programs, 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, EPD staff work with other Department Divisions on larger cases such as EDC base distribution rate cases and merger proposals.

<sup>2</sup> MECo and Nantucket Electric routinely make joint filings.

<sup>3</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; An Act Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind, Chapter 179 of the Acts of 2022; and Chapter 239 of the Acts of 2024, An Act Promoting A Clean Energy Grid, Advancing Equity And Protecting Ratepayers, respectively.

## Electric Supply

---

### Competitive Power Supply

The Department grants licenses to entities qualified to serve as competitive suppliers<sup>4</sup> and electricity brokers<sup>5</sup> (jointly referred to as competitive supply companies). 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 2024, there are 69 licensed competitive suppliers and 270 licensed electricity brokers in Massachusetts.

The Department launched Energy Switch Massachusetts<sup>6</sup> in October of 2016. Energy Switch Massachusetts is an interactive online tool that provides product information to residential and small business electricity consumers seeking 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 2024, there are 21 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 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). When a complaint or concerning behavior is brought to the Department’s attention, Department staff reviews the matter to see if it warrants further investigation.

In April 2024, the Attorney General issued its most recent report regarding pricing and marketing concerns in the competitive residential supply market in Massachusetts. Legislation proposed in the Massachusetts Senate would have altered the competitive supply market; however, the final version of the legislation, An Act Promoting a Clean Energy Grid, Advancing Equity, and Protecting Ratepayers, did not include such a provision. The Department is exploring available administrative options to protect customers participating in the competitive supply market.

---

<sup>4</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>5</sup> Electricity brokers are entities that facilitate or arrange for the sale of electricity to customers, acting as intermediaries between competitive suppliers and customers.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.energyswitchma.gov/>

### 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, most 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>7</sup> as of June 2024, 46% of residential customers, 35% of low-income customers, and 39% of small commercial and industrial (C&I) customers are supplied from municipal aggregation programs. In July 2024, the Department adopted municipal aggregation guidelines governing the establishment and operation of new municipal aggregation programs. As of December 31, 2024, the Department has approved municipal aggregation plans for 227 municipalities and is currently reviewing another 10 new plans. In 2024, the Department received 39 new petitions. There are 70 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 yet done so.

### 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 or a municipal aggregation. 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 50% of the company’s basic service supply requirement for these customers for a twelve-month term. Accordingly, 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.

---

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/electric-gas-customer-choice-data>

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>8</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 must be procured in an amount equal to a certain percentage of retail sales to customers, or the obligation must be satisfied through Alternative Compliance Payments.<sup>9</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.

On January 4, 2023, the Department opened an investigation (D.P.U. 23-50) to consider potential changes to basic service procurement and rates due to the failed procurements in 2022. On September 1, 2023, the Department issued Order (D.P.U. 23-50-A) that changed the procurement and pricing schedules for Eversource and National Grid such that the new procurement and pricing period separates the most expensive months of January and February. All four distribution companies are now on the same schedule for both six-month and three-month basic service procurement and rates.

### Energy Efficiency

---

Massachusetts EDCs have administered and implemented ratepayer-funded energy efficiency 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. EPD works with the Department’s Gas and Legal Divisions to review the proposed plans to ensure that, among other things:

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

---

<sup>8</sup> These include the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) Class I program, the RPS Solar Carveout (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>9</sup> For example, the RPS Class I requirement in 2024 is that 24% of all retail sales be matched with RPS Class I renewable energy certificates (RECs) generated by qualified renewable facilities.

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

On March 1, 2024, the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs issued a letter detailing the greenhouse gas emissions requirements for the Mass Save® 2025-2027 Energy Efficiency Plans. The letter establishes goals for decarbonization for the next three-year term, as well as an assumed budget limit for the energy efficiency plans. On October 31, 2024, the energy efficiency Program Administrators submitted their proposed 2025-2027 Energy Efficiency plans for Department review. The plans emphasize decarbonization, equity, and improved customer experience, and are designed to contribute their share of greenhouse gas emissions reductions to achieve the Commonwealth’s aggressive climate goals. The Department is currently reviewing the proposed 2025-2027 Energy Efficiency plans and will issue an Order approving, approving with modifications, or denying the plans by the end of February 2025.

In addition to its review of the proposed three-year plans, EPD reviewed seven proposed mid-term modifications (MTMs) in which the electric Program Administrators proposed changes to program budgets in accordance with the Department’s Energy Efficiency Guidelines.<sup>10,11</sup> The Department ultimately approved all these MTMs, except for one which was withdrawn. EPD also reviewed, and ultimately supported approval of, a joint motion from the Program Administrators seeking a waiver of a Department directive that stated that a Program Administrator may not exceed its planned program budget in the 2022-2024 term without approval by the Department. EPD also worked on various routine energy efficiency-related dockets, such as reviewing prior term reports, annual reports, and cost recovery matters.

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

---

**Introduction**

The GCA and subsequent legislation<sup>12</sup> include provisions on the following policies related to renewable and other distributed energy resources:

---

<sup>10</sup> D.P.U. 23-144, D.P.U. 23-58, D.P.U. 23-147, D.P.U. 23-154, D.P.U. 24-126 (which was later withdrawn), D.P.U. 24-91, and D.P.U. 24-99.  
<sup>11</sup> Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Updating its Energy Efficiency Guidelines, D.P.U. 20-150-A (2021).  
<sup>12</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 Relative to Solar Energy, Chapter 75 of the Acts of 2016; (7) An Act to Advance Clean Energy, Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2018; (8) An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy, Chapter 8 of the Acts of 2021; (9) An Act Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind, Chapter 176 of the Acts of

- 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 and the 2022 Clean Energy 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 DOER to adopt rules and regulations to establish a new solar incentive program, SMART, and permitted the program to be implemented through 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 2024, EPD:

- Continued the operation of a net metering system of assurance;<sup>13</sup>
- Completed work on a rulemaking (D.P.U. 21-100) to implement provisions related to net metering in the 2021 Climate Act;
- Worked on a rulemaking (D.P.U. 23-140) to implement provisions related to net metering in the 2022 Clean Energy Act;
- Worked on a policy investigation (D.P.U. 23-20) to implement five new statutory exceptions to the Department’s Single Parcel Rule directed by the 2022 Clean Energy Act;
- Conducted a review of one petition for an exception from the net metering regulations and continued a review of another petition;
- Completed review of the second phase of changes to the model SMART tariff proposed by the EDCs in a joint petition related to DOER’s 2020 program review and rulemaking;
- Reviewed 13 applications for Public ID Numbers and 19 blanket exceptions to the net metering rules; and

---

2022; and (10) Chapter 239 of the Acts of 2024, An Act Promoting A Clean Energy Grid, Advancing Equity And Protecting Ratepayers.

<sup>13</sup> The website is available at [www.massACA.org](http://www.massACA.org).

- 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 respective programs to construct, own, and operate solar generation facilities, subject to company-specific capacity and program cost caps.<sup>14</sup> 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. The statute sets a 35 megawatt (MW) solar generating capacity limit for each company. Under the Department approved- programs, each EDC owns and operates the following solar facilities:

- National Grid: approximately 30 MW of solar capacity, across 30 facilities commencing operation between 2010 and 2021, including three facilities paired with storage.
- Eversource: approximately 70 MW of solar capacity, across 22 facilities commencing operation in 2010 and 2019.<sup>15</sup>
- Until: one approximately 1.3 MW solar facility, commencing operation 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, forward capacity market credits, and the sale of RECs.

Section 77 of the 2021 Climate Act permits the EDCs to construct additional solar facilities, within certain parameters following Department approval. 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. Section 77 does not allow an EDC to construct, own, or operate new facilities in excess of ten percent of the total installed MW capacity of solar generation facilities in the Commonwealth as of July 31, 2020.<sup>16</sup> The Department is currently reviewing two proposals from Eversource: one proposal for two solar-plus-storage facilities on gas operating company-owned land in Brockton (1.89 MW) and

---

<sup>14</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); and D.P.U. 16-148 (Unitil).

<sup>15</sup> This includes 3 facilities with 8 MW of capacity constructed by Western Massachusetts Electric Company.

<sup>16</sup> This results in an installed capacity cap of approximately 286 MW per EDC.

Lawrence (1.02 MW), and one proposal for a solar-plus-storage facility on electric operating company-owned land in Yarmouth (2.1 MW).<sup>17</sup>

### 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 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>18</sup>

Since then, subsequent legislation was enacted to expand the use of long-term PPAs and to 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—that 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 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>19</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>20</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

---

<sup>17</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 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>18</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>19</sup> D.P.U. 13-146/147/148/149. One of the approved projects was subsequently terminated.

<sup>20</sup> The projects include both wind and solar renewable energy projects. D.P.U. 17-117/17-118/17119/17-120.

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

capacity. In 2021, under Section 91 of the 2021 Climate Act,<sup>21</sup> the Legislature increased the total mandatory offshore wind procurements to 5,600 MW.

On May 2, 2023, DOER and the EDCs filed a petition with the Department for approval of an RFP for the fourth solicitation of offshore wind long-term wind energy contracts. DOER and the EDCs seek to procure at least 400 MW and up to 3,600 MW of offshore wind in this solicitation. The RFP allows bidders to provide bids of 200 MW up to 2,400 MW. DOER and the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, in consultation with the Independent Evaluator, will select the winning bids.<sup>22</sup> The Department approved the RFP on August 23, 2023. As part of this fourth solicitation, the Evaluation Team coordinated its process and schedule with simultaneous solicitations in Connecticut and Rhode Island.<sup>23</sup> The Evaluation Team has identified projects for negotiation and execution of long-term- contracts and expects to submit the contracts to the Department for review in 2025.

### 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>24</sup>

- On June 25, 2019, in D.P.U. 18-64/18-65/18-66, 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 notified the Department of three prior amendments to the PPAs and/or the transmission service agreements and requested Department approval of a fourth amendment to address transmission delays (see below).
- On October 28, 2024, in D.P.U. 24-160, the EDCs filed a Settlement Agreement between the EDCs, NECEC Transmission LLC, the Attorney General, and DOER.<sup>25</sup> The Department reviewed and approved the Settlement Agreement on January 27, 2025.

---

<sup>21</sup> Also, Sections 69 and 72 of Chapter 24 of the Acts of 2021, An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2022.

<sup>22</sup> This will be the first solicitation in which the EDCs will not be a part of the team selecting the winning bids; they will now only provide technical advice.

<sup>23</sup> Connecticut did not select an offshore wind project as part of the multi-state procurement. <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/news-releases/news-releases---2024/connecticut-announces-clean-energy-selections>.

<sup>24</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>25</sup> Pursuant to Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023, the Department may allow the EDCs to recover additional expenses should the Department determine that the costs are associated with the construction delay that resulted from a November 2021 ballot initiative in Maine.

## **Electric Sector Modernization Plans**

The 2022 Clean Energy Act established a new process and requirements for long-term electric system planning, including a directive for the EDCs to submit ESMPs with input, review, and recommendations from the Grid Modernization Advisory Council.<sup>26</sup> The 2022 Clean Energy Act effectively establishes a statutory, long-term system planning requirement to facilitate development of renewable energy and distributed energy resources within the Commonwealth and to accommodate their integration into the Electric Power System (EPS).

On January 29, 2024, the EDCs submitted their respective 2025-2029 ESMPs for review before the Department. The Department convened three technical sessions with stakeholders in March 2024 to further discuss issues related to cost recovery, distributed generation interconnection (DG) and cost allocation, equity and engagement in distribution planning, forecast and demand assessment methods, resiliency planning, integrated resource planning, net benefits methodology, and non-wires alternatives. In addition, the Department conducted seven –days of virtual evidentiary hearings in April 2024.

The Department reviewed and adjudicated the ESMPs within the seven-month timeframe required by the 2022 Clean Energy Act. On August 29, 2024, the Department approved the EDCs’ 2025--2029 ESMPs along with certain modifications, directed next steps, and set forth criteria for the EDCs’ biannual reports.<sup>27</sup>

The Department determined that the ESMP filings complied with the statutory requirements outlined in G.L. c. 164, §§ 92B. The Department identified the ESMPs as strategic roadmaps for accelerated electric company investments. These investments are above and beyond planned company investments and geared towards modernizing and upgrading the electric grid at a pace to enable an affordable, equitable clean energy transition. The Department established the first ESMP investment term as July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030. The Department did not pre-approve any costs or specific investments and will determine in a subsequent phase of the proceedings how the electric companies may recover costs for ESMP investments. The subsequent phase will also address near-term ESMP reporting requirements and ESMP investment metrics.

## **Interconnection of Distribution Generation**

Interconnection is the process by which DG is electrically integrated into the 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

---

<sup>26</sup> In addition, the 2022 Clean Energy Act required the EDCs to submit an electric rate tariff with the Department to apply to energy storage systems interconnected to their distribution system that addresses operational parameters. On October 31, 2023, the EDCs submitted their respective tariffs for review before the Department.

<sup>27</sup> Electric Sector Modernization Plans, D.P.U. 24-10/D.P.U. 24-11/D.P.U. 24-12 (August 29, 2024).

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 (DG Ombudsperson) to establish an Energy Storage Interconnection Review Group (ESIRG).<sup>28</sup> The ESIRG was established in April 2022 and continues to meet regularly.<sup>29</sup> In 2023, the Department issued an Order directing the DG Ombudsperson to facilitate a stakeholder collaboration to establish an interconnection implementation review group (IIRG).<sup>30</sup> The IIRG works in parallel and in coordination with the Massachusetts Technical Standards Review Group (TSRG).

In its investigation in D.P.U. 19-55, the Department identified the critical issue of high interconnection costs for nearly a gigawatt of DG seeking connection to the EPS. As a result, the Department opened a new investigation, D.P.U. 20-75, into (1) distributed energy resource planning, and (2) assignment and recovery of costs for the interconnection of DG. As part of this investigation, the Department developed the Provisional Program to plan and fund essential upgrades to the EPS to foster timely and cost-effective development and interconnection of DG.

The Provisional Program allows the EDCs to file certain EPS infrastructure upgrade proposals, known as Capital Investment Projects (CIPs), with the Department that limit the interconnection costs allocated to each DG facility. Under the Provisional Program, customers will help fund the initial construction of the EPS upgrades but will be reimbursed in part over time from fees charged to future DG facilities that are able to interconnect due to the prior upgrades. This new approach aims to facilitate equitable cost allocation and eliminate barriers, accelerating the Commonwealth's transition to a clean energy future.

The Department received eight CIP proposals in 2022 and three CIP proposals in 2023. The first CIP proposal to be filed with the Department was submitted by NSTAR Electric for the Marion--Fairhaven Group Study.<sup>31</sup> The Department approved the Marion--Fairhaven CIP proposal on December 30, 2022. In 2024, the Department issued two Orders approving eight CIPs in total, including four proposals each from Eversource and National Grid.<sup>32,33</sup> The approved CIPs will cost an estimated \$753 million, of which \$444 million will be borne by DG facilities, at a cost ranging between \$224 to \$618 per kW of installed capacity, depending on the CIP area. The remaining \$309 million will be borne by all ratepayers, who will benefit from increased reliability and capacity for electrification and rooftop solar. The approved CIPs will enable 1,228 MW of large DG projects and 121 MW of additional residential-scale DG. The Department intends to issue Orders addressing the remaining two pending CIP proposals as soon as practicable.

---

<sup>28</sup> Order Establishing Energy Storage Interconnection Review Group, D.P.U. 19-55-E (2022).

<sup>29</sup> <https://ngus.force.com/s/article/Energy-Storage-Interconnection-Review-Group>

<sup>30</sup> Order Establishing Interconnection Implementation Review Group, D.P.U. 19-55-F (2023).

<sup>31</sup> NSTAR Electric Company, D.P.U. 22-47 (2022).

<sup>32</sup> NSTAR Electric Company, D.P.U. 22-52/22-53/22-54/22-55 (2024).

<sup>33</sup> Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 22-170/23-06/23-09/23-12 (2024).

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

In its Order approving the EDCs’ 2025-2029 ESMPs, the Department directed the EDCs to facilitate a stakeholder process to develop their long-term planning proposals. The Companies are required to submit a final status report to the Department, along with final consensus proposals and a detailed summary of areas of disagreement, by April 4, 2025. As soon as practicable thereafter, the Department will direct next steps.

The Department’s approval of the EDCs’ 2025-2029 ESMPs also extended the D.P.U. 20-75-B Provisional Program until the establishment of a long-term planning process (or otherwise directed by the Department). Based on informational filings from the EDCs, the Department anticipates that the EDCs will submit for review and adjudication more than ten CIPs in 2025.

Finally, DG saturation on the Commonwealth’s distribution system has led to an increased need for transmission-level impact studies for DG facilities smaller than 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

---

In May 2018, the Department preauthorized the first two utility-scale storage demonstration projects in the Commonwealth.<sup>34</sup> In September 2022, Eversource commissioned a 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 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. 20-69A) providing guidance on future utility-scale energy storage proposals. As noted in the Utility-Owned Solar section above, under Section 77 of the 2021 Climate Act, the Department is currently reviewing three solar-plus-storage facilities proposals from Eversource. Additional utility-owned storage investments are expected in the future.

### Grid Modernization

---

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 pre-authorizing the EDCs to make \$220 million in grid-facing grid modernization investments in the 2018-2020 term.<sup>35</sup> In 2020, the Department extended that term by one year and, in early 2021, the Department preauthorized Eversource to

---

<sup>34</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>35</sup> Grid Modernization, D.P.U. 15-120/D.P.U. 15-121/D.P.U. 15-122 (2018).

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

make an additional \$56 million in continued investments for the extended 2018-2021 term. In April 2022, the EDCs submitted term reports and performance data related to implementation of their grid modernization plans, and throughout 2023-2024, the Department investigated the prudence of these investments (D.P.U. 22-40/22-41/22-42). The Department intends to issue the relevant Orders as soon as practicable.

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 preauthorizing continuing grid-facing grid modernization investments of \$473 million for the term of 2022-2025.<sup>36</sup> On November 30, 2022, the Department issued an Order 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 that 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. The AMI Stakeholder Group established by the Order convened 16 times in 2023-2024 to discuss issues related to AMI deployment strategies, data access, customer education and engagement, and time-varying rate design. The group filed the final report in August 2024 for Department review. The report described both consensus recommendations and outstanding issues on each topic.

Additionally, the Department convened a two-day technical conference in June 2023 to discuss grid modernization performance metrics. On November 9, 2023, the Department issued a hearing officer memorandum to the EDCs directing revisions to the EDCs' grid-facing and customer-facing performance metrics, including those with equity implications, to be submitted as part of the EDCs' annual grid modernization reports. On December 11, 2023, the EDCs filed revised performance metrics, and the Department stamp approved these metrics on February 1, 2024.

### Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

---

Between 2018 and 2021, the Department approved multiple 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.

---

<sup>36</sup> Second Grid Modernization Plans (Track 1), D.P.U. 21-80-A/D.P.U. 21-81-A/D.P.U. 21-82-A (2022).

<sup>37</sup> Second Grid Modernization Plans (Track 2), D.P.U. 21-80-B/D.P.U. 21-81-B/D.P.U. 21-82-B (2022).

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

On December 30, 2022, the Department approved the EDCs’ coordinated EV charging infrastructure plans with a total investment of \$471 million, which included funding for EV charging infrastructure and charging equipment, along with demand charge alternative rates and Unifil’s residential EV time-of-use rate.<sup>38</sup> The Department convened two technical conferences where stakeholders worked to develop performance metrics that will be used to assess the progress and impact of these newly approved EV charging infrastructure programs. On November 11, 2023, the EDCs filed a revised performance metrics proposal and data reporting template and, after staff review, the Department stamp approved these filings on December 15. The Department conducts annual prudence reviews for all EDC EV infrastructure programs. In 2023, EDCs installed a total of 2,321 residential EV charging ports, 472 public and workplace EV charging ports, and 69 fleet EV charging ports. As part of the Electric Sector Modernization Plan Order issued in 2024, the Department approved EDCs’ proposed extension of their existing EV infrastructure programs through 2029. Additionally, National Grid’s proposal to implement an EV flexible connection offering, as part of its flexible interconnection plans, also received approval.

The 2022 Clean Energy Act required the EDCs to submit an EV time-of-use rate to the Department by August 11, 2023. In August of that year, Eversource and National Grid filed their EV time-of-use rates which the Department is currently reviewing (D.P.U. 23-84/D.P.U. 23-85). The Act also established an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinating Council, on which Commissioner Rubin has served with technical support from staff.

### **Distribution System Reliability and Safety**

---

EPD is responsible for ensuring that the 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, FERC, 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 necessary, to ensure that the companies’ actions are consistent

---

<sup>38</sup> [Electric Vehicles](#), D.P.U. 21-90/D.P.U. 21-91/D.P.U. 21-92 (2022).

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 includes an analysis of each EDC'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, as filed with each Company's 2024 Annual Reliability Report.
- 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 with the EDCs for restoration of electric service, communicating system conditions, and preparing briefings to senior administration leadership. In 2024, the most significant storm occurred on January 12, 2024. Electric distribution customer outages peaked at approximately 20,000 statewide, with restoration deemed substantially complete (i.e., EDCs resumed normal operations) on January 13, 2024.

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

---

<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.

## **Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

an EDC’s emergency response actions if the Department has reason to believe 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 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 term “double pole” refers to the situation when a replacement utility pole is built alongside the pole to be replaced for the purpose of transferring the electric, telephone, cable, or other wires from one pole to the other.) 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 is 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 2024, the Department continued providing support to the Department of Telecommunications and Cable’s (DTC’s) 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. In 2015, the Department issued an Order mending 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.<sup>40</sup> On May 21, 2024, the Department opened an inquiry into updating the Service Quality Standards, including updated data, methodologies, and performance metrics (D.P.U. 24-53).

A major component of the existing service quality guidelines relates to companies’ performance regarding the frequency and duration of outages during the previous year, both on a systemwide 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 2022 Service Quality Reports of the EDCs in March 2024.<sup>41</sup> In its Order approving the 2022 Service Quality Reports, the Department penalized Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid \$100,732 for its performance in one reliability metric and directed Nantucket Electric Company to refund that penalty money to customers. The other EDCs incurred no penalties for their 2022 performance although the Department also granted a motion for a limited waiver to Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid for the Circuit Average Interruption Duration Index (CKAIDI) data resulting from an Outage Event on Massachusetts Electric Feeder 01-0012. Additionally, the Department continued to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in its 2022 Service Quality Report Order, acknowledging that while some of the EDCs’ performance in some customer service-related metrics for recent years had been artificially low, which could impact the still-developing benchmarks for those metrics, the pandemic impacts were not as prevalent in the 2022 data. The Department subsequently directed the EDCs to report the actual customer complaints and credit cases going forward. The Department remains committed to improving service quality over time and driving companies to invest in technological improvements that improve reliability, customer satisfaction, and public safety.

---

<sup>40</sup> Service Quality Standards for Electric Distribution Companies and Local Gas Distribution Companies, D.P.U. 12-120-D (2015).

<sup>41</sup> 2022 Electric Service Quality Reports, D.P.U. 23-SQ-10 through 23-SQ-13 (2024).

**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 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.

**Cybersecurity**

Over the last several years, EPD has worked to ensure that EDCs have robust cybersecurity programs that minimize the risk of a cyber-attack that could potentially affect the safety and reliability of the electric distribution system. EPD staff actively participate in the DPU cybersecurity team, which meets annually with each EDC to discuss the companies’ respective cybersecurity plans and procedures. During the annual meeting, each company is required to show how its cybersecurity program compares to applicable industry standards, among other topics. EPD staff met with all EDCs in 2024.

**2024 Electric Power Division Accomplishments**

---

In summary, during 2024, the Electric Power Division assisted in issuing:

- New municipal aggregation guidelines governing the establishment and operation of new municipal aggregation programs;
- The first Order related to Electric Sector Modernization Plans to upgrade the electric grid in support of the state’s climate goals;
- Two Orders approving eight Capital Investment Projects to support integration of distributed generation, such as solar power, onto the electric grid; and
- One rulemaking to implement provisions related to net metering in the 2021 Climate Act.

In addition, during 2024, the Electric Power Division:

- Received 39 new petitions for Municipal Aggregation;
- Reviewed 2025-2027 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plans submitted by four electric energy efficiency Program Administrators;

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

- Worked on a rulemaking to implement provisions related to net metering in the 2022 Clean Energy Act;
- Worked on a policy investigation to implement five new statutory exceptions to the Department’s Single Parcel Rule directed by the 2022 Clean Energy Act;
- Reviewed a Settlement Agreement related to transmission of hydroelectric power from Canada to Massachusetts;
- Investigated the prudence of the Electric Distribution Companies’ investments in grid modernization technologies;
- Provided staff support for the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinating Council;
- Provided emergency support coordination during storms, safety incidents, and electrical outages;
- Monitored utility reports regarding stray voltage, manhole safety, double poles, and outage events;
- Opened an investigation into updating its existing Service Quality Standards;
- Reviewed service quality reports; and
- Oversaw vegetation management programs.

## DISTRIBUTED GENERATION OMBUDSPERSON

### Overview

---

The Distributed Generation (DG) and Clean Energy Ombudsperson’s Office (Ombudsperson’s Office) is responsible for the following clean energy, climate change, and DG matters:

- being easily accessible to stakeholders;
- reviewing written documentation associated with the good faith negotiation process;
- conducting independent interviews and investigations as deemed necessary;
- offering independent problem-solving assistance;
- overseeing or advising all such dockets, programs, and projects before the Department, in coordination with relevant divisions within the Department;
- managing all such public inquiries and complaints;
- maintaining open communication with the electric distribution companies (“EDCs”), stakeholders, and other government agencies, including enabling education and outreach;
- supporting the Commission and Division of Regional and Federal Affairs as a contact and liaison for the Department on state, regional, and federal related issues;
- assisting the Chief of Staff and Commission in addressing state consumer energy policies, updating state elected officials, explaining Department policies and practices, and providing information to support development of energy legislation and statutory reforms; and
- assisting the Commission in the development of new policies or regulations.

### Accessibility, Inquiries, Outreach, and Education

---

The Ombudsperson’s Office aims to be easily accessible to DG and clean energy stakeholders. As such, we maintain two dedicated email inboxes, [dpu.ombudsperson@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.ombudsperson@mass.gov) and [dpu.netmetering@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.netmetering@mass.gov), to receive stakeholder inquiries and complaints related to DG and clean energy. The Ombudsperson’s Office also coordinates with other divisions, including the Legal Division, Electric Power Division, and Consumer Division, to resolve these matters. This year the Ombudsperson’s Office has responded to over 400 email inquiries, many of which were related to the implementation of changes to the Net Metering program mandated by the legislature in addition to costs and timing associated with DG interconnection.

In support of our mission to be more accessible to stakeholders and the public, the Ombudsperson’s Office held a hybrid DG and Clean Energy Workshop in May 2024. Presenters included representatives from the Ombudsperson’s Office, as well as EPD, Legal, and DOER. Presentations covered the fundamentals of and recent changes to the Net Metering program, SMART program, DG interconnection, grid modernization, and resources available through the Ombudsperson’s Office.

Moreover, the Ombudsperson’s Office created a new webpage, <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/distributed-generation-and-clean-energy-ombudspersons-office>, that includes links to: (1) the interconnection online inquiry form; (2) interconnection dispute

resolution guidance; (3) the form to start the dispute resolution process with the Department; (4) an overview of the Ombudsperson’s Office; (5) video recordings of the DG and Clean Energy Workshop; (6) a form to submit DG compliance filings and letter requests to the Ombudsperson’s Office; (7) information on interconnecting renewable energy facilities to the electric company's electric grid; and (8) net metering resources.

The Ombudsperson’s Office facilitates consistent outreach with stakeholders, including representatives of state agencies, the EDCs, members of the legislature and local government, DG developers, and other members of the DG and clean energy community to identify and resolve issues related to renewable energy and DG interconnection not appropriate for resolution through docketed matters. Further, representatives of the Ombudsperson’s Office began attending meetings of the Interconnection Implementation Review Group (IIRG) in a listening capacity in addition to providing limited administrative support to the IIRG.

Finally, DG saturation on the Commonwealth’s distribution system has led to an increased need for transmission-level impact studies for DG facilities smaller than 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.

### **Interconnection Dispute Resolution**

---

The Ombudsperson’s Office facilitates the “good faith negotiation” process in interconnection disputes pursuant to Section 9.1 of the Standards for Interconnection of Distributed Generation tariff (DG Interconnection Tariff). Customers seeking to avail themselves of the interconnection dispute resolution process must engage a vice president or senior management of the EDC in good faith negotiation pursuant to Section 9.1(a) of the DG Interconnection Tariff before the customer requests the involvement of the Department’s Ombudsperson. Once the dispute resolution process is initiated by the Ombudsperson, the EDC has 10 business days to respond in writing to the dispute resolution request. Once the Ombudsperson has enough information, she will issue a proposed resolution. If after eight days from receiving the Ombudsperson’s proposed resolution the dispute is not resolved, the customer may choose to proceed to mediation per Section 9.2 of the DG Interconnection Tariff.

In 2024 the Ombudsperson’s Office received five requests to initiate dispute resolution proceedings.

## DG and Clean Energy Proceedings<sup>42</sup>

---

The Ombudsperson’s Office also oversees and advises on formal proceedings at the Department that involve the development of clean and renewable energy. Working in coordination with the Electric Power and Legal Divisions, the Ombudsperson’s Office is responsible for advising on 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), An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy (2021 Climate Act), An Act Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind, (2022 Clean Energy Act), and other energy and climate related legislation. Specifically, in 2024 the Ombudsperson’s Office oversaw and advised on proceedings addressing net metering, interconnection, energy storage systems, and Electric Sector Modernization Plans.

In 2024, the Ombudsperson’s Office offered assistance to other Department Divisions and staff:

- To the Net Metering team in continuing the operation of a net metering system of assurance; completing work on a rulemaking (D.P.U. 21-100) to implement provisions related to net metering in the 2021 Climate Act; initiating and completing an investigation resulting in an Order promulgating Final Regulations in a second rulemaking (D.P.U. 23140) to implement provisions related to net metering in the 2022 Clean Energy Act; and advised on a policy investigation (D.P.U. 23-20) to implement five new statutory exceptions to the Department’s Single Parcel Rule directed by the 2022 Clean Energy Act.
- To the ESMP team in reviewing and adjudicating the EDCs’ ESMP filings within the seven-month time frame allowed under the 2022 Clean Energy Act. On August 29, 2024, the Department approved the EDCs’ 2025-2029 ESMPs along with certain modifications, directed next steps, and set forth criteria for the EDCs’ biannual reports. Specific to DG Interconnection, the Department extended the Provisional Program allowing the EDCs to file additional Capital Investment Project (CIP) proposals on an interim basis and directed a six-month stakeholder working group to work towards consensus recommendations for the EDCs’ long-term system planning process.
- To the DG interconnection team in completing its investigation into eight of the CIP proposals filed with the Department resulting in the issuance of two Orders approving the CIPs, including four proposals from Eversource and four from National Grid.<sup>43,44</sup> The

---

<sup>42</sup> For more information related to docketed proceedings referenced below, please see the relevant subsections under the Electric Power Division and/or Legal Division or contact the Ombudsperson’s Office directly: [dpu.ombudsperson@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.ombudsperson@mass.gov).

<sup>43</sup> NSTAR Electric Company, D.P.U. 22-52/22-53/22-54/22-55 (2024).

<sup>44</sup> Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 22-170/23-06/23-09/23-12 (2024).

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

approved CIPs will enable 1,228 MW of Large DG projects and 121 MW of additional residential-scale- DG.

### **DG Ombudsperson 2024 Accomplishments**

---

In summary, during 2024, the Ombudsperson's Office assisted in drafting and issuing:

- The first Order related to ESMPs to upgrade the electric grid in support of the state's climate goals;
- Two Orders approving eight CIPs to support integration of distributed generation, such as solar power, onto the electric grid; and
- Two Orders for rulemakings to implement provisions related to net metering in the 2021 Climate Act and 2022 Clean Energy Act.

In addition, during 2024, the Ombudsperson's Office:

- Resolved over 400 inquiries;
- Hosted a hybrid DG and Clean Energy educational workshop in May 2024 for stakeholders and interested members of the public which included opportunities for questions and answers;
- Created a new webpage, <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/distributed-generation-and-clean-energy-ombudspersons-office>, to promote accessibility and transparency; and
- Worked on a policy investigation to implement five new statutory exceptions to the Department's Single Parcel Rule directed by the 2022 Clean Energy Act.

## ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD AND DEPARTMENT

### Overview

---

The Energy Facilities Siting Board (Siting Board) is an independent nine-member board charged with reviewing proposed energy facilities defined by statute 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 that were 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 composed of:

- The Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (Chair of the Board);
- Two Commissioners of the Department of Public Utilities;
- The Secretary of Economic Development;
- The Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection;
- The Commissioner of DOER; 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 to the Energy Facilities Siting Board). The Department’s siting authority may be adjudicated in Department-only cases by Siting Division staff, or – if there is a related Siting Board case – consolidated with the Siting Board case and assigned to the Siting Board for review and decision.

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;

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

- 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 2024 is attached as Appendix 1.

### Siting Board Responsibilities

---

#### Overview

The Siting Board reviews petitions to construct major new energy infrastructure, including power plants, electric transmission lines, intrastate 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 for the facility; 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. Since restructuring of the electric utility industry in 1997, however, 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 transmission facilities, and natural gas pipeline and storage facilities.

Additionally, on July 1, 2021, the Siting Board opened a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) to examine procedural enhancements to increase public awareness of and participation in its proceedings. Specifically, the Siting Board is exploring measures to increase both the visibility of its public notices and promote equitable and meaningful public and stakeholder involvement

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

throughout its proceedings. The Siting Board has docketed this inquiry as EFSB 21-01. In August 2022, a joint roundtable with the Department was held with regard to the NOI and the Department's companion NOI, D.P.U. 21-50. Further action on the proceeding is expected in early 2025, including the issuance of the Siting Board's draft Language Access Plan and Public Involvement Plan for public comment followed by a Board vote. Separate from EFSB 21-01, the Siting Board developed an environmental justice strategy, consistent with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Environmental Justice Policy, released in February 2024 that is enhancing 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.

On September 26, 2023, the Governor signed Executive Order No. 620 establishing a Commission on Clean Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting (CEISP). The mandate of the CEISP is to advise the Governor on: (1) accelerating the responsible deployment of clean energy infrastructure through siting and permitting reform in a manner consistent with applicable legal requirements and the Clean Energy and Climate Plan; (2) facilitating community input into the siting and permitting of clean energy infrastructure; and (3) ensuring that the benefits of the clean energy transition are shared equitably among all residents of the Commonwealth. The CEISP, with the assistance of an Interagency Siting and Permitting Task Force, produced a report in March 2024 conveying its recommendations to the Governor. Siting Board and Department staff supports the work of the CEISP as part of the Interagency Siting and Permitting Task Force.

The senate and house proposed separate legislation based on the CEISP Report in June and July 2024 respectively. Siting Board staff supported development and revisions to the bills. Those bills did not pass by the end of the 2024 legislative session. In July 2024, as recommended by the CEISP Report, the Siting Board engaged a management consultant to assess the staffing needs of the Siting Board based on projected increases in workload in the coming years. The results of the management study are expected to be released in early 2025. After being asked by the Governor to reconvene in November 2024, the legislature passed An Act promoting a clean energy grid, advancing equity and protecting ratepayers (2024 Climate Act) in November 2024. The 2024 Climate Act included requirements for the Siting Board to issue consolidated permits for clean energy infrastructure among other requirements. The 2024 Climate Act requires that the Siting Board develop and promulgate regulations and guidance to implement the Act no later than March 2026. Siting Board staff expect to develop those documents in 2025 and seek public input, as directed.

On December 21, 2023, the Siting Board issued a Delegation Order in EFSB 23-03, which delegates to the Secretary, as Chair of the Siting Board, the authority to sign an Informal Resolution Agreement with U.S. Department of Transportation. In the Agreement, the Siting Board agrees to a number of specific actions to avoid discriminatory practices in its proceedings. These steps include establishing a Language Access Policy and a Public Participation Plan as part of the Board's EFSB 21-01 public participation proceeding. The Siting Board has completed many of the requirements from the Informal Resolution Agreement, including posting its non-discrimination notice and non-discrimination grievance

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

procedure in April 2024, identify its non-discrimination coordinator by May 2024, and posting its disabilities policy in October 2024. The Siting Board expects to issue its draft Language Access Plan and Public Involvement Plan for public comment and Board vote in early 2025. The Siting Board will participate in training activities in 2025.

On April 30, 2024, the Siting Board received a subpoena from Exxon Mobil Corporation related to Commonwealth of Mass. v. Exxon Mobil Corporation, Superior Court Civil Action No. 1984-CV-03333-BLS1, requesting a wide range of documents from the Siting Board allegedly related to the ongoing litigation. The Siting Board, through its counsel Mintz Levin, responded and produced documents responsive to Exxon Mobil’s subpoena in August 2024.

### Federal Licensing Proceedings

The Siting Board represents the Commonwealth in proceedings before FERC with respect to the construction of energy facilities in Massachusetts. The Siting Board was not active in any FERC proceedings during 2024.

### Permit Override Authority

Through the granting of a Certificate of Environmental Impact and Public Interest (Certificate), 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. The Siting Board did not conduct any Certificate proceedings during 2024.

#### East Eagle Substation

On February 16, 2022, Eversource filed a petition for a Certificate of Environmental Impact and Public Interest requesting the Siting Board issue 14 state and local permits required for construction and operation of the East Eagle Substation, docketed as EFSB 22-01. 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), and relocation of the Substation was approved in 2021 in EFSB-14-04A/D.P.U. 14-153A/14-154A. On November 30, 2022, the Siting Board issued a Final Decision approving the Certificate, with conditions. On December 29, 2022, Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) and GreenRoots, Inc. (GreenRoots) filed a Motion for Amendment of the Certificate issued by the Siting Board (Motion to Amend). On January 3, 2023, the Board heard oral argument on the Motion to Amend, deliberated and voted to deny the Motion to Amend the Certificate, and required staff to consider the principles from the Motion to Amend in the pending Notice of Inquiry proceeding, EFSB 21-01. On December 19, 2022, intervenors CLF and Boston Residents Group appealed the Final Decision to the Supreme Judicial Court. The parties filed briefs and the Supreme Judicial Court heard oral arguments from parties in May 2024 and issued its decision affirming the Siting Board’s Certificate Decision in September 2024.

#### Footprint Power/Salem Harbor

On August 3, 2012, Footprint Harbor Development, LP filed a petition with the Siting Board requesting approval to construct a generating facility in the City of Salem, docketed as

## **Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

EFSB 12-2. The Siting Board issues its final decision on the project on October 10, 2013. On October 11, 2013, the Company filed a petition for a Certificate with the Siting Board, docketed as EFSB 13-01. The Siting Board issued its final decision on the Certificate request on February 25, 2014. On October 2, 2024, the Company filed a notice and request to amend the Certificate, specifically to amend a Special Condition on the attached Chapter 91 license. The amendment replaces a condition in the Chapter 91 license with a cash payment to the City of Salem. The Siting Board solicited comments regarding the Company's request in November 2024 and received a comment from the City of Salem supporting the amendment. The Siting Board expects to issue a determination on the request in early 2025.

### **Siting Board Regulations**

The regulations of the Siting Board are contained in 980 CMR 1.00 through 12.00. In 2024, no new regulations were promulgated nor were any rescinded or modified. The Siting Board is in the process of developing new regulations and guidance responsive to the 2024 Climate Act. See the section describing the CEISP above for further information.

### **Battery Energy Storage Systems**

On May 11, 2023, the Siting Board issued Decisions determining that it lacked subject matter jurisdiction over BESS. The 2024 Climate Act included requirements for the Siting Board to issue consolidated permits for clean energy infrastructure among other requirements. The new legislation also defined battery energy storage systems larger than 100 MWh as clean energy infrastructure and included those facilities in Siting Board jurisdiction. The Siting Board expects to develop and promulgate regulations and guidance to implement this requirement. The Climate Act also included an interim provision that allows for BESS developers that have received a zoning exemption to petition the Board if necessary for a Certificate to override state and local permits for construction of the BESS.

### **Review of Transmission Facilities**

#### **East Eagle Substation**

On December 23, 2014, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy filed 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. EFSB 14-04/D.P.U. 14-153/14-154. 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. On February 26, 2021, the Siting Board issued a final decision, approving the change of location for the substation. EFSB 14-04A/D.P.U. 14-153A/14-154A. 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 Supreme Judicial Court issued a decision affirming the Siting Board's decision on November 4, 2022.

On February 16, 2022, the Company filed for a Certificate of Environmental Impact and Public Interest requesting that the EFSB issue 14 state and local permits required for

## **Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

construction and operation of the Substation, which was docketed as EFSB 22-01. The Supreme Judicial Court issued its decision affirming the Siting Board’s Certificate Decision in September 2024. The Substation is currently under construction.

### 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 for 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. On February 28, 2023, the Company filed a proposed project change to enable the operation of the line at 345 kV to interconnect the Park City Wind Project described below. The Company also filed a petition with the Department requesting individual and comprehensive zoning exemptions from the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Barnstable in connection with the Company’s proposed modifications to its existing West Barnstable Substation to allow the line to operate at 345 kV (Zoning Petition), docketed as D.P.U. 23-22. The Siting Board conducted a hybrid public comment hearing in Barnstable in November 2023 and evidentiary hearings in May 2024. Briefing is complete. The Siting Board anticipates issuing a final decision in early 2025.

### 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 an underground onshore and subsea offshore 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. On December 15, 2023, the Siting Board issued a Final Decision approving the Project with conditions. Subsequently, intervenor Jacqueline Johnson appealed the decision to the Supreme Judicial Court. The Supreme Judicial Court heard oral arguments in November 2024 and issued a decision on January 9, 2025 affirming the Siting Board’s decision in the matter. See below for Park City Wind request for zoning exemptions.

### Commonwealth Wind

On November 1, 2022, Commonwealth Wind, LLC filed three related 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. The Company’s project was not among those selected in the fourth round of 83C projects announced in September 2024. At the request of the Company, the proceeding is on hold.

### SouthCoast Wind - Falmouth

On November 17, 2021, SouthCoast Wind Energy LLC filed three related petitions with the Siting Board and Department in connection with a proposal to construct and operate approximately 27.5 miles of offshore and onshore, underground electric transmission lines

## **Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

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. At the request of the Company, the procedural schedule is on hold. Throughout 2024, the Company submitted reports updating the status of the Project.

### SouthCoast Wind - Brayton Point

On May 27, 2022, SouthCoast Wind LLC filed three related petitions with the Siting Board and Department for approval to construct 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 concluded evidentiary hearings in August 2023, and briefing is complete. The Siting Board issued its final decision on October 4, 2024.

### 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. The Siting Board concluded evidentiary hearings in December 2023, and briefing is complete. The Siting Board anticipates issuing a final decision in early 2025.

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

On March 10, 2022, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy filed two related 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. The Siting Board concluded evidentiary hearings in November 2023. On December 19, 2023, the Siting Board granted the Company’s request to issue a second supplemental notice to certain abutters in Cambridge and Somerville. The Siting Board issued its final decision on June 28, 2024.

## **Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

### Sterling to Warwick Transmission Line

On May 1, 2023, New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid filed two related petitions with the Siting Board and the Department for approval to construct a new double circuit overhead transmission line in Warwick, Royalston, Winchendon, Gardner, Westminster, Fitchburg, Leominster and Sterling, and two associated tap lines in Athol, Royalston and Gardner to replace the Company's existing 69 kV double circuit transmission lines, docketed as EFSB 23-02/D.P.U. 23-45. The line extends approximately 53.5 miles from Vernon Substation in Vermont to Pratts Junction Substation in Sterling, Massachusetts; the length of the lines in Massachusetts is approximately 47 miles. The Siting Board conducted three hybrid public comment hearings in April 2024 and an evidentiary hearing in September 2024. Briefing is complete. The Siting Board anticipates issuing a final decision in 2025.

### HMLP Transmission Line

On November 13, 2024, Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant (HLMP) filed a petition with the Siting Board to construct and operate an approximately 3.2 mile underground transmission line in the Towns of Weymouth and Hingham; and a substation located in Hingham. HLMP and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy filed a petition with the Department pursuant to G.L. c. 40A § 3 for individual and comprehensive zoning exemptions from the operation of the Town of Hingham Zoning Bylaw in connection with the construction of the new substation; and individual and comprehensive zoning exemptions from the operation of the Town of Weymouth Zoning Ordinance in connection with the construction of a new tap station by Eversource. The dockets were consolidated as EFSB 24-01/D.P.U. 24-135 and referred to the Siting Board for review. The Siting Board will conduct hybrid public comment hearings for the proceeding in early 2025.

### National Grid Palmer to Ware Transmission Line

On December 12, 2024, National Grid filed petitions for approval to construct an overhead transmission line in the towns of Palmer, West Brookfield, and Ware. The project includes replacing an existing overhead transmission line with a new overhead transmission line in an existing transmission corridor in Palmer, West Brookfield and Ware, Massachusetts. The new line would continue operating at 69 kV, but be capable of operating at 115 kV, if needed. The proceeding is docketed as EFSB 24-02/D.P.U. 24-190.

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

### Ashland/Hopkinton - Hopkinton-Ashland Transfer Line Replacement Project

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.

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

On May 26, 2022, Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy filed two related 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, docketed as EFSB 22-05/D.P.U. 22-69. The Company's proposed Project includes: (1) Installation of POD

## **Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

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.

The Siting Board conducted a remote public comment hearing on December 14, 2022. The case is pending at this time.

### Holyoke Gas and Electric Department

On December 7, 2022, Holyoke Gas & Electric Department filed a petition for approval to construct, operate, and maintain an additional new 70,000 gallon liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage tank at its existing West Holyoke LNG storage facility. The filing was docketed as EFSB 22-07. The Siting Board concluded evidentiary hearings in November 2023, and briefing is complete. The Siting Board anticipates issuing a final decision in 2025.

## **Department Siting Division Responsibilities**

---

In addition to supporting the Siting Board, the Siting Division – composed 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 G.L. c. 164, § 69J also requires G.L. c. 164, § 72 approval by the Department, administered by the Siting Board in consolidated proceedings.

### Somerset-Fall River Transmission Line

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. The Department conducted a remote public comment hearing in March 2023 and evidentiary hearings in February 2024. Briefing is complete. The Department expects to issue a final order in early 2025.

### Crystal Spring Extension Project

On June 4, 2024, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy filed a petition with the Department seeking approval to construct and operate a 115 kV transmission line on an existing right-of-way in Acushnet and Mattapoisett pursuant to G.L. c. 164 § 72 and for individual and comprehensive zoning exemptions from the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Mattapoisett pursuant to G.L. c. 40A § 3. The proceeding was docketed as D.P.U. 24-

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

93/24-94. The Department conducted a hybrid public comment hearing in September 2024 and anticipates conducting evidentiary hearings in early 2025.

**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 2024.

**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.

Park City Wind Zoning Exemption

On April 5, 2024, the Company filed a petition for exemptions from the operation of the Zoning Ordinance of Barnstable, docketed as D.P.U. 24-48, for a one-acre parcel that was not included in the zoning exemptions granted in the Siting Board’s Final Decision in EFSB 20-01/D.P.U. 20-56/20-57 (2023). The Department conducted a hybrid public comment hearing in June 2024 and an evidentiary hearing in November 2024. The Department expect to issue a final order in 2025.

Westfield Battery Project

On September 25, 2024, Westfield ESS, LLC filed a petition with the Department seeking individual and comprehensive zoning exemptions from the City of Westfield Zoning Ordinance for a 200 MW/800 MWh BESS, and approval to construct and operate two 115 kV underground transmission lines, pursuant to G.L. c. 40A, § 3 and G.L. c. 164, § 72 respectively. The proceeding was docketed as D.P.U. 24-151. The Department conducted a hybrid public comment hearing in December 2024 and expects to conduct evidentiary hearings in 2025.

Everett Battery Project

On November 19, 2024, Trimount ESS, LLC filed a petition with the Department seeking individual and comprehensive zoning exemptions from the City of Everett Zoning Ordinance for a 700 MW/2800 MWh BESS, and approval to construct and operate two 115 kV underground transmission lines, pursuant to G.L. c. 40A, § 3 and G.L. c. 164, § 72 respectively. The proceeding was docketed as D.P.U. 24-152. The Department will conduct a public comment hearing in 2025.

Medway Grid Storage

On May 11, 2023, the Siting Board issued a Final Decision dismissing Medway Grid’s Siting Board Petition for lack of subject matter jurisdiction and returned the Zoning Petition

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

and transmission line petition to the Department for determination. On June 30, 2023, the Department issued an Order approving Medway Grid’s zoning exemption and transmission line request, with conditions. The Company responded to filings from limited participants and intervenors, noting several changes in the project configuration during subsequent permitting processes that differed from what the Department had originally approved. The Department is reviewing the configuration changes.

### Wendell Energy Storage

On January 27, 2023, Wendell Energy Storage 1, LLC filed petitions with the Siting Board and Department seeking approval to construct a 105 MW BESS in the Town of Wendell. Wendell Energy filed its petition under the Siting Board’s generating facility statute, G.L. c. 164, § 69J¼, EFSB 23-01/D.P.U. 23-05. On May 11, 2023, the Siting Board issued Decisions determining it lacked subject matter jurisdiction over BESS. On August 11, 2023, subsequent to the Siting Board’s Decision on its lack of subject matter jurisdiction over BESS, the Company filed a motion to dismiss EFSB 23-01, which was granted on August 17, 2023.

### **2024 Siting Division Accomplishments**

---

- Assisted in issuing a Siting Board decision approving a first of its kind underground substation in Massachusetts;
- Contributed to the development and issuance of the final recommendations from the CEISP to Governor Maura Healey in March;
- Assisted in issuing a Siting Board decision approving a third offshore wind transmission line project in Massachusetts;
- Assisted efforts in passing the 2024 Climate Act in November;
- Received a favorable decision from the Supreme Judicial Court affirming the Siting Board’s 2022 issuance of a Certificate of Environmental Impact granting state and local permits for a substation to be located in East Boston, originally approved by the Siting Board in 2017;
- Completed evidentiary proceedings on six proposed projects, with anticipated issuance of Siting Board decisions in 2025; and
- Successfully conducted six hybrid public meetings that allowed for seamless in person and online participation.

## LEGAL DIVISION

### Overview

---

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

### Legal Division Responsibilities

---

During 2024, the Legal Division participated in numerous dockets and initiatives, resulting in the issuance of 768 orders. A list of the Department’s 2024 Orders is attached as Appendix 2.

Some of the more notable dockets and initiatives included:

- Opened an inquiry to examine energy burdens with a focus on energy affordability for residential ratepayers.
- Continued investigation into the role of natural gas distribution companies in the achievement of the Commonwealth’s 2050 climate goals.
- Issued an order to enhance public awareness of and equitable participation in Department proceedings.
- Implementation of policies and procedures to support equitable participation, including language access plans, for Department proceedings.
- Issued orders approving new rates for two electric utility companies, one gas company, and three water companies following detailed investigation.
- Continued efforts to quantify and reduce the public safety risks and environmental emissions associated with aged gas infrastructure.
- Led working group into the future of the gas system enhancement programs.
- Continued investigation and issuance of orders addressing investments necessary to modernize the electric grid and deploy advanced metering technologies to enhance reliability and enable time varying rates.
- Issued two sets of updates to the net metering regulations.
- Issued an order revising the “Single Parcel Rule” to include specific exceptions outlined by the Legislature. Including these exceptions will allow multiple solar net metering facilities on one piece of land, expanding the benefits of solar across the board.
- Issued an order adopting new municipal aggregation guidelines to streamline the oversight of municipal aggregation programs while ensuring that constituents and interested stakeholders have access to useful program-related information presented in an understandable way.

### Types of Proceedings

---

#### Formal Adjudications

The Legal Division’s primary duty is presiding over adjudicatory proceedings conducted under the Massachusetts Administrative Procedure Act (G.L. c. 30A) and the Department’s procedural regulations (220 CMR 1.00). Adjudications are the formal determination of parties’ rights

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

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 purchase of electric power and natural gas
- Long-term contracts for renewable energy
- Long-range forecast and supply plans
- Grid modernization and electric sector modernization plans
- Energy efficiency plans
- Service quality plans
- Financial transactions (e.g., stock, bond, and security issuances)
- Proposed utility mergers
- Storm investigations
- Emergency response plans
- Municipal aggregation plans
- Proposed energy facility construction and siting (e.g., electric generation facilities and transmission lines)
- 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.

Public hearings afford members of the public the opportunity to learn more about a petition, offer input about a pending case, and comment on the practices of the utility. Utility customers and other interested persons are a valuable source of information to the Department in developing an evidentiary record.

Public hearings are publicized throughout the petitioning utility's service territory. Public hearings are typically conducted in the Department's Boston offices or virtually. In certain types of cases, public hearings are held in a utility's service territory. Public hearings are transcribed by a stenographer.

Evidentiary hearings afford the Department and intervenors 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, DOER, and local consumer, business, or neighborhood groups. Sometimes intervenors put on a direct case with witnesses of their own. While the adjudicatory process does not require adherence to all formal rules of evidence, the

## **Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

evidentiary hearing process follows many rules of civil procedure as set forth in the Department’s procedural regulations at 220 CMR 1.00.

Evidentiary hearings are conducted in a courtroom setting in the Department’s Boston offices or virtually. Evidentiary hearings are transcribed by a stenographer. The hearings are presided over by the Hearing Officer, with the active participation of the Department’s technical staff. Technical staff participate by questioning witnesses to ensure that the evidentiary record is accurate and complete. At the conclusion of the evidentiary hearings, the company and intervenors typically present arguments in briefs.

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. The Department continues to apply this adapted process, where permitted by law.

### **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 2024, the Department did not issue any advisory rulings.

### **Notice of Inquiry Proceedings**

The Department issues an 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 the Department. The policy established through the NOI may be further developed in the future through rulemakings or company-specific adjudications.

In 2024, the Department opened two NOI proceedings:

- D.P.U. 24-15 (Energy Burden with a Focus on Energy Affordability for Residential Ratepayers)
- D.P.U. 24-53 (Service Quality Standards for Electric Distribution Companies and Local Gas Distribution Companies)

In addition, the Department continued the following NOI proceedings:

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

- 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)
- D.P.U. 20-58 (COVID-19 State of Emergency)
- D.P.U. 20-80 (Role of Local Gas Distribution Companies in Meeting Commonwealth’s Target 2050 Climate Goals)
- D.P.U. 21-50 (Procedures for Enhancing Public Awareness of and Participation in Department Proceedings)
- D.P.U. 23-20 (Net Metering Revision to Single Parcel Rule)
- D.P.U. 23-33 (Enhanced Procedures for Reporting by Transportation Network Companies of Complaints by Drivers and Riders)
- D.P.U. 23-50 (Provision of Basic Service)
- D.P.U. 23-67 (Establishing Guidelines for Municipal Aggregation 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. The Department’s proposed amended regulations are accompanied by an Order describing the reasons for promulgating the regulations and responding to comments. Any final regulation must be published in the Code of Massachusetts Regulations.

In 2024, the Department opened one rulemaking proceeding:

- D.P.U. 23-140, to amend 220 CMR 18.00, Net Metering pursuant to St. 2022, c. 179, § 54.

In 2024, the Department continued one rulemaking proceeding:

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

In 2024, the Department completed five rulemaking proceedings:

- D.P.U. 21-100, adopting final amended regulations 220 CMR 18.00, Net Metering pursuant to St. 2021, c. 8, §§ 82 – 85;
- D.P.U. 22-100, adopting final amended regulations 220 CMR 101.00, Massachusetts Gas Distribution Code and 220 CMR 100.00, Massachusetts Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Code;
- D.P.U. 23-140, adopting final amended regulations 220 CMR 18.00, Net Metering pursuant to St. 2022, c. 179, § 54;

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

- D.P.U. 23-145, adopting final amended regulations 220 CMR 272.00, Rates for the Towing of Motor Vehicles; and
- D.P.U. 23-148, adopting final amended regulation 220 CMR 99.00, Dig Safe Regulations.

### Public Records

While not docketed proceedings, the Department’s Legal Division staff serve 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 2024, the Department responded to over 292 public records requests. In addition, the Department continued to take all necessary steps to comply with the Public Records Improvement Act, St. 2016, c. 121. That Act is intended to enhance transparency and responsiveness of state government in complying with public records requests.

### 2024 Legal Division Accomplishments

---

- Issued 768 Orders, including:
  - Six base rate cases including two electric utility companies, one gas company, and three water companies;
  - Twelve NOIs, continuing 10 and opening 2 new proceedings;
  - Seven rulemakings, opening 1, continuing 1, and completing 5;
  - 292 public records requests;
  - 38 Municipal Aggregation Plans;
  - 36 contracts for the purchase of natural gas;
  - Two long-range forecast and supply plans;
  - Three Electric Sector Modernization Plans;
  - Eleven Service quality plans;
  - Five financial transactions (e.g., stock, bond, and security issuances);
  - Ten storm cost/storm prudence review filings; and
  - Eight Emergency Response Plans.

## 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 LDCs:

- The Berkshire Gas Company (Berkshire Gas);
- 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; and
- NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (NSTAR Gas).

In total, these companies serve approximately 1.782 million gas customers and have combined operating revenues of approximately \$3.5 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>45</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

---

<sup>45</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.

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

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.

**Substance of Forecast and Supply Plans Filed**

During 2024, the Gas Division issued Orders on forecast and supply plans for EGMA and Fitchburg Gas. The Gas Division is currently reviewing forecast and supply plans for NSTAR Gas, Liberty, National Grid and Berkshire Gas, with Orders for all due in 2025. Below is a table compiled from the information presented to the Department in the approved forecast and supply plans for EGMA and Fitchburg Gas. The table indicates expected demand and the types of resources for which the LDC has contracted to meet this demand:

Company	Order Date	Design Year <sup>46</sup>	Requirements (MMBtu)	Available Supplies
<b><u>Fitchburg Gas, D.P.U. 23-25</u></b>	12/22/2023	2026/27	1,854,836	Pipeline gas, Storage, LNG, Propane, and city-gate purchases
<b><u>EGMA, D.P.U. 23-125</u></b>	10/24/2024	2027/28	40,844,000	Pipeline gas, Storage, LNG, Propane, and city-gate purchases

**Reliability of Gas Supply**

Massachusetts LDCs currently control several types of natural gas resources:

- Interstate pipeline capacity (pipeline)
- Upstream storage
- Gas commodity
- 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 facilities in the northeast, primarily the Everett LNG Terminal (f/k/a Engie) in Everett, operated by Exelon

---

<sup>46</sup> The years indicate the November through October forecast period.

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

Generation (Constellation) and – to a lesser extent – National Grid’s facility in Providence, Rhode Island, for the delivery of LNG 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 an abundance 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).
- 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 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, EGMA 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:

- Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (Tennessee), a subsidiary of Kinder Morgan;
- Algonquin Gas Transmission Company (Algonquin), a subsidiary of Enbridge; and
- 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 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 city-gate 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

---

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 necessary, 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 2024 was imported from Trinidad and Norway. Imported LNG arrives in Massachusetts in liquid form and is either stored in Constellation's LNG Terminal in Everett or vaporized and injected into Algonquin's HubLine via Excelerate Energy's Northeast Gateway Deepwater Port 13 miles offshore. Based on a June 24, 2024 article from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), however, the Northeast Gateway had not received any product in 2024 through June.<sup>47</sup>

According to the USDOE, Constellation's LNG Terminal received 10.4 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas for the period January 2024 through September 2024. In comparison, the region imported 10.7 Bcf for calendar year 2023. Although data for 2024 is not yet complete, this currently shows a decrease of 0.3 Bcf compared to 2023.

In terms of pricing, using the NYMEX price reference, the price of natural gas has remained relatively low. However, a high point was reached on January 12, 2024 when the monthly spot

---

<sup>47</sup> See EIA, "New England Utility Closes Import-Dependent Gas-fired Power Plant, Keeps LNG Import Option" (June 2024), available at <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=62404>.

price was \$13.20 per MMBtu, in anticipation of colder than normal weather in Texas.<sup>48</sup> It should be noted that in real terms the price of natural gas remains well below what the market has experienced since the early 2000s. In regard to “Gas in Storage” – which is essential to support demand during the peak winter period – the EIA reports that as of November 29, 2024, gas in storage was 3,937 Bcf. This volume is 284 Bcf, or about 7.8%, above the five-year average, as shown in the chart, below by the EIA.

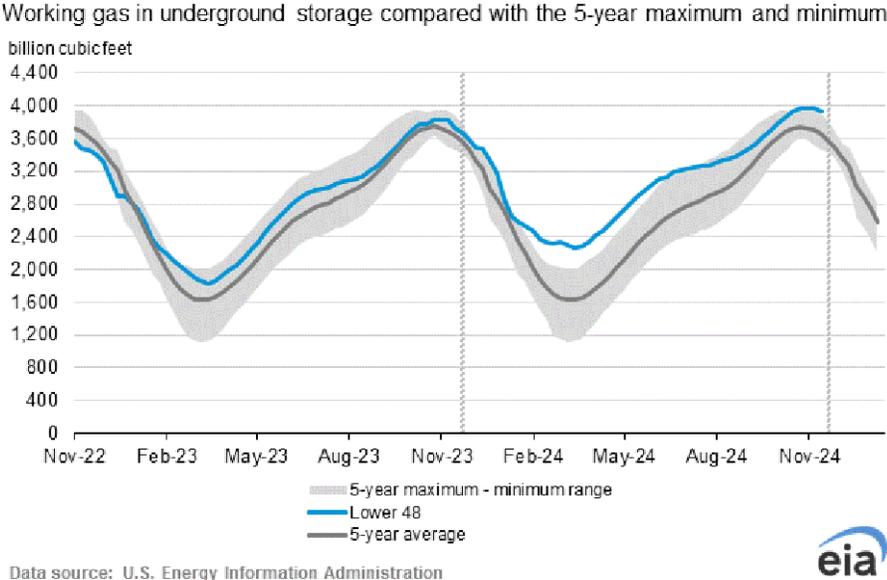


Figure 1—US GAS STORAGE INVENTORY (Source: EIA)

The EIA reports that the spot price for delivery to New England on December 11, 2024 was \$3.24/MMBtu. However, it should be noted that the spot price changes on a daily and even

<sup>48</sup> See Bloomberg, “Spot Gas Prices Jump Over 400% Ahead of Texas Cold Blast” (Jan. 2024), available at [www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-01-12/spot-gas-prices-jump-more-than-400-ahead-of-texas-cold-blast](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-01-12/spot-gas-prices-jump-more-than-400-ahead-of-texas-cold-blast).

hourly basis, as it is affected by a number of factors such as weather, drilling activity, power generation demand, pipeline events, and even geopolitical (in)stability.

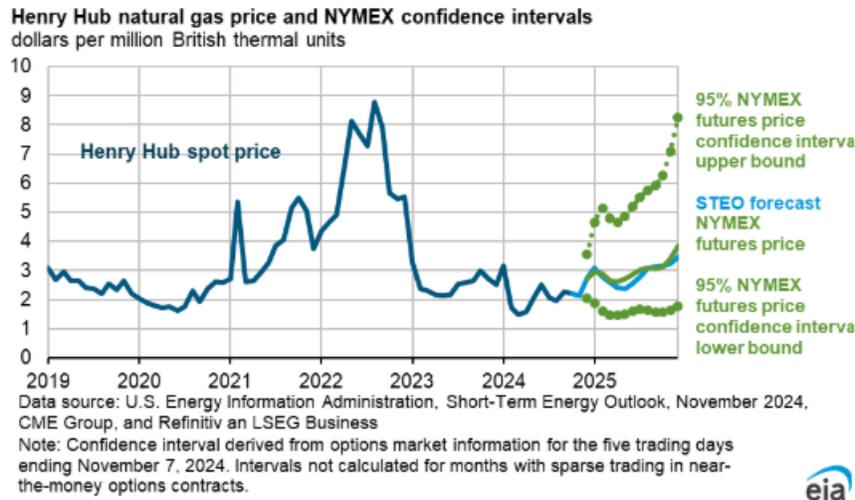


Figure 2- Henry Hub natural gas price and NYMEX confidence intervals (Source: EIA)

## Long-term Gas Supply Contracts

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.

Four of these long-term supply contracts were for six-year agreements with Constellation for the purchase of natural gas from its LNG Terminal in Everett. As part of that decision, the Department found it appropriate for the LDCs to include in their inaugural Climate Compliance Plans in D.P.U. 20-80 the following information: (1) whether, and to what extent, the contracts have facilitated the LDCs’ plans to meet GHG emission reduction goals in compliance with the GWSA; (2) a description of the LDCs’ efforts to reduce customer demand for natural gas; and (3) a description of the LDCs’ efforts to reduce or eliminate their reliance on EMT, including, but not limited to (i) the costs, feasibility, and timelines for each alternative identified; and (ii) a description of how each alternative identified would contribute to GHG emissions reductions. The LDCs will report this information annually to the Department on April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year through 2030.

During 2024, the Gas Division reviewed eight long-term supply contracts.

### Non-Tariff Contracts

---

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 nontariff contracts, subject to Department approval. In its review,<sup>49</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 2024, the Gas Division reviewed 28 non-tariff contracts.

### Requests for Cost Adjustments

---

Department regulations allow costs incurred by gas companies for the purchase, storage, and interstate transportation of gas (gas supply costs or GAF) 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.

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>50</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

---

<sup>49</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.

<sup>50</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.

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

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 2024, the Gas Division reviewed 23 GAF requests and ten LDAF requests.

### Energy Efficiency

---

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 percent of the gas energy efficiency budget is allocated toward low-income energy-efficiency spending.

The LDCs filed their 2025-2027 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plans on October 31, 2024. Pursuant to amendments to the Green Communities Act in 2022, the Department now has 120 days to review these plans and will issue a decision by February 28, 2025. The LDCs propose to spend \$1.8 billion over the three-year period to save 56 million annual therms, or 813 million lifetime therms, and achieve \$5 billion in total benefits. The proposed plans include behavioral offerings, weatherization (*e.g.*, energy audits, attic/wall insulation, and air sealing), and rebates for thermostats, appliances, heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, and other electrification equipment. This is the second plan in which the LDCs will offer rebates for the installation of heat pumps to partially, or fully, displace gas heating equipment with the requirement that customers weatherize the home first. Consistent with the statute, for hard to electrify areas and low-income households, high efficiency heating equipment incentives will still be offered by the LDCs. 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.

In addition to statutorily required three-year plans, LDCs are allowed to modify their plans. If a company needs to modify its Department-approved three-year plan, it must file a mid-term modification for review and approval before the company can make changes. LDCs filed at least one mid-term modification to their 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plans to increase their approved budgets. All gas companies filed mid-term modifications to their Plans in late 2023. The Department reviewed and approved these six budget increase proposals in early 2024. The Department also reviewed and approved an additional five requests for budget changes from EGMA, Liberty, National Grid and NSTAR Gas that were filed in 2024, requesting various changes to their program budgets in both the residential and commercial & industrial sectors.

## **Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

The Gas Division reviewed and the Department approved eleven mid-term modification filings in 2024.

In addition, LDCs submit annual informational filings that track spending and savings. Upon completion of a three-year plan, the LDCs submit term report filings for Department review of spending and approval of final cost recovery. The 2022-2024 term reports will be filed with the Department on August 1, 2025. In 2024, the Gas Division reviewed 19 energy efficiency filings.

### **Cooperation with the Rates and Revenue Requirements Division**

---

The Gas Division works closely with the Department's Rates and Revenue Requirements Division to review various rate case filings, performance-based rate mechanisms, LNG facility investments that are recovered through the GAF, expenditures, and merger and acquisition petitions. In traditional rate cases, Gas Division staff is responsible for reviewing the terms and conditions of distribution service, the 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 2024, the Gas Division participated in the Department's review of four rates-related filings.

### **Service Quality**

---

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 2024, the Gas Division reviewed seven service quality plans.

### **Future of Gas, D.P.U. 20-80**

---

On December 6, 2023, the Department issued its order in D.P.U. 20-80-B, outlining regulatory principles and a framework that define its role and that of the LDCs in supporting the Commonwealth's goal of achieving net zero GHG emissions by 2050. Global Warming Solutions Act, St. 2008, c. 298 (GWSA); Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Determination of Statewide Emissions Limit for 2050 (April 22, 2020). In its Order, the Department expressed its intention to enable the Commonwealth to move into its clean energy future while simultaneously safeguarding ratepayer interests and maintaining affordability for customers; ensuring safe, reliable, and cost-effective natural gas service; minimizing the burden on low- and moderate-income households as the transition proceeds; and facilitating a just workforce and energy infrastructure transition. The Department made no findings as to a preferred decarbonization pathway or technology; rather, it expressed its intention to create and promote a regulatory framework that is flexible, protects consumers, promotes equity, and

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

provides for fair consideration of the current and future technologies and commercial applications required to meet the Commonwealth’s clean energy objectives.

The Department considered six regulatory design recommendations intended to facilitate the Commonwealth’s transition: (1) support customer adoption of and conversion to electrified and decarbonized heating technologies; (2) blend renewable gas supply into gas resource portfolios; (3) pilot and deploy innovative electrification and decarbonized technologies; (4) manage gas embedded infrastructure investments and cost recovery; (5) evaluate and enable customer affordability; and (6) develop LDC transition plans and chart future progress. As described in 20-80-B, the Department made specific findings about each of these regulatory design recommendations.

As to supporting customer adoption of and conversion to electrified and decarbonized heating technologies, the Department found that to achieve the Commonwealth’s climate targets, there must be a significant increase in the use of electrified and decarbonized heating technologies. The Department and LDCs can play a pivotal role by enhancing incentives and expanding the Mass Save energy efficiency programs to facilitate adoption of heat pumps. The Department also addressed the critical need to minimize costs for customers, including through pursuit of outside funding sources, and prioritizing workforce development to enable a just transition framework for gas industry workers, as well as customers.

The Department rejected the recommendation to change its current gas supply procurement policy to support the addition of renewable natural gas (RNG) to LDC supply portfolios due to concerns regarding the costs and availability of RNG as well as its status as zero-emissions fuel. However, the Department expressed support for customers having the option to purchase RNG from their LDC or a supplier at full cost to the customer.

Given the critical importance of significantly decarbonizing the heating sector, the Department considered the proposal that the LDCs pilot and deploy the following four technologies: (1) networked geothermal; (2) targeted electrification; (3) hybrid heating systems; and (4) renewable hydrogen. As detailed in the Order, networked geothermal projects have the most potential to reduce GHG emissions. The Department expresses support for targeted electrification and directs each LDC to propose at least one demonstration project in its service territory for decommissioning an area of its system through targeted electrification. The LDC should target a portion of its system that suffers from pressure/reliability issues, leak-prone pipe, and/or that targets environmental justice populations that have borne the burden of hosting energy infrastructure. These proposals are due in 2026.

The Department sought to dissuade gas customer expansion and to align rate design with the Commonwealth’s climate objectives. To achieve this, the Department directed gas utilities to revise their per-customer revenue decoupling mechanism to a decoupling approach based on total revenues. Removing the incentive to add new customers aligns the LDCs’ rate design with climate objectives and GHG reductions. The Department also directed all LDCs to conduct a comprehensive review that includes a forecast of the potential magnitude of stranded

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

investments, and to identify the impacts of accelerated depreciation proposals, as well as potential alternatives to accelerated depreciation.

The Department found that consideration of non-gas pipeline alternatives (NPAs), defined broadly to include electrification, thermal networked systems, targeted energy efficiency and demand response, behavior change and market transformation, is necessary to minimize investments in the gas pipeline system that may be stranded costs in the future as decarbonization measures are implemented. Going forward, the Department stated that as part of future cost recovery proposals, LDCs will bear the burden of demonstrating that NPAs were adequately considered and found to be non-viable or cost prohibitive to receive full cost recovery.

The Department concluded that the standards for investments to serve new customers must be examined. The Department therefore directed the LDCs to begin reviewing existing tariffs, policies, and practices related to new service connections to determine: (1) the number of *de facto* free extension allowances; (2) whether current models and policies accurately reflect the anticipated income and timeframe over which the capital investments will be recovered; and (3) whether existing state policies are inconsistent with current practices by incentivizing new customers to join the gas distribution system and allowing LDCs to extend their systems through plant additions. Further, in reviewing future applications for new service, the Department will examine the appropriateness of the existing standard that there be no adverse impacts on existing natural gas customers in the context of a broader climate mandate.

The Department observed that there are numerous concerns regarding affordability for customers, including the upfront costs required for customers to convert appliances and heating systems from natural gas to electricity, and also higher rates for customers who remain on the system. Cost shifting between migrating and non-migrating customers and between rate classes, and potential disproportionate impacts on low-income customers and customers from environmental justice populations, present equity challenges as well.

Finally, the Department found that the clean energy transition will require coordinated planning between LDCs and electric distribution companies, monitoring progress through LDC reporting, and aligning existing Department practices with climate targets. To that end, the Department ordered LDCs to submit individual Climate Compliance Plans to the Department every five years, and to propose climate compliance performance metrics in their upcoming performance-based regulation filings, ensuring a proactive approach to achieving climate targets. The Companies will file their individual Climate Compliance Plans by March 1, 2025.

### Geothermal Demonstration Pilot Projects

---

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

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

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 will last three years, with a projected cost of \$14.1 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 commenced in May 2023 and continued into early 2024 for the completion of the borefields and ground loop. Customer conversion work began in May 2024.

On December 15, 2021, the Department approved a networked geothermal demonstration proposal from National Grid. 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. National Grid selected a site in Lowell after screening fourteen site configurations across seven municipalities, with a goal of the system being operational prior to the 2024-2025 heating season. The Lowell geothermal network is expected to serve 43 gas customers, including two UMass-Lowell administrative buildings, a Lowell Housing Authority residential building, a commercial building with multiple tenants, and surrounding single-family and multi-family residential buildings. National Grid announced a second site on January 25, 2024 at Franklin Field Apartments in Dorchester. The Boston project is expected to serve 129 households.<sup>51</sup> National Grid sent out a request for proposals during the summer of 2024 for the design of the project.

The Gas Division reviewed three filings related to these geothermal pilots in 2024. The companies continue to submit updates and reports related to project construction and communication with customers.

## 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 customers’ neighborhood. This allows customers to comparison shop and negotiate for the best value in gas commodity from

---

<sup>51</sup> The Boston site is expected to serve one gas customer out of the 129 households.

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 annually. 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.

In 2024, the Gas Division reviewed 20 Gas Supplier and 178 Retail Agent license applications, and the Department has approved 153 licenses. The approved licenses include the following:

- 15 Gas Supplier license renewals;
- 11 new Gas Retail Agent licenses; and
- 127 Gas Retail Agent license renewals.

### **Additional Gas Division Activities**

---

#### **Cybersecurity**

Over the last several years, the Gas Division has worked to ensure that LDCs have robust cybersecurity programs that 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 2024.

#### **Gas Expansion Plans**

Pursuant to Section 3 of Chapter 149 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 2024. This requirement will be eliminated by Section 99 of Chapter 239 of the Acts of 2024, which takes effect in February 2025.

#### **Participation in Federal Policy Making**

Over the past decade, actions taken by FERC, the USDOE, 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

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

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 US DOE, in projects relating to natural gas.

### Public Information and Review of Consumer Complaints

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.

### 2024 Gas Division Accomplishments

---

- 2 forecast and supply plan filings;
- 8 long-term gas supply contracts;
- 28 non-tariff contracts for the sale and transportation of natural gas (firm service, quasi-firm service);
- 23 gas adjustment factor filings pursuant to the CGAC;
- 10 cost recovery filings pursuant to the LDAC;
- 19 energy efficiency filings;
- 4 rates-related filings;
- 7 service quality reports;
- 3 geothermal demonstration project filings; and
- 153 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 four 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 21,880.34 miles of gas mains and fourteen total operators, with 19 LNG plants and six liquefied propane gas (LPG) air plants owned and operated by the investor-owned gas operators. In addition to the LP-air plants, the Pipeline Safety Division also has oversight of

## **Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

17 LPG operators that own and operate more than 300 small LPG systems (i.e., less than 100 customers) state-wide. Collectively, these facilities serve over 1.4 million customers.

In addition, there are approximately 26.3 miles of intrastate gas transmission lines in Massachusetts. Of that total, there are 9.8 jurisdictional miles of offshore transmission piping, which is currently in the decommissioning process. 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 jurisdiction 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 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 2024, the Pipeline Safety Division finalized rulemakings amending two separate regulations. The Pipeline Safety Division amended 220 CMR 100.00, Massachusetts Gas Distribution Code, and 220 CMR 101.00, Massachusetts Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Code, to incorporate directives from Section 81 of the 2021 Climate Act and recommendations from the statewide Dynamic Risk audit and the National Transportation Safety Board after the Merrimack Valley incident. The Department issued an Order Adopting Final Regulations, D.P.U. 22-100, on September 26, 2024. The regulations contain extensive updates and first in the nation pipeline safety requirements.

Separately, the Pipeline Safety Division finalized a rulemaking related to 220 CMR 99.00, Procedures for the Determination and Enforcement of Violations of Safety Codes Pertaining to Damage Prevention. This change was to ensure the regulation complied with the new mandates of the 2021 Climate Act, which increased the civil penalties for violations related to natural gas pipeline facilities. The Department issued an Order Adopting Final Regulations, D.P.U. 23-148-A, on August 1, 2024.

On July 31, 2024, the Pipeline Safety Division issued Safety Guidelines for Networked Geothermal Systems. These Guidelines are intended to support the development of geothermal energy networks throughout the Commonwealth while prioritizing the safety and health of operator personnel, the public, and the environment.

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

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

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

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.

In 2024, public utilities engineers performed approximately 2,900 pipeline safety inspections. These inspections included both field activities and mandated program reviews. The Division conducted several months of inspections of a new LNG plant in Charlton to verify that the plant was constructed and is being operated in accordance with current regulations. The LNG plant is the first new plant in Massachusetts in over 20 years. The new LNG and related transmission facilities are owned and operated by Northeast Energy Center and became fully operational in 2024.

The Pipeline Safety Division also continued its comprehensive investigation into all the master meter operators, identifying operators who were out of 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. To date, master meter operators have either entered into a Consent Order to bring their facilities into compliance or been issued a Remedial order mandating compliance.

In 2024, the Pipeline Safety Division issued 11 NOPVs, assessing a total of \$1,320,000. These revenues are not retained by the Department but instead are deposited into the Commonwealth's General Fund.

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

---

When a gas-related incident involving personal injury or significant property damage occurs, 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.

During 2024, there were zero incidents.

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

---

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 plant once every three and five years, respectively. 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 onsite inspections, reviews of procedures, and reviews of operating and maintenance records. As noted above, this year the Pipeline Safety Division also conducted inspections related to the new LNG plant in Charlton.

### **Damage Prevention Program**

---

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 disputing the written decision may request an adjudicatory hearing before the Department.

In 2024, the Pipeline Safety Division received approximately 2,537 reports of incidents involving possible violations. The Pipeline Safety Division issued 1,226 NOPVs and assessed \$14,122,500 in civil penalties. These revenues are not retained by the Department but instead are deposited into the Commonwealth's General Fund. In addition to penalties, the Pipeline Safety Division hosts quarterly first-time offender training to ensure excavators have knowledge of the laws, the Division's enforcement, and best practices. This year, the Pipeline Safety Division hosted the training quarterly, reaching nearly 258 different contractors. The Damage Prevention program also issued Remedial Orders to 164 excavators who failed to respond to the Pipeline Safety Division's Notices of Probable Violation. The Remedial Order is posted to 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

for responding to any report of a damaged pipeline involving 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. In 2022, the total damage rate per thousand tickets was 1.76. For 2023, the total damage rate per thousand tickets declined to 1.66. Since 2018, the state has reduced the total damage rate per thousand tickets by approximately 31.17%, from 2.47 to approximately 1.70.

### Steam Distribution

---

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 2024, the Pipeline Safety Division conducted more than 100 field inspections of steam distribution facilities. Inspection activities included internal manhole inspections, lid temperature checks, records and procedure reviews. The Pipeline Safety 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. Additionally, the Pipeline Safety Division continues its jurisdictional assessments of all steam entities state-wide. This assessment is part of a multi-year steam program assessment and compliance review.

### 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, thereby ensuring that consumers are paying for the correct amount of gas. In 2024, the Pipeline Safety Division assessed \$3,198,530 in meter testing fees from operators. These revenues are not retained by the Department but instead are deposited into the Commonwealth's General Fund.

### 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.

### **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.

### **Partnership with Industry**

---

The Pipeline Safety 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.

### **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, each gas distribution company submit Gas System Enhancement Plans (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

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

Pipeline Safety Division also reviews the proposed GSEPs to ensure that each operator’s plan complies with its DIMP program.

As noted above, the 2021 Climate Act mandated changes to the regulations routinely used by the Division, which were implemented in 2024. As the state works to achieve its climate goals, the updates to the regulations ensure that the current infrastructure operates in a safe and reliable manner for all residents and workers of the Commonwealth.

### **2024 Pipeline Safety Division Accomplishments**

---

- Conducted natural gas facility inspections, resulting in the issuance of 11 NOPVs for violations of pipeline safety regulations and assessed gas pipeline operators a total of \$1,320,000 in civil penalties, including a \$500,000 penalty to a gas operator for failure to make timely gas leak repairs;
- Tested 250,671 meters of various sizes, resulting in the assessment of \$3,228,930 in testing fees;
- Completed approximately 2,900 pipeline safety inspections;
- Completed more than 100 steam inspections;
- Completed the following program reviews for all applicable operators;
  - Control Room Management
  - LPG
  - Operator Qualification Plans (8 out of 11 audits completed in CY 2024); and
  - TIMP Program Review (Multi-year review: CY 2022-2026)
- Received perfect scores on PHMSA’s two most recent Annual Program Evaluations for CY 2022 and 2023;
- Conducted approximately 98 informal conferences with excavators and utilities on Dig Safe violations and 5 informal conferences for Pipeline Safety Violations;
- Reviewed and processed 106 shallow main waivers, 75 blasting permits, and 14 bridge construction approvals;
- Monitored work plan agreements with four utilities to address meter exchanges that have fallen behind the mandated seven-year replacement schedule;
- Monitored compliance with Consent Orders with Compliance Agreements for all Master Meter Operators;
- Conducted a comprehensive inspection of the design, construction, commissioning, procedures, and personnel training of a new LNG facility in Charlton;
- Completed 126 LPG inspections including jurisdictional site assessments as well as written program reviews;
- Received approximately 2,537 reports of Dig Safe violations, issued 1,226 NOPVs for violations of the Dig Safe Law, and assessed \$14,122,500 in civil penalties from Dig Safe violators;
- Finalized rulemaking adopting major changes to pipeline safety regulations 220 CMR 101. The new regulations incorporate changes mandated by the 2021 Climate Act as well as first in the nation pipeline safety changes recommendations from the statewide

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

Dynamic Risk audit and the National Transportation Safety Board after the Merrimack Valley incident;

- Finalized rulemaking adopting penalty enhancements to gas-related violations of 220 CMR 99.00;
- Issued Networked Geothermal Systems Safety Guidelines; and
- Achieved continuous reduction in the total damage rate per thousand tickets (since 2018, the state has reduced the total damage rate per thousand tickets by approximately 31.17%, from 2.47 to approximately 1.7 per thousand).

## RAIL TRANSIT SAFETY DIVISION

### Overview

---

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

Throughout 2024, the Rail Transit Safety Division (the “Division”) has been led by a Director of Rail Transit Safety, an Assistant Director of Compliance and Engineering, an Assistant Director of Safety Assurance, and Assistant General Counsel. SSO staffing continued to expand in 2024 to 20 employees and includes compliance officers, engineers specializing in various aspects of rail infrastructure (track, electrical power, signals, vehicles), data analysts, and legal staff. The Division met the staffing commitments DPU made to FTA in 2023. Additional contractor support remains available as needed. Additionally, in 2024, the Division focused on enhancing training programs for staff to align with the latest federal guidance and industry best practices, as well as implementing new tools for data analysis and risk assessment to further improve safety oversight capabilities.

The Division also strengthened its oversight of and collaboration with MBTA, conducting regular audits and inspections, and ensuring timely corrective actions for safety concerns. The Division continues to engage with internal/external stakeholders, and the public, bolstering transparency and accountability in the oversight process. These enhancements underscore the Division’s commitment to ensuring the safety and reliability of the MBTA subway system.

The Division also serves as the state agency with regulatory authority over all public rail crossings in Massachusetts, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 160, Section 147. This authority encompasses oversight of the design, construction, maintenance, and safety measures associated with rail crossings to ensure compliance with state and federal standards. In the past year, the Division conducted inspections, reviewed improvement projects, and collaborated with rail operators and municipalities to enhance public safety at these critical intersections.

### Training and Certification of Rail Transit Staff

---

To improve team effectiveness, the Division prioritizes training and certification of Division staff to ensure all personnel are equipped with the knowledge and credentials required to uphold the highest standards of rail transit safety and oversight. The Division’s training approach exceeds FTA’s requirements and provides continuing opportunities for staff development.

The Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program (PTSCTP), required by 49 C.F.R. § 672, establishes minimum requirements for the technical proficiency of an SSO program and for the certification and training of SSOA personnel and contractors

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

(“designated personnel”). Designated personnel must complete training requirements within three years of hire, and refresher training every two years.

DPU’s Technical Training Plan requires that its designated personnel satisfy 22 mandated competency areas.

All personnel are required to complete *Rail Nomenclature* on the Transportation Safety Institute website within one month of their start date. Designated personnel must also complete the following seven training courses to obtain the required PTSCTP certification:

- Safety Management System (SMS) Awareness – 1-hour course
- Safety Assurance – 2-hour course
- SMS Principles for Transit – 20-hour course
- Effectively Managing Transit Emergencies – 22-hour course
- Transit Rail System Safety – 36-hour course
- Transit Rail Incident Investigation – 36-hour course
- SMS Principles for SSO Programs – 16-hour course

The majority of the Division completes the required PTSCTP training well in advance of the regulatory 3-year requirement for initial certification and is projected to continue this pattern in the years ahead.

### Accident Investigations

---

Federal regulations at 49 C.F.R. § 674.35 permit an SSOA to assign the investigation safety events to the rail transit agency. The DPU regulations, 220 CMR 151.09, delegate investigation responsibility to MBTA on DPU’s behalf. While MBTA conducts the investigations of safety events, DPU is ultimately responsible for the sufficiency and thoroughness of the investigation whether done by MBTA or DPU.

If DPU staff observe that MBTA is not conducting a sufficient investigation, DPU can assume the supervision of the investigation. Additionally, DPU can issue its own final report if it disagrees with MBTA’s conclusion. In 2024, DPU issued one independent final report. Additionally, DPU implemented a comprehensive review process for all of MBTA’s investigation reports. This process includes rejecting reports and requiring further investigative activities when necessary to achieve compliance with the DPU’s standards for sufficiency and thoroughness. In 2024, DPU closed 182 investigations, received 143 final reports and rejected 34 final reports. This oversight ensures that all findings and conclusions adequately address the relevant safety issues.

### FTA Reportable Events and State Reportable Events

---

FTA adopted amendments to the SSOA program regulations (49 C.F.R. § 674) during 2024 and which became effective on January 1, 2025. The information in this section refers to FTA’s regulations that were in effect until the end of 2024. FTA had definitions of two types of safety events – accidents and incidents – that generally MBTA must report to FTA and DPU within two hours. These are commonly referred to as “FTA Reportable.”

An “accident” is an event that involves any of the following:

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

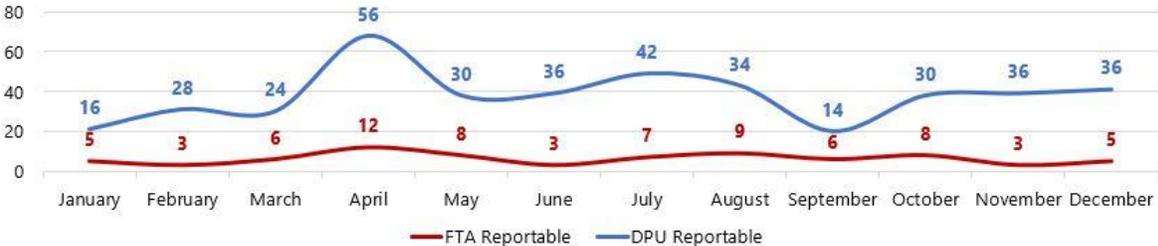
- Loss of life;
- Report of a serious injury to a person;
- Collision involving a rail transit vehicle;
- Runaway train;
- Evacuation for life safety reasons; or
- Any derailment of a rail transit vehicle, at any location, at any time, whatever the cause.

An “incident” involves any of the following:

- a personal injury that is not a serious injury;
- one or more injuries requiring medical transport; or
- damage to facilities, equipment, rolling stock, or infrastructure that disrupts the operations of a rail transit agency.

Additionally, DPU has defined a group of incidents or occurrences that MBTA must report to DPU. These are commonly referred to as “State Reportable.”

**2024 MBTA Reportable Safety Events By Month - Top 5 Event Types Per Month (Color Coded by Reportable Entity)**



Violation - Speed Violation	Violation - Speed Violation	Violation - Speed Violation	Violation - Speed Violation	Violation - Speed Violation	Violation - Speed Violation	Violation - Speed Violation	Violation - Speed Violation	Violation - Speed Violation	Violation - Speed Violation	Violation - Speed Violation	Violation - Speed Violation
Violation - Wrong Route	Violation - Signal Violation	Violation - Wrong Route	Derailment - Maintenance Vehicle	Derailment - Maintenance Vehicle	Violation - Door Violation	Violation - Wrong Route	Violation - Wrong Route	Derailment - Maintenance Vehicle	Violation - Clearance Violation	Violation - Rules Violation (Other)	Violation - Signal Violation
Violation - Signal Violation	Violation - Wrong Route	Derailment - Main Line	Violation - Rules Violation (Other)	Violation - Signal Violation	Violation - Wrong Route	Derailment - Maintenance Vehicle	Violation - Signal Violation	Violation - Clearance Violation	Violation - Wrong Route	Violation - Clearance Violation	Violation - Rules Violation (Other)
Derailment - Maintenance Vehicle	Collision - with Vehicle	Violation - Signal Violation	Violation - Door Violation	Violation - Rules Violation (Other)	Derailment - Maintenance Vehicle	Inf./Equip. - Pantograph	Collision - with Vehicle	Violation - Rules Violation (Other)	Derailment - Maintenance Vehicle	Violation - Signal Violation	Violation - Wrong Route
Collision - with Vehicle	Derailment - Maintenance Vehicle	Construction - Struck By	Violation - Clearance Violation	Violation - Door Violation	Person - Gap	Violation - Clearance Violation	Derailment - Maintenance Vehicle	Violation - Door Violation	Violation - Signal Violation	Collision - with T Vehicle	Derailment - Maintenance Vehicle

DPU staff actively engage in rigorous oversight of MBTA’s investigation process by issuing detailed document requests, reviewing video footage, attending after-action meetings, and conducting interviews. These proactive measures are designed to gather critical information about the incident and closely monitor MBTA's investigative approach to a safety event.

MBTA conducts a range of investigative activities, including fact-finding and after-action meetings, employee interviews, video and audio reviews, and vehicle or equipment testing. DPU staff monitor and participate in MBTA’s investigation from its initiation through completion to ensure that every aspect of an incident's causes and circumstances are examined to ensure comprehensive and accurate safety investigations.

DPU’s engineering and investigations staff play a critical role in rail safety oversight by rotating “on-call” duty to respond promptly to safety events. Upon arrival, they immediately begin monitoring MBTA’s investigation activities and gather information to develop an independent, preliminary understanding of the incident’s circumstances and causes. While on-site, DPU staff actively document key details through notes and photographs and engage directly with MBTA personnel to gather investigative information. This rigorous oversight ensures that the root and contributory causes of each incident are accurately identified.

During 2024, the DPU conducted oversight of 142 investigations,<sup>52</sup> comprised of 76 FTA Reportable events and 66 State Reportable events. These 142 investigations do not include investigations that the DPU began monitoring in 2023 or earlier.

### **Participation in NTSB Investigations**

---

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) may assume jurisdiction over investigations of accidents at any rail property across the country.

At the onset of an NTSB investigation, DPU becomes a party to the investigation. DPU staff support the investigation by providing observations and notes, attending interviews, and providing knowledge about the operation of the MBTA rail system. NTSB issues a factual report at the conclusion of the investigation.

There was one NTSB investigation of MBTA’s subway system in 2024. October 1, 2024, an eastbound Green Line revenue train derailed its leading railcar at MBTA’s Red Bridge interlocking in Somerville, leading to an NTSB investigation. The Division observed the following facts:

- 50 passengers and two crewmembers were on board.
- The train departed Lechmere Station eastbound.
- The train entered a 10-mph zone at 36 mph, passed through a double red signal (which requires a stop) west of the Red Bridge interlocking, and reached a switch that was still moving to direct the train into the diverging track as required by its route.
- Seven passengers were transported to a hospital for minor injuries.

DPU assigned 13 staff members to this investigation in various roles. NTSB released preliminary findings (NTSB docket number RRD24FR017) on its website. NTSB’s final report may not be released for a year or more from the investigation.

---

<sup>52</sup> Investigations oversight count as of December 31, 2024.

**Agency Safety Plans**

---

MBTA is required by federal regulations to have an Agency Safety Plan that includes the processes and procedures to effectively manage safety risks. The Agency Safety Plan must include a plan for implementing an SMS. DPU must review and verify MBTA’s Agency Safety Plan compliance with FTA requirements. MBTA updated its Agency Safety Plan on August 22, 2024, and subsequently provided it to DPU for review. On September 23, 2024, DPU issued comments to MBTA and required modifications to the Agency Safety Plan. On December 20, 2024, MBTA resubmitted the Agency Safety Plan to DPU for review and approval. DPU’s review remains pending.

In 2024, DPU demonstrated its ability to ensure MBTA continues to develop and implement a comprehensive safety program. DPU uses a variety of methods to ensure MBTA’s compliance with the Agency Safety Plan, such as its build-up of a significant routine inspection program, enhanced Corrective Action Plan enforcement program, comprehensive Triennial Audit of MBTA for the years 2021-2023, and full compliance with SSOA program requirements as evidenced in FTA’s 2024 Triennial Audit of DPU.

**Corrective Action Plans (CAP)**

---

A CAP is a plan that outlines steps and mitigations (or “corrective actions”) to manage a hazard or safety issue. A CAP can have one or more corrective actions and includes an implementation schedule for each individual corrective action. The DPU tracks MBTA’s CAPs to ensure the approach and timelines are acceptable and practicable. DPU may issue a directive to the MBTA to create a CAP if the MBTA does not create one itself.

MBTA had 38 open CAPs as of December 31, 2024, monitored by the DPU. DPU meets regularly with MBTA Quality Control and Oversight and Safety Department to discuss the MBTA’s progress implementing open CAPs and associated required actions.

Additionally, FTA’s 2022 Safety Management Inspection (SMI) resulted in FTA issuing additional CAPs to MBTA, which are also monitored by DPU. DPU regularly attends FTA’s meetings with MBTA to monitor implementation of the SMI CAPs. Since September of 2023, DPU attended 96 Special Directive meetings and reviewed 415 documents associated with FTA’s special directives to MBTA.

**Safety Management Inspection by Federal Transit Administration**

---

During 2024, DPU continued to make significant progress on completing CAPs that FTA issued to DPU in 2022 originating from FTA’s SMI. In April 2022, FTA conducted an SMI of the MBTA’s transit operations and maintenance programs in response to multiple safety events. The SMI also assessed the effectiveness and role played by DPU as the SSOA of MBTA’s subway system.

**Special Directive 22-8**

As a result of the SMI, on June 15, 2022, FTA issued Special Directive (SD) 22-8 to DPU, requiring DPU to oversee MBTA’s CAPs to address concerns identified in the SMI. In 2023,

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

DPU completed and FTA closed portions of SD 22-8, Finding 1 through 4.

In 2024, DPU continued to make progress by closing the following CAPs associated with FTA’s SD 22-8:

- FTA-DPU-23-001: DPU did not oversee and enforce the implementation of MBTA’s system safety program plan hazard analysis and procedures. CAP Closed May 6, 2024
- FTA-DPU-23-002: DPU did not oversee and enforce the implementation of the MBTA System Safety Program Plan hazard identification and tracking procedures. CAP Closed April 19, 2024
- FTA-DPU-23-003: DPU did not oversee and enforce the implementation of the MBTA’s system safety program plan rules compliance procedures for right-of-way safety rules and procedures. CAP Closed May 6, 2024
- FTA-DPU-23-004: DPU did not enforce and oversee MBTA’s rules compliance practices for track maintenance safety rules and procedures. CAP Closed April 19, 2024
- FTA-DPU-23-005: DPU did not verify the sufficiency and thoroughness of MBTA’s investigation reports. CAP Closed May 6, 2024
- FTA-DPU-23-006: DPU did not conduct independent reviews of MBTA’s findings of causation. CAP Closed May 6, 2024
- FTA-DPU-23-007: DPU did not ensure that the MBTA developed CAPs as required from hazards or investigation reports. CAP Closed May 15, 2024

As a result, FTA fully closed Special Directive 22-8 on September 25, 2024 demonstrating DPU’s success in overseeing numerous aspects of MBTA’s safety activities.

### Special Directive 22-13

Also, stemming from the SMI, FTA issued SD 22-13 to DPU on August 31, 2022. In 2023, DPU completed and FTA closed Findings 1.A and 1.B regarding workload assessment and staffing, and Finding 1.C regarding staff training.

In 2024, DPU made significant progress on and requested closure of the remaining Findings and CAPs under SD 22-13:

- SD 22-13 Finding 2  
Finding 2 in SD 22-13 required DPU to complete a legal assessment regarding its organizational independence from the MBTA. DPU previously demonstrated its independence in 2018 when FTA certified it as the SSOA, and again for the FTA’s 2019 audit of the SSOA program. In March 2023 (and supplemented in early 2024), DPU prepared and submitted the updated legal assessment to FTA. FTA approved and closed finding 2 on February 7, 2024.
- SD 22-13 Finding 1.D  
FTA required DPU to review and update its processes and thresholds for using its enforcement authority to ensure timely resolution of MBTA CAPs or other required actions. DPU completed the relevant actions and submitted a closure request to FTA on

November 1, 2024. FTA’s review remains in progress.

- SD 22-13 Finding 3

Finding 3 states, “DPU has not validated MBTA’s fatigue management approach for rail transit officials and maintenance and engineering personnel.” The corrective action associated with it requires DPU to assess and determine if additional MBTA action is needed to reduce service hours to ensure safety, and to require MBTA to take any appropriate actions.

In response, in 2023 DPU conducted an assessment, determined additional MBTA action was needed, and required and approved an MBTA CAP (#9301). Throughout 2024, DPU monitored MBTA’s implementation of the CAP and analyzed the new data made available from the corrective actions. In December 2024, DPU requested FTA to close Finding 3. FTA’s review is in progress.

- SD 22-13 Finding 4

Finding 4 states, “DPU has not demonstrated an ability to address safety issues and concerns identified during FTA’s SMI.”

DPU continued to demonstrate the ability to address MBTA safety issues in 2024 through DPU’s comprehensive safety program development and implementation. These actions include its build-up of a significant routine inspection program, enhanced CAP enforcement program, comprehensive Triennial Audit of MBTA for the years 2021-2023, and full compliance with SSOA program requirements as evidenced in FTA’s 2024 Triennial Audit of DPU. In December 2024, DPU requested FTA to close this Finding, and to close 22-13. This closure request remains pending with FTA.

## **MBTA and Enforcement Procedure**

---

DPU may issue directives or other enforcement action directing MBTA to act as needed to ensure safety, including immediate action. 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.

In 2024, DPU took a crucial role in overseeing MBTA’s track improvement program, ensuring that safety standards were met and sustained. DPU closely monitored the MBTA’s initiatives to enhance track infrastructure, which included critical upgrades, maintenance projects, and inspections. DPU’s engineering and compliance staff conducted rigorous reviews of these efforts, ensuring MBTA and its contractors complied with safety standards and best practices.

Additionally, DPU took enforcement action when necessary, addressing deficiencies promptly to mitigate risks and maintain a high level of safety across the rail network. Many of DPU’s actions were directly related to maintenance vehicle derailments during diversions and ensuring a uniform approach to safety across both the MBTA and its contractors.

### **April 1, 2024 - Diversion Return to Service Plan**

On March 21, 2024, upon DPU request, MBTA provided DPU with the return to service plan for the Orange Line Diversion between North Station and Jackson Square. DPU's review of the plan identified that MBTA did not appropriately define clear and executable requirements for confirmation that the track is safe for resumption of revenue service. DPU directed the following corrective actions, requiring MBTA to create:

- Policies, procedures and thresholds for ensuring that safe conditions are met for key areas of infrastructural improvements including but not limited to track, power systems and signals;
- Process for switch certification and accountable party to certify;
- Process for track inspection and accountable parties;
- Checklist for completion of power procedures;
- Criteria and inspection documentation of work completed for removal of speed restrictions; and
- Approvals through the accountable executive and respective departments to document compliance with the thresholds for safety.

### **April 11, 2024 - Hi-Rail Derailments Associated with Diversions**

In early April 2024, DPU was tracking a total of seven derailments in 2024, which matched the total number of derailments from all of 2023. Several of the derailments appeared to be the result of training deficiencies and human error, and would be preventable with pre-diversion mitigation activities. On April 11<sup>th</sup>, DPU required a CAP to include the following actions:

- Provide a clear policy for operators and pilots on switching operations and hi-rail movement of vehicle operations;
- Retraining of all contractors and MBTA employees responsible for hi-rail movements on maneuvering of switches and ensuring proper rail alignment;
- Retraining of all employees on proper procedures for blocking and securing switches that will be used for hi-rail movements; and
- A pre-diversion infrastructure inspection to identify any hazards that would increase the risk of derailment associated with hi-rail movement.

### **May 10, 2024 - Contractor operator training**

By early May, there were eleven additional derailments and/or split switches since DPU's April 11th CAP directive, totaling 19 derailments and/or split switches for the year to date, often involving contractors and hi-rail equipment. The increase in safety events within the diversions involving MBTA contractor equipment operators necessitated immediate and targeted attention and improvement. DPU required the following by May 24, 2024:

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

- Proposed corrective actions to finalize and implement detailed policies, procedures, and certifications for ensuring that contractor equipment operators have the technical knowledge necessary to operate hi-rail equipment on the rail including:
  - Proper loading of equipment and carts and proper operation of hi-rail equipment with an altered center of gravity;
  - Operation of hi-rails through switches and proper reading of rail prior to movement; and
  - MBTA-specific training by Line on hazards and different types of rail infrastructure that will be encountered;
- Fully train all MBTA contractors that will work on the Orange Line diversion right-of-way (scheduled to commence on May 28, 2024) on proper hi-rail movements including reading rail, proper loading of equipment and carts, and safe operations including speed limits and limitations while on the right-of-way;
- Submit to DPU training materials and records for verification of contractor training for the Orange Line diversion;
- Confirm that all hi-rail equipment has up-to-date maintenance of way (MOW) certification stickers prior to use on the MBTA right-of-way for the Orange Line diversion; and
- Conduct an assessment of MBTA’s movement of trailers in the reverse position in relation to the hi-rail derailments associated with cart movements, incorporate recommendations from the assessment into procedures, and submit the assessment to DPU.

DPU required MBTA to conduct the following additional actions by May 28, 2024:

- Fully train all MBTA contractors that will be working on a diversion prior to the start date of each diversion;
- Submit training records to DPU for verification of contractor training before the start date of each such diversion; and
- Confirm all hi-rail equipment has up-to-date MOW certification stickers prior to use on the MBTA transit right-of-way.

**July 5, 2024 - Green Line Pedestrian Crossings**

As part of DPU’s Risk-Based Inspection (RBI) process, DPU analysis of safety incident data identified instances of streetcars colliding with people on the MBTA’s Green Line during 2023. DPU researched and completed site visits to a selection of Green Line pedestrian crossings in early 2024 to better understand and investigate streetcar motorperson compliance with MBTA rules at those locations. DPU identified that a heightened safety hazard exists at Green Line pedestrian crossings from numerous MBTA rules compliance violations. This hazard does not appear to have any mitigations in place via the MBTA’s hazard management process. DPU issued a Report in July 2024 which includes a directive for MBTA to develop a CAP to complete a hazard risk assessment of pedestrian crossings on the Green Line, including the following actions:

- Develop training material to address non-compliance with Light Rail rule 6.B (LR6.B) concerning speed compliance and safe operations at pedestrian crossings;

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

- Review of training material for all streetcar motor persons, and revise and conduct training to re-emphasize the importance of compliance with LR6.B at pedestrian crossings;
- A Safety Rules Compliance Program (SRCP) audit program and schedule for pedestrian crossings; and
- A hazard risk assessment of all Green Line pedestrian crossings that lack mechanical controls or additional safety components, such as traffic signals for the streetcars or pedestrian indicator lights (“Please Walk” signs). The assessment should recommend revisions to MBTA rules, including but not limited to LR6.B, and recommend safety enhancements to protect pedestrians at each of these locations.

**August 16, 2024 - Required documentation submissions for Track Improvement Program**

As a result of DPU’s oversight of contractor compliance with MBTA safety standards, DPU required MBTA to submit the following:

- Approved safety submittals;
  - Example: Lift plans, work plans, hi-rail job/ task/ hazard analysis;
- Operator compliance credentials;
- Equipment Compliance certifications;
- Documentation daily during each such diversion:
  - Pre trip inspections of hi-rail maintenance vehicles;
  - Spot checks of hi-rail maintenance vehicle inspections;
  - Contractor quality (QA/QC) inspections;
  - MBTA Construction Logistics Supervisor verification of transportation staffing at switches and crossovers in accordance with Surge Management Plan; and
  - MBTA Safety inspections, including but not limited to:
    - MAC Safety Daily Reports,
    - MBTA Safety Daily Inspection Reports, and
    - All safety inspections entered in Knack.

**August 30, 2024 - Safety Rules Compliance Program**

DPU conducted numerous unannounced oversight inspections of MBTA’s SRCP schedule that MBTA provides weekly to DPU as a submission under CAPs 8141-8146. Since July 2024, DPU performed an average of 51 SRCP observations per month. As a result of the verification oversight, DPU required the closed CAP 8141-8146 to be re-opened and revised.

**September 5, 2024 - Evidence Management**

On August 23, 2024, MBTA had a significant safety event involving a collision between three hi-rail vehicles during a Red Line diversion in the Track Improvement Plan (the “incident”). As part of the investigation into the root and contributory causes of the incident, MBTA impounded the vehicles involved, but failed to secure evidence in a manner that would support a thorough investigation. DPU issued a CAP directive to MBTA, requiring it to develop or take the following actions:

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

- A tagging process for evidence identification and impounding;
- Chain of custody log for any item of evidence within a safety investigation;
- Process for 24/7 accountability through the Operations Control Center for tracking any vehicles impounded;
- A current evidence log contained within MBTA Safety, and accessible to the DPU, of any item tagged and secured as evidence in a safety event investigation;
- Training materials and courses documenting the process for evidence management;
- Identification of all positions internal and external to the MBTA Safety Department that require training on evidence management;
- A process for immediately notifying DPU via Everbridge of any vehicle under impound and any change in status including release from impound;
- Integration of requirements and responsibilities for safety event investigations pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 674 into the surge management plan and associated contractor documentation, including signatures from contractors in accordance with the Appendix I of the MBTA Safety Event Investigation Manual; and
- An internal MBTA investigation into the failure to secure the impounded Gradall as part of the incident investigation (E24-119).

### September 19, 2024 - Hi-Rail Derailments Additional Actions Required

On August 16, 2024, in response to additional work-zone hi-rail vehicle derailments, MBTA submitted and DPU approved CAP 10461 containing ten corrective actions to further mitigate these safety events. Despite these efforts, derailments and/or split switches continued with an additional ten incidents in September. The MBTA has a total of 45 derailments in 2024. The CAP contains the following immediate and short-term actions:

- Within 48 hours:
  - At each truck pad, MBTA Safety staff or contractor employees will oversee the hi-rail procedures, and send DPU a staffing schedule; and
  - Implement the approved procedure (for the CAP 8841 requirement) to complete, witness and document a circle check prior to hi-rail equipment departing a work zone.
- Within two calendar days:
  - Submit a plan and schedule to ensure that all MOW and contractor equipment is fully inspected prior to entering the right-of-way, including but not limited:
  - Performing TRAM measurements and a full inspection of the equipment operational status (a TRAM measurement is the distance between two points using a TRAM gauge);
  - Identification and report to DPU of any hi-rail vehicle not in 100% compliance with the inspection standards; and
  - For each vehicle inspection, add inspector certification and documentation of compliance with the Original Equipment Manufacturer (“OEM”) standard inspection and service for the vehicle.
- Within five calendar days, MBTA was required to establish, implement, and submit:

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

- A procedure and Quality Assurance inspection process for inspection of switches and frogs prior to traversing hi-rail equipment over the work zone;
- A lock out procedure for switches that cannot be manipulated or deemed suitable for use by hi-rail equipment; and
- A procedure to add to the morning construction briefing that identifies any out-of-service switches or switches that are “locked out” by any internal or external forces in item C.2 above.

**Observation and Attendance at MBTA Meetings**

---

In addition to field observations, document reviews, and inspections, DPU participates in or oversees numerous MBTA committee meetings to assess the effectiveness of internal processes and structures. In 2024, these include, but are not limited to

- MBTA Safety meetings;
- Weekly Meeting with MBTA Executive Leadership;
- Monthly Hazard Tracking Meeting;
- CAP alignment meetings;
- SRCP activities;
- Weekly Safety Performance Review; and
- Subway Accident Reduction Committee.

DPU staff also meet regularly with MBTA Safety Department and MBTA Department-specific corrective action owners to review the status of MBTA CAPs. As detailed in the section on accident investigations, DPU staff attend most, if not all, investigative and after-action meetings following an accident or incident. For certain accident investigations in 2024, DPU hosted a seven-day post incident meeting to ensure alignment on investigative strategy.

**RBI: Risk-Based Inspections**

---

On October 21, 2022, FTA issued Special Directive 22-34 to all SSOAs in the United States, requiring an RBI program in accordance with 49 U.S.C. § 5329(k). Throughout 2024, DPU addressed the special directive, with the following notable accomplishments:

- On October 24, 2024, FTA approved DPU’s RBI program;
- DPU conducted an RBI project and issued an RBI report to MBTA related to pedestrian crossings on the Green Line (see above);
- DPU proposed and MBTA adopted specific language in the MBTA Transit Safety Plan for support of the DPU’s RBI program; and
- Initial implementation of the RBI program resulted in MBTA submitting the first two monthly rounds of RBI program data.

**Safety Management Application for Rail Transit**

---

In September 2024, DPU launched SMART – Safety Management Application for Rail Transit database (SMART database). The SMART database allows DPU to track safety event investigations, CAPs, and other SSOA responsibilities. Data from the SMART database will assist DPU with data-driven decisions and promote safety oversight of MBTA.

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

DPU continues to work on development of a SMART database mobile app, which will allow DPU team members access to SMART data wherever they are across the MBTA system.

The SMART database joins DPU’s growing library of data tools, including dashboards, reports, and geospatial heatmaps all of which work together to allow the Division to leverage data for increased safety oversight.

### **2024 Rail Transit Safety Division Accomplishments**

---

- Completed the Triennial Audit of MBTA and issued findings and recommendations;
- Completed review of all backlog MBTA final reports from prior to 2024;
- Hired to a full-time employee count of 20, which was the target set in the 2023 workload assessment;
- Conducted more than 1,200 field activities in 2024 involving track walks, power system checks, speed audits, door procedure checks, and station and carhouse safety audits, which is more than double the field activities in 2023;
- Developed and implemented a new SMART database, which serves as the backbone for the Division’s data analytics;
- Closed Special Directive 22-8 entirely;
- Received approval of the risk-based inspection program through FTA; and
- Conducted safety oversight on over 20 track improvement diversions that resulted in the removal of all speed restrictions from the MBTA rail lines by December 22, 2024.

## RATES AND REVENUE REQUIREMENTS DIVISION

### Overview

---

The Rates and Revenue Requirements Division (Rates Division) is responsible for providing technical expertise necessary 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 (EDCs), six investor-owned natural gas companies (also called local distribution companies or LDCs), and 15 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 collaborates with the Electric Power Division by providing technical expertise on public policy programs such as electric grid modernization, review of long-term renewable energy contracts, net metering, electric vehicles, alternative rate designs, and performance metrics and incentives. The Rates Division also collaborates with the Gas Division with review of certain components of the LDAC filings and with public policy programs such as Geothermal Pilots.

The Rates Division collaborates with 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 vehicle 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 or repair of leak-prone mains and services in accordance with GSEPs;
- Analyze financing petitions (issuing securities);
- Analyze merger and acquisition proposals;
- Assist in determining the annual assessment of electric, gas, and water utilities;

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

- 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 of 2008, 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 reports.

### Review of Requests to Change Base Distribution Rates

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 prehearing 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 historical test year cost-of-service regulation or performance-based ratemaking (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 historical 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 distribution 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.

After 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 (SIS), comprising 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 to the case may submit a proposed rate settlement to the Commission. An adjudicatory team composed 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 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection ("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 2024, the Rates Division reviewed and issued final Orders for six base rate filings:

1. **Clark Shores Water Corporation (CSWC), D.P.U. 23-11:** On January 19, 2023, the Department issued an Order opening an investigation, pursuant to G.L. c. 165, §§ 2, 4, and G.L. c. 164, § 93, into the propriety of the rates charged by CSWC, the adequacy of CSWC's distribution system, and whether CSWC is in compliance with Massachusetts law and Department precedent. The Order directed CSWC to submit a filing to the Department documenting, among other things, the CSWC's current and proposed rates, written agreements governing the provision of water, a balance sheet, any MassDEP approvals, the total capacity of the system, and CSWC's corporate structure, including copies of documents on file with the Massachusetts Secretary of State. On April 20, 2023, CSWC provided the requested information to the Department. The Department

issued a final Order on June 6, 2024. In this proceeding, we resolved disputes related to water service in a community of Lakeville served by a volunteer-run water company. Parties CSWC, Clark Shores Association, Inc., and the Attorney General contested the appropriate rate increase CSWC may impose on customers, by disputing the recoveries needed to service federal low-interest loans, the expense of replacing CSWC’s aged distribution system and the appropriate allocation of those expenses, and general allegations of mismanagement by CSWC. The Department allowed a limited rate increase to \$225 per month, partially meeting CSWC’s request, and the Department reduced the connection fee to \$2,400 per month for rates effective August 1, 2024. The Department implemented these changes with the expectation that CSWC’s operations will improve markedly before the Department next examines CSWC’s rates.

2. **Whitinsville Water Company (Whitinsville), D.P.U. 23-64:** On July 14, 2023, Whitinsville filed a petition with the Department for a general increase in base distribution rates of \$1,759,218. The Department suspended the date that the proposed rate increase will take effect until June 1, 2024, to investigate the propriety of the Company’s request. On February 14, 2024, Whitinsville, the Attorney General, and the Town of Northbridge submitted a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Agreement. On April 2, 2024, the Department issued a Final Order approving the Settlement. The Settlement provides for a two-step increase in rates: (1) a \$900,000 increase effective May 1, 2024, which represents an overall increase in water revenues of 27.3 percent; and (2) a \$350,000 increase effective May 1, 2025, representing an overall increase in water revenues of 8.34 percent over the rates that would go into effect on May 1, 2024. The proposed increase for customer classes will vary based on a monthly service charge by meter size plus a volumetric charge based on a customer’s water consumption. The Company last received a base distribution rate increase in Whitinsville Water Company, D.P.U. 17-108 (2018).
3. **Housatonic Water Works Company (Housatonic Water), D.P.U. 23-65:** On June 23, 2023, Housatonic Water filed a petition with the Department for approval of a general increase in rates. Housatonic Water provides water service to customers in the village of Housatonic in Great Barrington, Stockbridge, and West Stockbridge. In response to Housatonic Water filing a petition with the Department increase in rates, Housatonic Water and the Attorney General filed an offer of settlement dated April 26, 2024 for Department review (“Settlement”). The Department approved the Settlement on July 31, 2024. The Settlement reduces Housatonic Water’s base distribution rate increase proposed for effect August 1, 2024, from \$808,808 to \$211,222. Pursuant to the Settlement, a rate increase of \$129,153, representing an 18 percent increase over current rates, will take effect on August 1, 2024, resulting in a deferred revenue deficiency of \$82,069. The Settlement provides for four additional conditional rate increases in phases, for a total of five potential rate increases between August 1, 2024, and August 1, 2028. To ensure that the Department remains appropriately informed about Housatonic Water’s compliance with water quality and safety standards, Housatonic Water is required to promptly provide to the Department copies of all sanitary surveys and notices of

noncompliance. Housatonic Water last received a general increase in rates in June 2019 in Housatonic Water Works Company, D.P.U. 15-179.

4. **Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company (Unitil (Electric)), D.P.U. 23-80 & (Unitil (Gas)), D.P.U. 23-81:** On August 17, 2023, Unitil filed a petition with the Department for an increase in electric and gas base distribution rates. The Department suspended the effective date of the proposed rate increase until July 1, 2024, to investigate the propriety of the request. Unitil (Electric) sought an overall increase to distribution revenues of \$4,101,776, which Unitil (Electric) stated represents a 13.6 percent increase in distribution revenue. Unitil (Gas) sought an overall increase to revenues of \$6,691,625, which Unitil (Gas) stated represents a 23.5 percent increase in distribution revenue. The Department issued its Final Order addressing the petitions on June 28, 2024. Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94, the Department conducted an intensive ten-month investigation of Unitil’s petitions, which included reviewing and evaluating Unitil’s annual revenues and expenses; current and proposed cost-recovery mechanisms; residential and commercial and industrial rate design; and capital structure and return on equity. To facilitate our investigation, the Department required the parties to submit written testimony; gathered evidence through written discovery; held three public hearings to receive public comments; conducted twelve days of evidentiary hearings to cross-examine witnesses and collect additional information; and weighed the parties’ arguments submitted through legal briefs. The evidentiary record in these proceedings included over 4,000 exhibits. The Department lowered Unitil’s requested return on equity from 10.50 percent for the electric division and 10.75 percent for the gas division to a combined 9.40 percent. The Department also increased the discount on bills for qualifying electric low-income customers from 34.5 percent to 40 percent. Gas low-income customers will continue to receive a 25-percent discount on their bills. The Department approved a five-year PBR plan for each of Unitil’s operating divisions. The PBR plans are intended to incentivize Unitil to identify and implement operating efficiencies to minimize future cost increases to customers. As part of the PBR plans, Unitil agreed not to file petitions that seek to increase base distribution rates during the five-year term. The Department also approved a set of performance scorecard metrics that will measure the range of benefits under a PBR plan in the following categories, which are tied to the goals of the PBR and consistent with the Department’s regulatory objectives: (1) improvements to customer service and engagement; (2) reductions in system peak; and (3) strategic planning for climate adaptation. The Department supports customer conversion to electrified and decarbonized heating technologies, including heat pumps that transfer thermal energy from outside for use in interior structural heating. As such, the Department approved a residential heat-pump rate available to all customers in rate classes RD-1 and RD-2 who install and use heat pumps in all or part of their homes. Unitil’s proposed heat-pump rate offerings reduce the variable kilowatt-hour rate associated with electric use during the winter when heat pumps would result in increased electricity use to replace traditional gas heating equipment. Unitil’s heat-pump rate is a reasonable, cost-efficient solution to mitigate the potential high bills associated with heat-pump implementation faced by residential and low-income customers within the context

of current rate structure. For the gas division, the Department instructed Unitil to revise its per-customer revenue decoupling mechanism to a decoupling approach based on total revenues to discourage the addition of new gas customers. The Department has reviewed and modified, as necessary, Unitil’s vegetation management and storm resiliency programs, which are designed to reduce outages during storms by minimizing the potential for tree and vegetation contact with overhead utility lines and reduce tree exposure along select circuits. The Department’s decision seeks to enable the Commonwealth to move into its clean energy future while simultaneously safeguarding ratepayer interests and maintaining affordability for customers; ensuring safe, reliable, and cost-effective electric and natural gas service; and minimizing the burden on low- and moderate-income households as the transition proceeds. Unitil was last granted an increase in base distribution rates through an approved settlement in Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, D.P.U. 19-130/D.P.U. 19-131 (2020).

5. **Massachusetts Electric Company (MECo) and Nantucket Electric Company (Nantucket Electric), each doing business as National Grid (National Grid), D.P.U. 23-150:** On November 16, 2023, National Grid filed a petition with the Department for an increase in electric base distribution rates. The Department suspended the effective date of the proposed rate increase until October 1, 2024, to investigate the propriety of National Grid’s request. National Grid proposed an overall increase to distribution revenues of \$131,622,621, which represents an approximately 12.7 percent increase in distribution revenue. The Department issued its Order addressing the petition on September 30, 2024. The Department conducted an intensive ten-month investigation of National Grid’s petition, which included reviewing and evaluating National Grid’s annual revenues and expenses; current and proposed cost-recovery mechanisms; residential and commercial and industrial rate design; and capital structure and return on equity. To facilitate our investigation, the Department required the parties to submit written testimony; gathered evidence through written discovery; held eight public hearings to receive public comments; conducted twelve days of evidentiary hearings to cross-examine witnesses and collect additional information; and weighed the parties’ arguments submitted through legal briefs. The Department lowered National Grid’s requested return on equity from 10.50 percent to 9.35 percent. The Department also recognized the disproportionate impact of high electricity bills on low-income customers. As such, the Department approved with modifications the National Grid’s proposal to implement a five-tiered discount for qualifying electric income-eligible customers ranging from a discount of 32 percent to 71 percent, which does not require a customer to receive Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program benefits. The discount structure is designed to offer higher discounts to customers at lower income levels, and to assist the spectrum of income-eligible customers in managing their electric energy burden. The Department also allowed National Grid, in a future filing, to seek costs associated with the hiring of additional employees as part of expanded education, outreach, and verification efforts to increase enrollment of eligible customers into the discount program. The Department also directed National Grid to establish a two-year self-attestation pilot for customers to demonstrate eligibility for the discount offering. National Grid proposed a heating electrification pricing option for Rate R-1 that the

Department rejected, and instead, the Department directed National Grid to submit for approval a residential heat-pump rate available to all customers in rate classes R-1 and R-2 who install and use heat pumps in all or part of their homes similar to a heat-pump rate approved for Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company. The heat pump rate offerings will reduce the variable kilowatt hour rate associated with electric use during the winter when heat pumps would result in increased electricity use to replace traditional fossil fuel heating equipment. National Grid's heat-pump rate will be a reasonable, cost-efficient solution to assist in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and encourage non-emitting renewable sources of energy. The Department directed National Grid to engage in meaningful outreach and education efforts to raise awareness of the heat-pump rate option once it is approved. The Department approved a five-year PBR plan relative to National Grid's operations and maintenance expenses. The plan is intended to incentivize National Grid to identify and implement operating efficiencies to minimize future cost increases to customers. As part of the plan, National Grid agreed not to file a petition that seeks to increase base distribution rates during the five-year term. To measure progress towards the objectives of the PBR plan, the Department approves a set of performance scorecard metrics in the following categories, which are tied to the goals of the PBR and consistent with the Department's regulatory objectives:

(1) improvements to customer service and engagement; (2) reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; and (3) enrollment in clean energy programs. Over the next five years, National Grid expects to complete capital projects designed to protect and improve the electric delivery system by repairing failed or damaged equipment, addressing load growth and migration, sustaining system viability through targeted capital investments driven primarily by asset condition, and maintaining a continuing level of inspection and maintenance. The Department approved a cost recovery mechanism for core investments, planned investments to maintain the safety and reliability of the electric distribution system, to provide National Grid with necessary funding to complete these important tasks, but with cost control and prudence measures to ensure that customers are protected from over- or mis-investment. The Department also approved two performance incentive mechanisms that are designed to create new benefits and value for customers based on National Grid's targeted achievement of specific policy goals or outcomes. The performance incentive mechanisms will measure National Grid's efforts to enroll new customers in the enhanced low-income discount program discussed above, as well as National Grid's rate of deployment of solar and storage projects interconnected to the distribution system to support the Commonwealth's clean energy transition. The performance incentive mechanisms are symmetrical, such that National Grid is rewarded for exceptional performance and penalized if it fails to deliver results above a target range. The Department reviewed and modified, as necessary, National Grid's vegetation management program, which is designed to reduce outages during storms by minimizing the potential for tree and vegetation contact with overhead utility lines and reducing tree exposure along select circuits. The Department also made changes to National Grid's storm cost recovery mechanism to provide necessary resources to ensure safe and timely service restoration following major storm events. National Grid was last granted an increase in base distribution rates in D.P.U. 18-150 (2019).

In 2024, the Rates Division reviewed and is investigating one base rate filing with a Final Order pending.

6. On October 8, 2024, **Aquarius Water Company, Inc. d/b/a Ashmere Water Service (“Ashmere”)** filed a petition with the Department for approval of a general increase in rates. The Department docketed this matter as **D.P.U. 24-157** and suspended the effective date of the proposed increase until September 1, 2025, to investigate the Ashmere’s request. Ashmere last received a rate increase in Ashmere Water Company, D.P.U. 93-120 (1994). Ashmere currently charges annual rates of \$375 for permanent residents and \$200 for summer residents. Ashmere states that its current revenues are insufficient to cover its expenses and set aside reserves, and proposes a total of four rate increases over four years. Ashmere first proposes to increase its annual rates to \$500 (33 percent) for permanent residents and \$240 (20 percent) for summer residents. Ashmere proposes further increases of \$100 every twelve months until the annual rates are \$800 for permanent residents and \$540 for summer residents (total increases of about 113 percent and 170 percent, respectively). On November 7, 2024, the Department designated Legal Division and Rates and Revenue Requirements Division staff as SIS to participate as a full party in this proceeding.

### **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). Some electric companies’ PBR include a capital adjustment mechanism that provides funding for necessary capital investments. In 2024, 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 distribution rate proceedings.

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

As part of the continued implementation of 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 credited to ratepayers.

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

---

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). 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 revenue decoupling mechanism (RDM), which 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 CapEx 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.

### **Gas System Enhancement Plans (GSEPs)**

---

Rates Division staff played a primary role in the review of the 2023 GSEPs submitted pursuant to the Gas Leaks Act which allows for accelerated cost recovery through a separate rate factor. The 2023 GSEPs covered the 2024 construction year and were approved by the Department, with modifications, in April 2024. The GSEP reconciliation filings were made in May 2024 and approved in October 2024. Subsequent GSEP filings, which cover the 2025 construction year, were filed in October 2024, and are under review by the Rates Division staff.

During the 2023 GSEP construction year, the LDCs spent approximately \$584 million to replace 269 miles of leak-prone mains and 16,519 associated services.

In July 2022, the Massachusetts State Legislature passed An Act Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind, St. 2022, c. 179, which required the Department to convene a stakeholder working group to develop recommendations and legislative changes to align the GSEPs with statewide emission limits, as well as encourage development of geothermal systems. Rates Division staff attended the meetings of the GSEP Working Group. The GSEP Working Group presented its recommendations to the Department and the Legislature in January 2024.

### **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

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

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 2024, the Rates Division evaluated and approved four financing petitions involving a total of \$3,415,000,000. As of the end of 2024, one financing petition is pending: New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid in docket number D.P.U. 24-192.

<b>2024 Capital Stock Issuances</b>		
<b>Company</b>	<b>Loans, Bonds or Notes</b>	<b>Final Order Date</b>
Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (D.P.U. 23-139)	\$165,000,000	05/07/2024
NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (D.P.U. 23-142)	\$2,400,000,000	05/01/2024
Eversource Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (D.P.U. 24-60)	\$325,000,000	08/12/2024
The Berkshire Gas Company (D.P.U. 24-96)	\$50,000,000	09/23/2024
NSTAR Gas d/b/a Eversource Energy (D.P.U. 24-132)	\$475,000,000	12/18/2024

**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. During 2024, the Department did not rule on any mergers or acquisitions. 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**

Pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 18, electric and gas companies that do business in Massachusetts are subject to an annual assessment based 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**

---

Utility companies are required to maintain their books in accordance with Department regulations. 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 required to file annual returns for the year ending December 31, 2023 was as follows:

<b>Utilities Required to File Annual Returns</b>	
Gas Companies	7
Electric Companies	7
Water Companies	15
Municipal Light Plants	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</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 municipal light plants. The number of utilities with remaining deficiencies and delinquencies are as follows:

<b>Deficient and Delinquent Annual Returns</b>	
Gas Companies	0
Electric Companies	0
Water Companies	6
Municipal Light Plants	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>

**Review of Storm Funds**

---

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 2024, the Rates Division continued its review of

requests for cost recovery through the storm fund mechanisms of 71 storm-fund eligible events, and seven 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 plants rates are set by public officials in the municipality acting under legislative mandate and therefore do not require the Department supervision that is authorized or required in the case of investor-owned utilities. 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 CMR 25.00; 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 light plants with their percentages of earnings on gas and electric sales which, from returns filed in 2024 for the year ended December 31, 2023, appear to exceed the eight percent authorized by statute:

<b>MLP</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Danvers	8.03% on gross plant
Middleton	8.08% on gross plant
Reading	8.10% on gross plant
Wakefield (electric division)	11.44% on gross plant

Nine municipal light plants (Ashburnham, Braintree, Groveland, Paxton, Princeton, Russell, Sterling, West Boylston, and Westfield) reported net operating losses on the sales of electricity during 2023, and three municipal light plants (Middleboro, Wakefield, and Westfield) reported net operating losses on the sales of gas during that same period. In all but the cases of Russell and Wakefield, the municipal light plants reported sufficient net income from other sources, such as contract work and miscellaneous non-operating revenues, to offset these losses.

**Review of Municipal Depreciation Requests**

---

Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 57, municipal light plants 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 light plants rely on depreciation funds as a source of funds for plant improvements and expansions without resorting to outside financing, they may seek authorization to increase their depreciation rate for a particular year. During 2024, the Rates Division evaluated and approved one request for increases in municipal depreciation rates. As of the end of 2024, nine requests for increases 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**

---

Another important responsibility of the Rates Division is to provide timely and accurate information to the 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.

**2024 Rates Division Accomplishments**

---

- During 2024, the Rates Division participated in over 130 docketed matters including:
  - seven base distribution rate cases;
  - one Energy Burden investigation;
  - four annual Performance Based Ratemaking Filings;
- five annual electric reconciliations;
- 19 Performance Adjustment Factors;
- 16 Rate Design Adjustment Factors;
- two Advanced Metering Infrastructure Fees;
- two EV factors;

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

- seven GMFs/Grid Modernization investment prudence review/Grid Mod Annual Reports;
- ten Capital Investment Projects;
- eight municipal depreciation requests;
- three ESMPs;
- six SMART filings;
- ten storm cost/storm prudence review filings;
- four fee free credit/debit card payment cost recovery;
- two exogenous property tax;
- one LNG investment cost recovery;
- one rate base reset;
- twelve GSEPs;
- six Greenhouse Gas Reduction Credits;
- two EV Time of Use rate proposals;
- three energy storage systems tariffs; and
- Several various uncategorized filings related to towing rates, pole attachment rates, etc.

## TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY DIVISION

### Overview

---

Since its inception in 2016, the Transportation Network Company (TNC) Division has set a national standard in regulating rideshare companies and their drivers. The TNC Division is unique across the U.S. rideshare regulatory landscape for its rigorous approach to safety, conducting secondary background checks on drivers and continuously monitoring their criminal activities. 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, considering recent legislation including Chapter 179 of the Acts of 2022, the TNC Division is creating requirements for TNCs to reduce GHG emissions and increase the number of rides provided with fuel efficient and zero emission vehicles.

### Background Checks

---

Prior to becoming a rideshare driver 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 – noncriminal 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 550,000 driver background checks. Below is an accounting of approvals and denials along with suspensions and revocations performed by the TNC Division in 2024, along with an accounting of appeals data for the year:

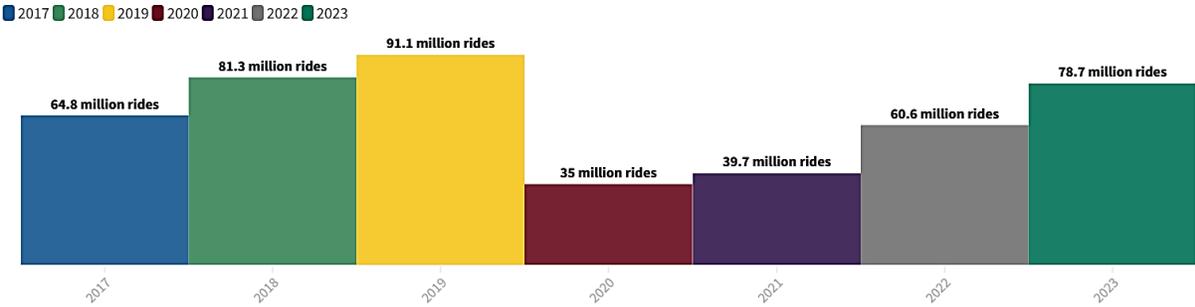
Driver Background Check Clearance Certificates January 1, 2024-December 31, 2024	
Approved Applications	152,509
Denied Applications	8,776
Revoked or Suspended Clearance Certificates	4,616

Driver Denial, Suspension, and Revocation Appeals January 1, 2024-December 31, 2024	
Appeals Docketed	1,586
Suitability Hearings Held	302

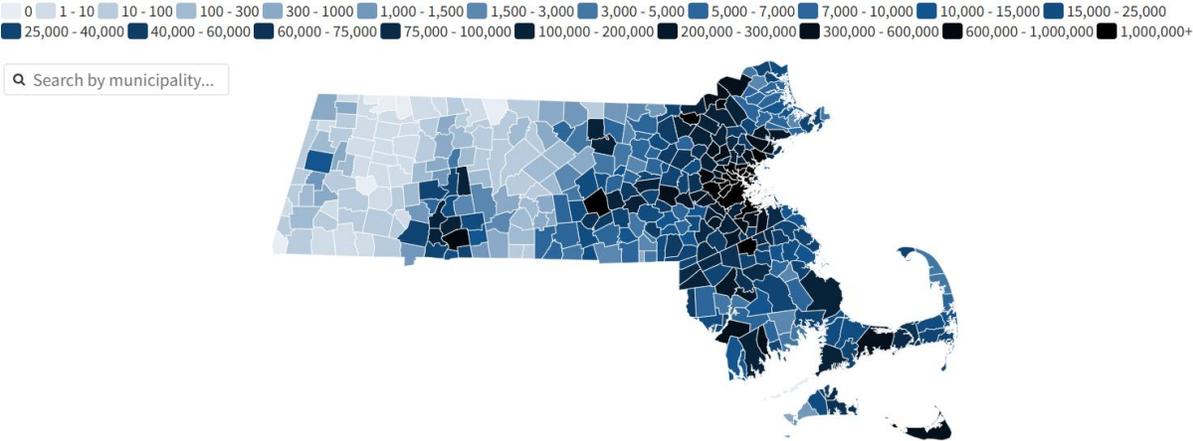
**Ride Data**

Each year, the TNC Division receives aggregated ride data from Massachusetts rideshare companies and creates an interactive website – [mass.gov/rideshare](http://mass.gov/rideshare) – to report on the impact of rideshare on cities and towns. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, rideshare usage declined dramatically in 2020 and persisted in 2021. In 2022, ride volume experienced 53% year-over-year growth, reaching 60.6M rides and approaching 2017 volumes. Rideshare volume recovery continued in 2023 reaching 78.7 million rides and experiencing a year-over-year increase of 29.9%. The bar graph below provides yearly totals of rides since 2017, when the TNC Division began collecting this information:

**Rideshare in Massachusetts - 2017 through 2023**



**2023 Rideshare Trips by City and Town**



Overall, 344 of the 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts had at least one rideshare pickup in 2023, and for 325 of these cities and towns, it was more than the number of trips that started there in 2022. 184 cities and towns even had more rideshare pickups in 2023 than they had pre-pandemic in 2019, led by Brockton (530,846 more trips than pre-pandemic 2019), Fall River (273,381 more trips), Lowell (258,823 more trips), Lawrence (235,039 more trips), New Bedford (220,190 more trips), and Worcester (206,318 more trips).

While many cities in 2023 experienced an all-time peak in rides taken, the number of total rides state-wide remains below 2019 levels, as Boston experienced approximately 10 million fewer trips taken in 2023 compared to 2019.

**Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Trust Fund**

On February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, rideshare companies submit \$0.20 for each ride during the preceding calendar year that commenced within Massachusetts. In 2024, the TNC Division collected \$15.7 million as a result of the 78.7 million rides that commenced in Massachusetts in 2023. 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
2023	78.7 million	\$15.7 million
2022	60.6 million	\$12.1 million
2021	39.7 million	\$7.9 million
2020	35 million	\$7 million
2019	91.1 million	\$18.2 million

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

2018	81.3 million	\$16 million
2017	64.8 million	\$12.9 million

The funds generated from the per-ride assessment are allocated equally between the municipality where the ride originated and the Commonwealth Transportation Fund. Each year, municipalities are required to report their utilization of these funds to the TNC Division. These reports are then made available on the TNC Division’s website at [mass.gov/rideshare](http://mass.gov/rideshare), ensuring transparency and accountability in the use of these resources.

**2024 TNC Division Accomplishments**

---

- Processed over 163,000 Driver Background Checks;
  - Approved 152,509 Applications;
  - Denied 8,776 Driver Applications;
- Revoked 1,387 Clearance Certificates due to Subsequent Activities;
- Docketed 1,586 Appeals and held 302 Suitability Hearings; and
- Collected and disbursed over \$7 million to Massachusetts municipalities to address the impact of transportation network services on municipal roads, bridges and other transportation infrastructure or any other public purpose substantially related to the operation of transportation network services.

## TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT DIVISION

### Overview

---

The Transportation Oversight Division has three main areas of responsibility serving both consumer protection and critical public safety functions. First, the Transportation Oversight Division oversees intrastate passenger-for-hire common carriers transporting ten or more people in a vehicle, such as a vehicle in charter service. Second, the Transportation Oversight Division has jurisdiction over certain tow company charges and sets the maximum tow rate and fees associated with involuntary tows. Third, the Transportation Oversight Division oversees household goods moving companies within the Commonwealth. The Transportation Oversight 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 2024, the Transportation Oversight Division generated approximately \$177,630 in revenues, which were deposited into the General Fund.

### Unified Carrier Registration Plan

---

The Transportation Oversight Division is designated to administer and manage Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) in the Commonwealth. Massachusetts is one of 41 states participating in the UCR program. The federal UCR Act requires interstate motor carriers to register and pay a fee to their home state; the fee is based on the fleet size operating in interstate commerce.

When the UCR program was enacted in 2005, Congress set a cap on the funds that each state could receive from the revenue collection. The Act requires that revenue is used for motor carrier safety programs, enforcement, or the administration of the UCR plan. The Massachusetts cap is \$2,282,887.00. Per the UCR Act, funds collected by any state above its cap amount revert to the UCR program. The Transportation Oversight Division has received the full cap amount each year since 2017. The funds are deposited into the UCR Trust account and support costs associated with the Transportation Oversight Division in overseeing 12,269 interstate motor carriers in the Commonwealth.

The Transportation Oversight Division provides telephone support to the interstate motor carriers domiciled within the State. The Transportation Oversight Division issues emails and post cards reminding carriers to register. The Transportation Oversight Division collects the fees on behalf of the UCR program. There are six brackets within which motor carrier fleets may be registered. Per the UCR Act, the Transportation Oversight 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 State Police enforce the UCR program and may issue a fine to carriers for not registering. The Transportation Oversight 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. The Transportation Oversight Division’s Assistant Director is currently Chair of the UCR Board of Directors, as appointed by the Federal Secretary of Transportation.

**Licensing of Certain Common Carriers**

---

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

In 2024, the Transportation Oversight Division conducted 115 licensing hearings, a slight increase from last year. Of the 115 applicants, 74 received operating authority from the Department.

Licensing Hearings By Carrier Type	2024 Applications	2024 Approvals
Bus/Livery Companies	54	40
Tow Companies	24	13
Household Movers	38	21
<b>Total</b>	115	74

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

---

The Transportation Oversight 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 Transportation Oversight Division has nine Bus Inspectors who are certified by the FMCSA to conduct comprehensive commercial vehicle inspections in accordance with the applicable Code of Federal Regulation and the North American Standard of Inspection Procedures. In early 2024, the Department hired one new Inspector to fill a vacant position.

Each Transportation Oversight Division Inspector holds a certification specific to commercial vehicle passenger inspections. Transportation Oversight Division Inspectors must complete several annual vehicle inspections required by FMCSA to maintain their federal certification. To the Division’s knowledge, in 2024 no other employees of the Commonwealth hold this level of federal vehicle inspection certification. Recently some Massachusetts State Police Troopers obtained this certification. The Transportation Oversight Division works closely with the Massachusetts State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Team, the designated lead agency in the Commonwealth to conduct inspections and audits on behalf of FMCSA. The Transportation Oversight Division has a Memorandum of Understanding with the State Police to partner in the oversight of passenger-for-hire commercial vehicle safety and enforcement.

The State Police or local law enforcement call upon Transportation Oversight Division Bus Inspectors as subject matter experts to conduct vehicle post-crash inspections on passenger for hire vehicles. Law enforcement investigators utilize the Bus Inspectors to either rule out or

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

confirm mechanical failure of the vehicle involved in the crash. The DPU Bus Inspectors conduct an inspection in accordance with the federal inspection standards and provide the inspection report to the law enforcement agency leading the investigation. In 2024, the DPU Bus Inspectors conducted 10 post-crash inspections.

In 2024, the Bus Inspectors performed over 3000 inspections. As of November 30, 2024, Bus Inspectors performed 3,213 bus safety inspections.

<b>Bus Safety Inspections (as of 11/30/24)</b>	
Bus, Duck Boats, Limo Inspections	2,661
Transit Bus Inspections	552
<b>Total Bus Safety Inspections</b>	<b>3,213</b>
Vehicles Placed Out of Service	157
Compliance Reviews	31

**Destination-Specific Bus Company Compliance Inspections**

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, Faneuil Hall, New England Aquarium, Water Wizz and Six Flags Theme Park. As of November 21, 2024, the Compliance Inspection Program generated citations totaling \$12,390.00.

Working with the State Police and 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 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 often 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 the proper authority to operate.

Destination Inspections with State Police	
Total Vehicle Inspections	390
Total Violations Identified	247
Total Vehicles Placed Out of Service	42
Total Drivers Placed Out of Service	18
Total Citation Fines Issued	\$12,390

### Federal Training Certification

---

In 2024, one of the Transportation Oversight Bus Inspectors obtained certification as an FMCSA Instructor qualified to teach others how to conduct passenger for hire vehicle inspections. Collaboration with the Massachusetts State Police and FMCSA made this certification possible. To obtain the certification, a Bus Inspector must demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of federal regulations, vehicle mechanics, and vehicle design. The certification process requires many hours of instruction, testing and demonstration of knowledge and teaching skills to meet the federal certification standard. The Transportation Oversight Bus Inspector/FMCSA Instructor will be an asset to the Division, Massachusetts State Police, and New England training programs.

### Safety Analysis Investigations

---

#### 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 Transportation Oversight Division 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. Transportation Oversight Division staff are required to conduct six SAIs per federal fiscal year to maintain the certification. SAI audits could result in FMCSA suspending the common carrier’s authorization to operate both interstate and intrastate; the common carrier is prohibited from operating until the safety issues are corrected. In addition, fines may be imposed by FMCSA ranging from a few thousand dollars to tens of thousands of dollars.

**Vehicle Decals and Permits**

Vehicle specific decals and permits (for trucks and buses) are required to denote a licensed common carrier. In 2024, the Transportation Oversight Division issued decals and permits, collecting over \$117,130 in revenues that were deposited into the Commonwealth’s General Fund.

**Motor Bus Certificates**

For-hire vehicles with a capacity to carry ten or more passengers are regulated by the Transportation Oversight Division. The drivers of Transportation Oversight Division-regulated vehicles are required to hold a motor bus certificate. The Transportation Oversight 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.

The Department has broad discretion to suspend or revoke motorbus certificates. As of December 3, 2024, the Transportation Oversight Division suspended 6 motorbus certificates of drivers who were involved in serious accidents. Motorbus certificates may be reinstated after the accident investigation is completed, if the driver is cleared of responsibility and charges are not filed.

<b>Motor Bus Certificates Issued (New and Renewals)</b>	
Motor Bus New & Renew Issued	984
14 Passenger Restricted Road Tests	441
<b>Total Certificates Issued</b>	<b>1,425</b>

**Tow and Moving Companies**

The Transportation Oversight Division investigated 193 consumer tow complaints and moving company complaints, resulting in \$1,506.00 refunded to consumers from January to November 2024.

**Certification of Vehicles used for Transportation of Hazardous Waste**

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 Transportation Oversight Division reviews each company’s federal rating status and compliance with the federal UCR Program. If the company is in good standing with both the federal rating and the UCR Plan, the Transportation Oversight Division issues a Certificate of Compliance to the company and the DEP. Eleven companies sought and received a Certificate from the Transportation Oversight Division in 2024.

## **2024 Transportation Oversight Division Accomplishments**

---

- Collected \$177,630 in fees deposited into the General Fund;
- Motor Bus (includes bus, limo, sightseeing) Vehicle Inspections: 3,213;
- Operating Authority Issued: 74 companies;
- Operating Authority revocations: 60+ companies;
- Operating Authority suspensions: 70+ companies;
- Road Tests on Motorbus Drivers: 441;
- Cease & Desist Orders Issued (often for failure to provide proof of insurance): 40;
- Assisted Massachusetts State Police in issuing citations: \$12,390; and
- Conducted post-accident vehicle inspections to assist Law Enforcement with investigations: 11 accidents.

**APPENDIX 1: 2024 SITING BOARD DECISIONS AND SITING DIVISION’S DEPARTMENT ORDERS**

	<b>Docket #</b>	<b>Caption</b>	<b>Order Date</b>
1	EFSB 22-03/D.P.U. 22-21	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (Greater Cambridge Energy Program)	6/28/2024
2	EFSB 22-04/D.P.U. 22-67/22-68	South Coast Wind Energy, LLC	10/4/2024
3	EFSB 24-01/D.P.U. 24-135	Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, Order on Referral and Consolidation	11/21/2024

**APPENDIX 2: DEPARTMENT ORDERS ISSUED IN 2024**

	<b>Docket #</b>	<b>Caption</b>	<b>Order Date</b>
1	24-15	Notice of Inquiry by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Energy Burden with a Focus on Energy Affordability for Residential Ratepayers.	1/4/2024
2	23-BSF-D4	Basic Service Filing of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid for the period February 1, 2024 through April 30, 2024 for Industrial Customers.	1/12/2024
3	24-15	Notice of Inquiry by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Energy Burden with a Focus on Energy Affordability for Residential Ratepayers.	1/16/2024
4	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.	1/22/2024
5	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.	1/22/2024
6	21-82	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Until for approval of its Grid Modernization Plan for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	1/22/2024
7	21-05	Petition of the City of Quincy for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	1/22/2024
8	21-77	Petition of the Town of Andover for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	1/22/2024
9	23-125	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, 2023 through October 31, 2028.	1/22/2024
10	23-133	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unutil for review and approval of its basic service costs adder rate adjustment for effect February 1, 2024.	1/25/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

11	23-150	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a 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 Electric Service, a Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan, and a Capital Recovery Mechanism.	1/26/2024
12	22-153	Petition of the City of Malden for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	1/26/2024
13	22-109	Petition of the Town of Medfield for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	1/29/2024
14	22-128	Petition of the Town of Boxford for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	1/29/2024
15	23-PGAF-BERK	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2023/24 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2023.	1/29/2024
16	22-139	Petition of the Town of Hanson for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	1/29/2024
17	22-158	Petition of the Town of Belchertown for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	1/29/2024
18	23-93	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for Approval of a Mid-Term Modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan.	1/31/2024
19	23-131	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's recovery of costs for eleven major storms.	1/31/2024
20	23-91	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for Approval of a Mid-Term Modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan.	1/31/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

21	23-BSF-A4	Basic Service Filing for Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil	1/31/2024
22	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.	2/1/2024
23	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.	2/1/2024
24	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.	2/1/2024
25	23-SQ-01	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2022 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).	2/7/2024
26	23-SQ-02	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2022 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).	2/7/2024
27	23-SQ-04	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2022 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).	2/7/2024
28	23-SQ-05	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2022 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).	2/7/2024
29	23-SQ-06	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2022 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).	2/7/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

30	23-SQ-08	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2022 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).	2/7/2024
31	23-SQ-09	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2022 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).	2/7/2024
32	22-172	Petition of the Town of Wayland for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	2/7/2024
33	23-27	Petition of the Town of Canton for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	2/7/2024
34	23-151	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.	2/8/2024
35	23-GC-35	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., for service to a facility in Dennis, Massachusetts, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	2/9/2024
36	23-GC-36	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and SEMASS Partnership, L.P., pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	2/9/2024
37	23-120	Petition of Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts, Inc., for Authorization and Approval to Incur Long-Term Indebtedness in the Principal Amount Not to Exceed \$6,600,000, pursuant to G.L. c. 165, § 2 and G.L. c. 164, § 14.	2/12/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

38	19-113	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 Tropical Storm Philippe, Winter Storm Riley, and Winter Storm Quinn.	2/12/2024
39	23-151	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.	2/12/2024
40	24-BSF-B1	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy's Basic Service Filing	2/15/2024
41	23-145	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities, on its own motion, commencing a rulemaking pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 2; G.L. c. 159B, § 6B; and 220 CMR 2.00 to amend Rates for the Towing of Motor Vehicles at 220 CMR 272.00.	2/15/2024
42	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.	2/15/2024
43	23-GC-37	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of the First Amendment to a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and MATEP LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	2/20/2024
44	24-10	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Electric Sector Modernization Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 92B.	2/20/2024
45	24-11	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 Electric Sector Modernization Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 92B.	2/20/2024
46	24-12	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Electric Sector Modernization Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 92B.	2/20/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

47	24-02	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.	2/21/2024
48	24-BSF-C1	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy's Basic Service Filing	2/21/2024
49	24-03	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid, for approval of its annual Pension/PBOP Adjustment Factors for effect March 1, 2024.	2/23/2024
50	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.	2/23/2024
51	24-11	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 Electric Sector Modernization Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 92B.	2/23/2024
52	24-14	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.	2/23/2024
53	24-14-001	Remedial Order - 96 Verndale Street LLC	2/23/2024
54	24-14-002	Remedial Order - A. Peterson Development	2/23/2024
55	24-14-003	Remedial Order - A. Williams and Son	2/23/2024
56	24-14-004	Remedial Order - Accurate Fence	2/23/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

57	24-14-005	Remedial Order - Adams Quality Masonry	2/23/2024
58	24-14-006	Remedial Order - Aldrich & Son's Asphalt Services	2/23/2024
59	24-14-007	Remedial Order - All Around Landscaping	2/23/2024
60	24-14-008	Remedial Order - Ansari Builders Inc.	2/23/2024
61	24-14-009	Remedial Order - Anthony Bianco Masonry	2/23/2024
62	24-14-010	Remedial Order - Barrows Excavating	2/23/2024
63	24-14-011	Remedial Order - Battles Landscaping Construction	2/23/2024
64	24-14-012	Remedial Order - BCG Landscaping & Contracting	2/23/2024
65	24-14-013	Remedial Order - Better Choice Construction LLC	2/23/2024
66	24-14-014	Remedial Order - BMH and Son Construction	2/23/2024
67	24-14-015	Remedial Order - Borges Construction, Inc.	2/23/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

68	24-14-016	Remedial Order - Boston Quality Cleaning Services, Inc.	2/23/2024
69	24-14-017	Remedial Order - Boucher Construction Corp.	2/23/2024
70	24-14-018	Remedial Order - Bradway Construction	2/23/2024
71	24-14-019	Remedial Order - Bruno Ceasar Trigueiro Da Costa	2/23/2024
72	24-14-020	Remedial Order - Burke Developing	2/23/2024
73	24-14-021	Remedial Order - Cable Care Construction LLC	2/23/2024
74	24-14-022	Remedial Order - CE Stankard III Excavating	2/23/2024
75	24-14-023	Remedial Order - Charles Fisher & Sons Incorporated	2/23/2024
76	24-14-024	Remedial Order - Clean Slate Concrete	2/23/2024
77	24-14-025	Remedial Order - CN Corporation	2/23/2024
78	24-14-026	Remedial Order - Cogan Construction	2/23/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

79	24-14-027	Remedial Order - Cummings Excavation LLC	2/23/2024
80	24-14-028	Remedial Order - Dean Clark	2/23/2024
81	24-14-029	Remedial Order - Demolition and Sons Landscape	2/23/2024
82	24-14-030	Remedial Order - Destefano Development	2/23/2024
83	24-14-031	Remedial Order - DM Remodeling	2/23/2024
84	24-14-032	Remedial Order - Do All Construction	2/23/2024
85	24-14-033	Remedial Order - E & M Landscaping	2/23/2024
86	24-14-034	Remedial Order - E.S. Smith Form Company Inc.	2/23/2024
87	24-14-035	Remedial Order - Eagle Masonary	2/23/2024
88	24-14-036	Remedial Order - Edge Landscaping	2/23/2024
89	24-14-037	Remedial Order - Ellis Brothers Construction	2/23/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

90	24-14-038	Remedial Order - Executive Fence	2/23/2024
91	24-14-039	Remedial Order - Extreme Excavating	2/23/2024
92	24-14-040	Remedial Order - Father and Sons Landscape	2/23/2024
93	24-14-041	Remedial Order - Frank Lamparelli Oil Company	2/23/2024
94	24-14-042	Remedial Order - G & R Construction	2/23/2024
95	24-14-043	Remedial Order - G. Correia Landscaping	2/23/2024
96	24-14-044	Remedial Order - Gatta & Sons Construction LLC	2/23/2024
97	24-14-045	Remedial Order - Giangrand's Complete Auto Repair	2/23/2024
98	24-14-046	Remedial Order - Heap Paving	2/23/2024
99	24-14-047	Remedial Order - Henry's Paving	2/23/2024
100	24-14-048	Remedial Order - Herzog Landscaping	2/23/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

101	24-14-049	Remedial Order - High Quality Excavating Incorporated	2/23/2024
102	24-14-050	Remedial Order - High Quality Excavating Incorporated	2/23/2024
103	24-14-051	Remedial Order - HUS Companies	2/23/2024
104	24-14-052	Remedial Order - HZ Masonry	2/23/2024
105	24-14-053	Remedial Order - Irish Village Hotel	2/23/2024
106	24-14-054	Remedial Order - J & R Visual Landscape Inc.	2/23/2024
107	24-14-055	Remedial Order - J. Assis Corporation	2/23/2024
108	24-14-056	Remedial Order - J. Grier Excavating	2/23/2024
109	24-14-057	Remedial Order - J.C. Caruso Corp.	2/23/2024
110	24-14-058	Remedial Order - J.L. Raymakers and Sons	2/23/2024
111	24-14-059	Remedial Order - Jason Anthony Corporation	2/23/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

112	24-14-060	Remedial Order - JC Landscaping	2/23/2024
113	24-14-061	Remedial Order - JCP Landscaping & Construction	2/23/2024
114	24-14-062	Remedial Order - JD Peter's Fence	2/23/2024
115	24-14-063	Remedial Order - John Weiss Electric	2/23/2024
116	24-14-064	Remedial Order - Joyce Landscaping	2/23/2024
117	24-14-065	Remedial Order - Joyce Landscaping	2/23/2024
118	24-14-066	Remedial Order - Joyce Landscaping	2/23/2024
119	24-14-067	Remedial Order - Kehoe Excavating	2/23/2024
120	24-14-068	Remedial Order - Kelly Landscaping	2/23/2024
121	24-14-069	Remedial Order - Kevin Smith Site Contractors	2/23/2024
122	24-14-070	Remedial Order - KJS LLC	2/23/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

123	24-14-071	Remedial Order - Lakeside Gardens	2/23/2024
124	24-14-072	Remedial Order - Maria & Hickey Associates Landscaping	2/23/2024
125	24-14-073	Remedial Order - Mass Home Remodeling	2/23/2024
126	24-14-074	Remedial Order - McGrath Enterprises	2/23/2024
127	24-14-075	Remedial Order - Mendez Masonry & Construction	2/23/2024
128	24-14-076	Remedial Order - Mike Hernon	2/23/2024
129	24-14-077	Remedial Order - MJD Services Corporation	2/23/2024
130	24-14-078	Remedial Order - MPR Hanover	2/23/2024
131	24-14-079	Remedial Order - NCCL Enterprises	2/23/2024
132	24-14-080	Remedial Order - NCCL Enterprises	2/23/2024
133	24-14-081	Remedial Order - Need Tree Work	2/23/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

134	24-14-082	Remedial Order - New Design Masonry	2/23/2024
135	24-14-083	Remedial Order - Number 1 Landscape	2/23/2024
136	24-14-084	Remedial Order - On Site Civil Corporation	2/23/2024
137	24-14-085	Remedial Order - Orwig Associates	2/23/2024
138	24-14-086	Remedial Order - Osmose Utilities Services, Inc.	2/23/2024
139	24-14-087	Remedial Order - Paul Crestin Construction	2/23/2024
140	24-14-088	Remedial Order - Perfect Stone Walls	2/23/2024
141	24-14-089	Remedial Order - Premier Home Builders Inc.	2/23/2024
142	24-14-090	Remedial Order - Raymond F Bouley Landscaping Inc.	2/23/2024
143	24-14-091	Remedial Order - RBI Construction Corp	2/23/2024
144	24-14-092	Remedial Order - RF Roach Company	2/23/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

145	24-14-093	Remedial Order - Rigid Rock Construction LLC	2/23/2024
146	24-14-094	Remedial Order - Rosciti Utility Construction LLC	2/23/2024
147	24-14-095	Remedial Order - Salvidio Construction	2/23/2024
148	24-14-096	Remedial Order - SE Wright	2/23/2024
149	24-14-097	Remedial Order - Severini & Associates	2/23/2024
150	24-14-098	Remedial Order - Sunny Meadows Contracting	2/23/2024
151	24-14-099	Remedial Order - Tandem Construction	2/23/2024
152	24-14-100	Remedial Order - TCE LLC	2/23/2024
153	24-14-010	Remedial Order - TCT Equipment	2/23/2024
154	24-14-102	Remedial Order - TG Cabral Excavations LLC	2/23/2024
155	24-14-103	Remedial Order - The Fraser Company	2/23/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

156	24-14-104	Remedial Order - Unique Builders	2/23/2024
157	24-14-105	Remedial Order - Unique Builders	2/23/2024
158	24-14-106	Remedial Order - Valco Marine Inc.	2/23/2024
159	24-14-107	Remedial Order - VMV Construction	2/23/2024
160	24-14-108	Remedial Order - Wolfe House & Building Movers	2/23/2024
161	23-50	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into the Provision of Basic Service.	2/26/2024
162	23-156	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unutil for review and approval of the reconciliation of the exogenous property tax amortization consistent with its new exogenous cost adjustment factor.	2/28/2024
163	24-04	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, 2024.	2/29/2024
164	24-01	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid for approval of its 2023 electric reconciliation filing effective March 1, 2024, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	2/29/2024
165	24-01	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid for approval of its 2023 electric reconciliation filing effective March 1, 2024, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	2/29/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

166	24-01	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid for approval of its 2023 electric reconciliation filing effective March 1, 2024, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	2/29/2024
167	23-150	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a 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 Electric Service and a Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan.	2/29/2024
168	23-SQ-10	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2022 Service Quality Reports of the Electric Distribution Companies filed pursuant to Order Adopting Revised Service Quality Standards, D.P.U. 12-120-D (2015) and D.P.U. 12-120-D, Attachment A (2015).	3/4/2024
169	23-SQ-11	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2022 Service Quality Reports of the Electric Distribution Companies filed pursuant to Order Adopting Revised Service Quality Standards, D.P.U. 12-120-D (2015) and D.P.U. 12-120-D, Attachment A (2015).	3/4/2024
170	23-SQ-12	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2022 Service Quality Reports of the Electric Distribution Companies filed pursuant to Order Adopting Revised Service Quality Standards, D.P.U. 12-120-D (2015) and D.P.U. 12-120-D, Attachment A (2015).	3/4/2024
171	23-SQ-13	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2022 Service Quality Reports of the Electric Distribution Companies filed pursuant to Order Adopting Revised Service Quality Standards, D.P.U. 12-120-D (2015) and D.P.U. 12-120-D, Attachment A (2015).	3/4/2024
172	21-139	Petition of the Town of Hull, acting by and through the Hull Municipal Light Plant, and the Hull Municipal Light Plant to Initiate an Investigation Pursuant to G. L. c. 164, § 76.	3/5/2024
173	24-25	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of a Gas Supply Agreement with Constellation LNG, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	3/6/2024
174	24-26	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of a Gas Supply Agreement with Constellation LNG, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	3/6/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

175	24-27	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of a Gas Supply Agreement with Constellation LNG, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	3/6/2024
176	24-28	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval of a Gas Supply Agreement with Constellation LNG, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	3/6/2024
177	23-65	Petition of Housatonic Water Works Company for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of general changes in rates pursuant to G.L. c. 164, section 94, and G.L. c. 165, Section 2.	3/11/2024
178	23-70	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval of a Mid-Term Modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan.	3/12/2024
179	23-58	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, organized and operating collectively as Cape Light Compact JPE, for approval of a mid-term modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan.	3/14/2024
180	n/a	2023 Municipal Aggregarion Report Filing Date	3/14/2024
181	24-ASMT-01	General Assessment of the Department of Public Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 18, for fiscal year 2024.	3/14/2024
182	24-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 2024.	3/14/2024
183	24-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 2024.	3/14/2024
184	24-ASMT-04	Steam Distribution Company Assessment of the Department of Public Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 25, §18A, for Fiscal Year 2024.	3/14/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

185	24-25	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of a Gas Supply Agreement with Constellation LNG, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	3/15/2024
186	24-26	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of a Gas Supply Agreement with Constellation LNG, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	3/15/2024
187	24-27	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of a Gas Supply Agreement with Constellation LNG, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	3/15/2024
188	24-28	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval of a Gas Supply Agreement with Constellation LNG, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	3/15/2024
189	22-93-C	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.	3/19/2024
190	24-BSD-D1	Basic Service Filing of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid For the period May 1, 2024 through July 31, 2024 for Industrial Customers.	3/25/2024
191	22-128	Petition of the Town of Boxford for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	3/25/2024
192	22-153	Petition of the City of Malden for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	3/25/2024
193	24-GC-01	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a 365 Day Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and New England Baptist Hospital, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	3/26/2024
194	24-25	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of a Gas Supply Agreement with Constellation LNG, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	3/26/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

195	24-26	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of a Gas Supply Agreement with Constellation LNG, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	3/26/2024
196	24-27	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of a Gas Supply Agreement with Constellation LNG, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	3/26/2024
197	24-28	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval of a Gas Supply Agreement with Constellation LNG, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	3/26/2024
198	22-109	Petition of the Town of Medfield for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	3/26/2024
199	22-158	Petition of the Town of Belchertown for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	3/26/2024
200	23-PGAF-BERK	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2023/24 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2023.	3/27/2024
201	24-GC-02	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	3/28/2024
202	22-139	Petition of the Town of Hanson for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	3/28/2024
203	24-GC-03	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Brandeis University, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	3/28/2024
204	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.	3/28/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

205	21-05	Petition of the City of Quincy for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	3/29/2024
206	21-77	Petition of the Town of Andover for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	3/29/2024
207	23-125	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, 2023, through October 31, 2028.	4/1/2024
208	24-25-A	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of a Gas Supply Agreement with Constellation LNG, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	4/1/2024
209	24-26-A	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of a Gas Supply Agreement with Constellation LNG, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	4/1/2024
210	24-27-A	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of a Gas Supply Agreement with Constellation LNG, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	4/1/2024
211	24-28-A	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval of a Gas Supply Agreement with Constellation LNG, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	4/1/2024
212	20-80-C	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into the Role of Gas Local Distribution Companies as the Commonwealth Achieves its Target 2050 Climate Goals.	4/2/2024
213	24-13	Petition of Weaver’s Cove Industrial Park, LLC to the Department of Public Utilities, pursuant to G.L. c. 160, § 98, for an exemption from Minimum Bridge Clearance Requirements in connection with New Street overhead bridge over South Coast Rail, Fall River Subdivision, mile 9.17, Fall River, Massachusetts	4/2/2024
214	23-64	Petition of Whitinsville Water Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94, G.L. c. 165, § 2, and 220 CMR 5.00, for Approval of a General Increase in Base Distribution Rates.	4/3/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

215	24-GC-06	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.	4/8/2024
216	24-GC-07	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.	4/8/2024
217	24-GC-04	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.	4/9/2024
218	24-GC-05	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.	4/9/2024
219	23-52	Petition of the Town of Pepperell for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	4/9/2024
220	23-106	Petition of Valley Green Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	4/9/2024
221	23-44	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.	4/10/2024
222	23-64	Petition of Whitinsville Water Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94, G.L. c. 165, § 2, and 220 CMR 5.00, for Approval of a General Increase in Base Distribution Rates.	4/18/2024
223	23-64	Petition of Whitinsville Water Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94, G.L. c. 165, § 2, and 220 CMR 5.00, for Approval of a General Increase in Base Distribution Rates.	4/18/2024
224	23-64	Petition of Whitinsville Water Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94, G.L. c. 165, § 2, and 220 CMR 5.00, for Approval of a General Increase in Base Distribution Rates.	4/18/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

225	24-38	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 Advanced Metering Infrastructure Factors.	4/24/2024
226	24-GC-08	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of the Second Amendment to a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and MATEP, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	4/25/2024
227	23-122	Petition of the Gas Distribution Companies for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of their proposed revised tariffs, in compliance with D.P.U. 22-86.	4/25/2024
228	23-86	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.	4/26/2024
229	23-50	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into the Provision of Basic Service	4/26/2024
230	23-50	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into the Provision of Basic Service	4/26/2024
231	23-50	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into the Provision of Basic Service	4/26/2024
232	24-GC-09	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.	4/29/2024
233	24-31	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each doing business as National Grid, for Approval of their 2024 Energy Efficiency Reconciling Factors for effect May 1, 2024.	4/29/2024
234	24-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, 2024, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/29/2024
235	24-OGAF-LIB	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its revised 2023/24 local distribution adjustment factor and off-peak gas adjustment factor filings, effective May 1, 2024.	4/29/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

236	24-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, 2024, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/29/2024
237	24-OGAF-BERK	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2024, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/29/2024
238	24-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, 2024, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/29/2024
239	24-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, 2024, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/29/2024
240	24-36	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.	4/29/2024
241	24-36	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.	4/29/2024
242	24-36	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.	4/29/2024
243	23-SQ-12	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid's 2022 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).	4/29/2024
244	23-SQ-12	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid's 2022 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).	4/29/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

245	23-SQ-12	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid’s 2022 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).	4/29/2024
246	24-16	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2024 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024.	4/30/2024
247	24-17	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2024 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024.	4/30/2024
248	24-20	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid, for approval of their Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2024 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024.	4/30/2024
249	24-21	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2024 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024.	4/30/2024
250	24-22	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Until for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2024 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024.	4/30/2024
251	24-24	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2024 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024.	4/30/2024
252	24-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, 2024, under the Companies’ Purchase of Receivables Program.	4/30/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

253	24-POR-02	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy pursuant to the Company’s Tariffs M.D.P.U. Nos. 4 and 5, § 8B.2.b for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company’s Standard Complete Billing Percentages for effect May 1, 2024, under the Company’s Purchase of Receivables Program.	4/30/2024
254	24-37	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for review and approval of their basic service administrative cost factors for effect August 1, 2024.	4/30/2024
255	23-GSEP-01	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2024 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2024.	4/30/2024
256	23-GSEP-02	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for Approval of its 2024 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2024.	4/30/2024
257	23-GSEP-03	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of its 2024 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2024.	4/30/2024
258	23-GSEP-04	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty for Approval of its 2024 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2024.	4/30/2024
259	23-GSEP-05	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of its 2024 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2024.	4/30/2024
260	23-GSEP-06	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2024 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2024.	4/30/2024
261	23-142	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for authorization and approval: (1) to issue long-term debt in an amount not to exceed \$2.4 billion, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 14; (2) for an exemption from the competitive solicitation and advertising requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15; and (3) for an exemption from the par value requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15A.	5/1/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

262	24-63	Order by the Department, on its own motion, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 10, delegating to the Director of the Rail Transit Safety Division the performance of certain functions related to the administration and enforcement of the provision of G.L. c. 160, G.L. c. 161A, § 3(i), 49 C.F.R. § 674, and 220 CMR 151.00.	5/6/2024
263	19-56	Petition of the Town of Burlington for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	5/7/2024
264	19-63	Petition of the Town of North Brookfield for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	5/7/2024
265	19-111	Petition of the Town of Mendon for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	5/7/2024
266	23-139	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for authorization and approval: (1) to issue long-term debt in an amount not to exceed \$165 million pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 14; and (2) for an exemption from the competitive solicitation and advertising requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15.	5/7/2024
267	24-GC-10	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.	5/7/2024
268	24-37	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for review and approval of their basic service administrative cost factors for effect August 1, 2024.	5/10/2024
269	24-GC-11	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between The Berkshire Gas Company and The President and Trustees of Williams College, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	5/14/2024
270	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.	5/16/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

271	22-136-B	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, 2023.	5/16/2024
272	23-62-A	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, 2023.	5/16/2024
273	22-151-A	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.	5/16/2024
274	24-BSF-B2	Basic Service Filing for NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for the Western/Central Massachusetts service territory.	5/16/2024
275	23-144	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (electric) for Approval of a Mid-Term Modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan.	5/17/2024
276	24-25-B	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of a Gas Supply Agreement with Constellation LNG, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	5/17/2024
277	24-26-B	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of a Gas Supply Agreement with Constellation LNG, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	5/17/2024
278	24-27-B	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of a Gas Supply Agreement with Constellation LNG, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	5/17/2024
279	24-28-B	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval of a Gas Supply Agreement with Constellation LNG, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	5/17/2024
280	24-53	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on Its Own Motion into Service Quality Standards for Electric Distribution Companies and Local Gas Distribution Companies	5/21/2024
281	23-52	Petition of the Town of Pepperell for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	5/23/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

282	23-106	Petition of Valley Green Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a joint municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134, which would serve the Town of Amherst, City of Northampton, and Town of Pelham.	5/23/2024
283	24-BSF-C2	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy's Basic Service supply for its Eastern Massachusetts service territory.	5/24/2024
284	21-100-B	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.	5/24/2024
285	21-48	Petition of the Town of Amesbury for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	5/24/2024
286	22-27	Petition of the Town of Upton for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	5/24/2024
287	22-28	Petition of the Town of Windsor for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	5/24/2024
288	24-43	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. 396.	5/28/2024
289	21-53	Geothermal Demonstration Project Implementation Plan submitted by NSTAR Gas Company doing business as Eversource Energy.	5/28/2024
290	23-115	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 the Company's Operational Parameters for Energy Storage Systems Tariff, filed pursuant to Chapter 179, Section 72 of the Acts of 2022.	5/29/2024
291	23-117	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's Operational Parameters for Energy Storage Systems Tariff, filed pursuant to Chapter 179, Section 72 of the Acts of 2022.	5/29/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

292	23-126	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's Operational Parameters for Energy Storage Systems Tariff, filed pursuant to Chapter 179, Section 72 of the Acts of 2022.	5/29/2024
293	19-113	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 Tropical Storm Philippe, Winter Storm Riley, and Winter Storm Quinn.	5/29/2024
294	23-SQ-12	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid's 2022 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).	5/29/2024
295	23-143	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for Approval of Gas Supply Contracts Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	5/30/2024
296	23-149	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource for Approval of a Mid-Term Modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan.	5/30/2024
297	23-153	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of a Mid-Term Modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan.	5/30/2024
298	23-155	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of a Mid-Term Modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan.	5/30/2024
299	23-101	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for Approval of Acquisition of Firm LNG Service Agreements from UGI Energy Services, LLC and Northeast Energy Center LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	5/30/2024
300	24-47	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval of its 2024 Energy Efficiency Reconciling Factors for effect June 1, 2024.	5/30/2024
301	24-GREC-01	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company's d/b/a Unitil pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for review and approval of the reconciliation of its 2023 Gas System Enhancement Plan and Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	5/31/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

302	24-GREC-02	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for review and approval of the reconciliation of its 2023 Gas System Enhancement Plan and Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	5/31/2024
303	24-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 2023 Gas System Enhancement Plan and its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	5/31/2024
304	24-GREC-04	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for review and approval of the reconciliation of its 2023 Gas System Enhancement Plan and of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	5/31/2024
305	24-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 2023 Gas System Enhancement Plan and its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	5/31/2024
306	24-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 2023 Gas System Enhancement Plan and its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factor.	5/31/2024
307	24-54	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Until for: (1) approval of its Grid Modernization Program Factors; (2) approval of modifications to its advanced metering infrastructure implementation plan; and (3) prudence review of its calendar year 2023 Electric Vehicle program costs.	5/31/2024
308	24-54	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Until for: (1) approval of its Grid Modernization Program Factors; (2) approval of modifications to its advanced metering infrastructure implementation plan; and (3) prudence review of its calendar year 2023 Electric Vehicle program costs.	5/31/2024
309	24-54	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Until for: (1) approval of its Grid Modernization Program Factors; (2) approval of modifications to its advanced metering infrastructure implementation plan; and (3) prudence review of its calendar year 2023 Electric Vehicle program costs.	5/31/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

310	24-30	Petition of the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Council's 2024 budget.	6/3/2024
311	20-145-D	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.	6/4/2024
312	24-56	Petition of the Gas Local Distribution Companies for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of their proposed revised terms and conditions tariffs, in compliance with D.P.U. 23-25.	6/4/2024
313	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).	6/4/2024
314	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).	6/4/2024
315	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).	6/4/2024
316	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).	6/3/2024
317	24-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.	6/6/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

318	24-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.	6/10/2024
319	24-GC-14	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and HOLCIM – NER, Inc. f/k/a Aggregate Industries - Hyannis, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	6/11/2024
320	24-BSF-A2	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unutil for Approval of Basic Service Rates for August 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025.	6/14/2024
321	23-147	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of a Mid-Term Modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan.	6/18/2024
322	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.	6/18/2024
323	23-11	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities, on its own motion, into the operations, practices, and rates of Clark Shores Water Corporation, pursuant to G.L. c. 165, §§ 2, 4, and G.L. c. 164, § 93.	6/24/2024
324	23-154	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for Approval of a Mid-Term Modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan.	6/24/2024
325	24-45	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Advanced Metering Infrastructure Factors.	6/24/2024
326	24-42	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of Proposed Electric Vehicle Program Factors.	6/25/2024
327	24-42	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of Proposed Electric Vehicle Program Factors.	6/25/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

328	24-64	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.	6/25/2024
329	24-64	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.	6/25/2024
330	23-120	Petition of Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts, Inc., for Authorization and Approval to Incur Long-Term Indebtedness in the Principal Amount Not to Exceed \$6,600,000, pursuant to G.L. c. 165, § 2 and G.L. c. 164, § 14.	6/25/2024
331	24-BSF-D2	Basic Service Filing of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid for the period August 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025 for Residential and Small Commercial Customers, and August 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024 for Industrial Customers.	6/25/2024
332	21-68	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid, for authorization and approval: (1) to issue long-term debt in a principal amount of up to \$1.5 billion, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 14; (2) for an exemption from the competitive solicitation and advertising requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15; and (3) for an exemption from the par value requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15A.	6/26/2024
333	n/a	2023 Annual Report Concerning Self-Generation	6/27/2024
334	24-OGAF-BERK	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2024, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	6/28/2024
335	24-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, 2024, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	6/28/2024
336	24-OGAF-LIB	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its revised 2023/24 local distribution adjustment factor and off-peak gas adjustment factor filings, effective May 1, 2024.	6/28/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

337	23-108	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/d NSTAR Electric Company d/b/d 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 for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Companies' revised model net metering tariff (Model NM Tariff).	6/28/2024
338	23-113	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/a/a National Grid, and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Companies' revised model Standards for the Interconnection of Distributed Generation tariff (Model DG Tariff).	6/28/2024
339	24-35	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of its 2024 Energy Efficiency Reconciliation Factors for effect July 1, 2024.	6/28/2024
340	24-47	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval of its 2024 Energy Efficiency Reconciliation Factors for effect June 1, 2024.	6/28/2024
341	24-51	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, organized and operating collectively as Cape Light Compact JPE, for approval of revised 2024 Energy Efficiency Reconciliation Factors for effect July 1, 2024.	6/28/2024
342	23-80	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (Electric Division), 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.	6/28/2024
343	23-81	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (Gas Division), 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.	6/28/2024
344	24-58	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Program Factors.	6/28/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

345	24-58	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Program Factors.	6/28/2024
346	24-23	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.	7/1/2024
347	24-23-1	Remedial Order - 219 Union Street Masonry Supply Corp.	7/1/2024
348	24-23-2	Remedial Order - A.F. Amorello & Sons, Inc.	7/1/2024
349	24-23-3	Remedial Order - A.F. Amorello & Sons, Inc.	7/1/2024
350	24-23-4	Remedial Order - A.F. Amorello & Sons, Inc.	7/1/2024
351	24-23-5	Remedial Order - Above Grade Excavation	7/1/2024
352	24-23-6	Remedial Order - ACME Concrete Paving Inc.	7/1/2024
353	24-23-7	Remedial Order - Adams Excavating Company, Inc.	7/1/2024
354	24-23-8	Remedial Order - All Around Management	7/1/2024
355	24-23-9	Remedial Order - All Star Excavating	7/1/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

356	24-23-10	Remedial Order - Alvaro Ochoa Landscaping	7/1/2024
357	24-23-11	Remedial Order - Andrade Carpentry Inc.	7/1/2024
358	24-23-12	Remedial Order - Arteaga Junk Removal	7/1/2024
359	24-23-13	Remedial Order - AT&T	7/1/2024
360	24-23-14	Remedial Order - B & J Supreme Construction LLC	7/1/2024
361	24-23-15	Remedial Order - Blackstone Masonry LLC	7/1/2024
362	24-23-16	Remedial Order - Brusa Construction	7/1/2024
363	24-23-17	Remedial Order - Bryon Chavez Construction	7/1/2024
364	24-23-18	Remedial Order - C Donnell Homes, Inc.	7/1/2024
365	24-23-19	Remedial Order - Cardoso Landscaping Construction	7/1/2024
366	24-23-20	Remedial Order - Champlain Excavating	7/1/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

367	24-23-21	Remedial Order - CJM Construction	7/1/2024
368	24-23-22	Remedial Order - Commonwealth Construction & Utilities	7/1/2024
369	24-23-23	Remedial Order - Communications Construction Group, LLC	7/1/2024
370	24-23-24	Remedial Order - Crown Castle NG Networks	7/1/2024
371	24-23-25	Remedial Order - Crown Castle NG Networks	7/1/2024
372	24-23-26	Remedial Order - Cut Development LLC	7/1/2024
373	24-23-27	Remedial Order - Dartmouth Stone	7/1/2024
374	24-23-28	Remedial Order - deMartin Dunham Builders	7/1/2024
375	24-23-29	Remedial Order - DeMeule Excavation and Hardscaping, LLC	7/1/2024
376	24-23-30	Remedial Order - Design Construction Co	7/1/2024
377	24-23-31	Remedial Order - Detail Floor Services Corporation	7/1/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

378	24-23-32	Remedial Order - Dos Santos Construction, Inc.	7/1/2024
379	24-23-33	Remedial Order - E & J Masonry Landscaping Construction Inc.	7/1/2024
380	24-23-34	Remedial Order - Elite Builders General Contractors Corp.	7/1/2024
381	24-23-35	Remedial Order - Epicos Corp.	7/1/2024
382	24-23-36	Remedial Order - Everbright Solar Company	7/1/2024
383	24-23-37	Remedial Order - F&G Construction Group Inc.	7/1/2024
384	24-23-38	Remedial Order - Fanciful General Construction, LLC	7/1/2024
385	24-23-39	Remedial Order - FC Construction Corporation	7/1/2024
386	24-23-40	Remedial Order - Frank Chiavarini	7/1/2024
387	24-23-41	Remedial Order - Gallant Grader Service, Inc.	7/1/2024
388	24-23-42	Remedial Order - Graci Enterprises	7/1/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

389	24-23-43	Remedial Order - Greener Group LLC	7/1/2024
390	24-23-44	Remedial Order - GTA Landscaping	7/1/2024
391	24-23-45	Remedial Order - GTA Landscaping	7/1/2024
392	24-23-46	Remedial Order - GTA Landscaping	7/1/2024
393	24-23-47	Remedial Order - Hawk Brook Excavation	7/1/2024
394	24-23-48	Remedial Order - Heads Up Irrigation LTD	7/1/2024
395	24-23-49	Remedial Order - Hollerbrook Builders	7/1/2024
396	24-23-50	Remedial Order - Homeowner - Bill Finsthwait	7/1/2024
397	24-23-51	Remedial Order - Imperial Construction	7/1/2024
398	24-23-52	Remedial Order - J Machado Bridi	7/1/2024
399	24-23-53	Remedial Order - J. White Contracting, Inc.	4/1/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

400	24-23-54	Remedial Order - J.L. Raymaakers and Sons	7/1/2024
401	24-23-55	Remedial Order - JC Construction	7/1/2024
402	24-23-56	Remedial Order - JC Construction	7/1/2024
403	24-23-57	Remedial Order - JC Construction	7/1/2024
404	24-23-58	Remedial Order - JML Brothers Construction Inc.	7/1/2024
405	24-23-59	Remedial Order - John H. Canto Complete Paving	7/1/2024
406	24-23-60	Remedial Order - JonQuill Construction Co. Inc.	7/1/2024
407	24-23-61	Remedial Order - Josi Landscaping Inc.	7/1/2024
408	24-23-62	Remedial Order - K. Daponte Construction Corp.	7/1/2024
409	24-23-63	Remedial Order - K. Daponte Construction Corp.	7/1/2024
410	24-23-64	Remedial Order - K. Daponte Construction Corp.	7/1/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

411	24-23-65	Remedial Order - K. Daponte Construction Corp.	7/1/2024
412	24-23-66	Remedial Order - K. Daponte Construction Corp.	7/1/2024
413	24-23-67	Remedial Order - K. Daponte Construction Corp.	7/1/2024
414	24-23-68	Remedial Order - K. Daponte Construction Corp.	7/1/2024
415	24-23-69	Remedial Order - K. Daponte Construction Corp.	7/1/2024
416	24-23-70	Remedial Order - KJS LLC	7/1/2024
417	24-23-71	Remedial Order - Kline House Lifting	7/1/2024
418	24-23-72	Remedial Order - KNJ Builders Inc.	7/1/2024
419	24-23-73	Remedial Order - Lac Landscaping and Construction	7/1/2024
420	24-23-74	Remedial Order - Lampasona Concrete	7/1/2024
421	24-23-75	Remedial Order - Lima Brothers Irrigation Corp.	7/1/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

422	24-23-76	Remedial Order - LL Excavation and Utilities	7/1/2024
423	24-23-77	Remedial Order - LL Excavation and Utilities	7/1/2024
424	24-23-78	Remedial Order - LRV Construction	7/1/2024
425	24-23-79	Remedial Order - Made 2 Build Inc.	7/1/2024
426	24-23-80	Remedial Order - Martorelli Landscaping Inc.	7/1/2024
427	24-23-81	Remedial Order - Mathieu Rebello Septic Inspections	7/1/2024
428	24-23-82	Remedial Order - McGue Excavating	7/1/2024
429	24-23-83	Remedial Order - McKnight Landscaping and Excavation Services	7/1/2024
430	24-23-84	Remedial Order - MGR Construction Inc.	7/1/2024
431	24-23-85	Remedial Order - Michaels Construction	7/1/2024
432	24-23-86	Remedial Order - MR Landscaping & Construction, Inc.	7/1/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

433	24-23-87	Remedial Order - MT Realty	7/1/2024
434	24-23-88	Remedial Order - Northern Landscaping	7/1/2024
435	24-23-89	Remedial Order - Northface Structural Engineering	7/1/2024
436	24-23-90	Remedial Order - P.J. Keating	7/1/2024
437	24-23-91	Remedial Order - Paul F. Young Co, Inc.	7/1/2024
438	24-23-92	Remedial Order - Perez Brothers Landscaping	7/1/2024
439	24-23-93	Remedial Order - Phaze 5 Contracting LLC	7/1/2024
440	24-23-94	Remedial Order - Pro Hardscape Inc.	7/1/2024
441	24-23-95	Remedial Order - R. Sasso & Sons Construction	7/1/2024
442	24-23-96	Remedial Order - Racca Septic and Excavation	7/1/2024
443	24-23-97	Remedial Order - Rahalls Landscaping	7/1/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

444	24-23-98	Remedial Order - Red Oak Remodeling	7/1/2024
445	24-23-99	Remedial Order - Ricard Electric	7/1/2024
446	24-23-100	Remedial Order - Rigid Rock Construction LLC	7/1/2024
447	24-23-101	Remedial Order - Rigid Rock Construction LLC	7/1/2024
448	24-23-102	Remedial Order - Rigid Rock Construction LLC	7/1/2024
449	24-23-103	Remedial Order - Riley Brothers	7/1/2024
450	24-23-104	Remedial Order - Riley Brothers	7/1/2024
451	24-23-105	Remedial Order - Riley Brothers	7/1/2024
452	24-23-106	Remedial Order - Robco Excavation	7/1/2024
453	24-23-107	Remedial Order - Robert Scena Electrical	7/1/2024
454	24-23-108	Remedial Order - Rochester Bituminous Products Inc.	7/1/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

455	24-23-109	Remedial Order - Rock Solid Paving & Maintenance	7/1/2024
456	24-23-110	Remedial Order - Royal Fence Co	7/1/2024
457	24-23-111	Remedial Order - Salvidio Construction	7/1/2024
458	24-23-112	Remedial Order - Sergi Landscaping & Construction	7/1/2024
459	24-23-113	Remedial Order - Shiny Star, Inc.	7/1/2024
460	24-23-114	Remedial Order - Silva Landscaping	7/1/2024
461	24-23-115	Remedial Order - Steve Miller General Contracting	7/1/2024
462	24-23-116	Remedial Order - Suburban Construction	7/1/2024
463	24-23-117	Remedial Order - Tarnowski Construction LLC	7/1/2024
464	24-23-118	Remedial Order - TCE LLC	7/1/2024
465	24-23-119	Remedial Order - The Pros, Inc.	7/1/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

466	24-23-120	Remedial Order - Tri Star Construction	7/1/2024
467	24-23-121	Remedial Order - Tylerson LLC	7/1/2024
468	24-23-122	Remedial Order - Unified Contracting	7/1/2024
469	24-23-123	Remedial Order - Unified Contracting	7/1/2024
470	24-23-124	Remedial Order - Upgrade Construction and Painting Inc.	7/1/2024
471	24-23-125	Remedial Order - VanZandt Plumbing Inc.	7/1/2024
472	24-23-126	Remedial Order - Venice Construction	7/1/2024
473	24-23-127	Remedial Order - Vinny Mofford Excavation LLC	7/1/2024
474	24-23-128	Remedial Order - Vinny Mofford Excavation LLC	7/1/2024
475	24-23-129	Remedial Order - W.R. Dumais	7/1/2024
476	24-23-130	Remedial Order - Wade Construction & Remodeling	7/1/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

477	24-23-131	Remedial Order - Wayne Johnson	7/1/2024
478	24-139	Petition of the Grid Modernization Advisory Council for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Council's budget for Calendar Year 2025.	7/3/2024
479	24-BSF-D2	Basic Service Filing of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid for the period August 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025 for Residential and Small Commercial Customers, and August 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024 for Industrial Customers.	7/3/2024
480	24-GC-15	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement with NER, Inc. f/k/a Aggregate Industries - Saugus, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	7/5/2024
481	24-GC-16	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.	7/5/2024
482	24-92	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Liquefied Natural Gas Investments Cost Recovery Filing, pursuant to Boston Gas Company, D.P.U. 20-120 (2021).	7/5/2024
483	23-67	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Establishing Guidelines for Municipal Aggregation Proceedings.	7/8/2024
484	24-50	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a reset of all components of rate base in distribution rates for capital additions completed through December 31, 2023.	7/12/2024
485	24-47	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval of its 2024 Energy Efficiency Reconciling Factors for effect June 1, 2024.	7/12/2024
486	23-80	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (Electric Division), pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.00, for Approval of a General	7/16/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

		Increase in Base Distribution Rates for Electric Service and a Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan.	
487	23-81	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (Gas Division), 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.	7/16/2024
488	24-47	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval of its 2024 Energy Efficiency Reconciling Factors for effect June 1, 2024.	7/17/2024
489	24-GC-17	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and MATEP, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	7/22/2024
490	23-67	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Establishing Guidelines for Municipal Aggregation Proceedings.	7/24/2024
491	23-11	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities, on its own motion, into the operations, practices, and rates of Clark Shores Water Corporation, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 93 and G.L. c. 165, §§ 2, 4.	7/25/2024
492	23-11	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities, on its own motion, into the operations, practices, and rates of Clark Shores Water Corporation, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 93 and G.L. c. 165, §§ 2, 4.	7/25/2024
493	24-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, 2024, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	7/26/2024
494	24-OGAF-BERK	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2024, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	7/26/2024
495	24-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, 2024, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	7/26/2024
496	24-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, 2024, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	7/26/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

497	24-50	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a reset of all components of rate base in distribution rates for capital additions completed through December 31, 2023, pursuant to the Settlement Agreement approved by the Department in Eversource Energy, NiSource, Inc., Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts, and Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas, D.P.U. 20-59 (2020).	7/29/2024
498	24-GC-18	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.	7/29/2024
499	24-GC-19	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Trustees of Boston University, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	7/29/2024
500	24-105	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company, pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 579, Section 1.8, and New England Gas Company, D.P.U. 12-50-A (2013), for Approval of Interim Adjustments to its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2024 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024.	7/29/2024
501	23-140	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities, On Its Own Motion, Instituting a Rulemaking Pursuant to the Acts of 2022, c. 179, § 54, G.L. c. 30A, § 2, and 220 CMR 2.00 to Amend the Net Metering Regulations at 220 CMR 18.00.	7/30/2024
502	20-145	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.	7/31/2024
503	23-65	Petition of Housatonic Water Works Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94, G.L. c. 165, § 2, and 220 CMR 5.00 for Approval of a General Increase in Rates.	7/31/2024
504	24-BSF-A2	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval of Basic Service Rates for August 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025.	7/31/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

505	23-148	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 99.00: Procedures for the Determination and Enforcement of Violations of Safety Codes Pertaining to Damage Prevention.	8/1/2024
506	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.	8/1/2024
507	23-86	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.	8/2/2024
508	23-65	Petition of Housatonic Water Works Company for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of general changes in rates pursuant to G.L. c. 164, section 94, and G.L. c. 165, Section 2.	8/2/2024
509	24-91	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (electric) for Approval of a Mid-Term Modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan.	8/9/2024
510	24-98	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of a Mid-Term Modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan.	8/9/2024
511	24-99	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of Mid-Term Modifications to the Company's 2022-2024 Three-year Energy Efficiency Plan.	8/9/2024
512	24-89	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for Approval of a Mid-Term Modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan.	8/9/2024
513	24-60	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for: (1) authorization to issue first mortgage bonds from time to time, on or before December 31, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$325 million pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 14; and (2) for an exemption from the competitive solicitation and advertising requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15.	8/12/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

514	24-BSF-B3	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy Basic Service Rates Filing (Western Massachusetts).	8/14/2024
515	24-GC-20	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Trustees of Boston College, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	8/19/2024
516	24-GC-21	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and HOLCIM – NER, Inc. f/k/a Aggregate Industries - Weymouth, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	8/19/2024
517	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. <b>MECo's revised Summary Service Delivery Rates</b>	8/19/2024
518	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. <b>Nantucket Electric Company Revised Summary Service Delivery Rates</b>	8/19/2024
519	24-07	Petition of the Town of Milford for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	8/19/2024
520	24-BSF-C3	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, Basic Service Rates (NEMA/SEMA).	8/20/2024
521	20-128	Petition of the Town of Bolton for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	8/22/2024
522	24-19	Petition of the Town of Needham for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	8/22/2024
523	24-66	Petition of Harbor Electric Energy Company for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Capacity and Support Charge True-Up Adjustment for 2023.	8/26/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

524	24-66	Petition of Harbor Electric Energy Company for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Capacity and Support Charge True-Up Adjustment for 2023.	8/26/2024
525	24-08	Petition of the Town of Townsend for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	8/29/2024
526	23-04	Petition of the City of Methuen for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	8/29/2024
527	24-10	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Electric Sector Modernization Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 92B.	8/29/2024
528	24-11	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 Electric Sector Modernization Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 92B.	8/29/2024
529	24-12	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Electric Sector Modernization Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 92B.	8/29/2024
530	24-OGAF-LIB	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its revised 2023/24 local distribution adjustment factor and off-peak gas adjustment factor filings, effective May 1, 2024.	8/30/2024
531	24-GC-22	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Lorusso Materials Corp., pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	8/30/2024
532	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).	8/30/2024
533	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).	8/30/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

534	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).	8/30/2024
535	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).	8/30/2024
536	21-120-D	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.	9/3/2024
537	21-121-D	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.	9/3/2024
538	21-122-D	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.	9/3/2024
539	21-123-D	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.	9/3/2024
540	21-124-D	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.	9/3/2024
541	21-125-D	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.	9/3/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

542	21-126-D	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.	9/3/2024
543	21-127-D	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.	9/3/2024
544	21-128-E	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.	9/3/2024
545	21-129-E	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.	9/3/2024
546	23-63	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 2022 and Capital Cost Adjustment Factors.	9/11/2024
547	24-15	Notice of Inquiry by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Energy Burden with a Focus on Energy Affordability for Residential Ratepayers.	9/12/2024
548	20-145	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.	9/13/2024
549	20-145	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.	9/13/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

550	20-145	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.	9/13/2024
551	24-GC-24	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and The First Church of Christ, Scientist, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	9/13/2024
552	24-123	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil for Approval of an Asset Management Agreement with Emera Energy Services, Inc., for effect November 1, 2024 through October 31, 2027, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	9/13/2024
553	24-GC-23	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between Eversource and The Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	9/16/2024
554	24-127	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of a Mid-Term Modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan.	9/17/2024
555	24-128	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of a Mid-Term Modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan.	9/17/2024
556	24-130	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for Approval of a Mid-Term Modification to its 2022-2024 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan.	9/17/2024
557	24-69	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for review and approval of a Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan.	9/18/2024
558	24-53	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on Its Own Motion into Service Quality Standards for Electric Distribution Companies and Local Gas Distribution Companies	9/20/2024
559	24-56	Petition of the Gas Local Distribution Companies for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of their proposed revised terms and conditions tariffs, in compliance with D.P.U. 23-25.	9/20/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

560	24-41	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 (8) qualifying storm events that occurred from January through December 2022.	9/20/2024
561	24-96	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for authorization and approval: (1) to issue long-term debt securities in an amount not to exceed \$50,000,000, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 14; and (2) for an exemption from the advertising requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15.	9/23/2024
562	24-09	Petition of the Town of Winthrop for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	9/23/2024
563	24-18	Petition of the City of Framingham for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	9/23/2024
564	24-39	Petition of the Town of Southbridge for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	9/23/2024
565	24-BSF-D3	Basic Service Filing of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, November 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025 for Industrial Customers.	9/23/2024
566	22-100-A	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.	9/26/2024
567	24-69	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for review and approval of a Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan.	9/27/2024
568	23-124	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.	9/27/2024
569	24-OGAF-BERK	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2024, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	9/27/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

570	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.	9/30/2024
571	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.	9/30/2024
572	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.	9/30/2024
573	24-92	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Liquefied Natural Gas Investments Cost Recovery Filing, pursuant to Boston Gas Company, D.P.U. 20-120 (2021).	9/30/2024
574	24-68	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.	9/30/2024
575	23-150	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a 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 Electric Service, a Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan, and a Capital Recovery Mechanism.	9/30/2024
576	24-106	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, 2024, through October 31, 2029.	10/1/2024
577	24-67	Petition by Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval of a Supplemental Budget to Develop and Implement a Statewide Evaluation Plan for its Electric Vehicle Program.	10/1/2024
578	24-GC-25	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and South Shore Hospital, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	10/3/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

579	24-56	Petition of the Gas Local Distribution Companies for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of their proposed revised terms and conditions tariffs, in compliance with D.P.U. 23-25.	10/7/2024
580	24-70	Petition of the Town of Alford for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	10/7/2024
581	24-56	Petition of the Gas Local Distribution Companies for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of their proposed revised terms and conditions tariffs, in compliance with D.P.U. 23-25. BERKSHIRE GAS COMPANY	10/10/2024
582	23-150-A	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a 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 Electric Service, a Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan, and a Capital Recovery Mechanism.	10/11/2024
583	24-56	Petition of the Gas Local Distribution Companies for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of their proposed revised terms and conditions tariffs, in compliance with D.P.U. 23-25. UNITIL	10/11/2024
584	24-56	Petition of the Gas Local Distribution Companies for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of their proposed revised terms and conditions tariffs, in compliance with D.P.U. 23-25. NSTAR	10/11/2024
585	24-56	Petition of the Gas Local Distribution Companies for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of their proposed revised terms and conditions tariffs, in compliance with D.P.U. 23-25. EGMA	10/11/2024
586	24-138	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.	10/15/2024
587	24-138-1	Remedial Order - A. Martins & Sons Construction	10/15/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

588	24-138-2	Remedial Order - A.J. D'Nolasco	10/15/2024
589	24-138-3	Remedial Order - AG Masonry	10/15/2024
590	24-138-4	Remedial Order - Anytime Landscaping	10/15/2024
591	24-138-5	Remedial Order - Apineda Construction	10/15/2024
592	24-138-6	Remedial Order - Ark Builders	10/15/2024
593	24-138-7	Remedial Order - Bostonian Excavation	10/15/2024
594	24-138-8	Remedial Order - Brighton Construction Enterprises, Inc.	10/15/2024
595	24-138-9	Remedial Order - Brundage Site Work	10/15/2024
596	24-138-10	Remedial Order - Brundage Site Work	10/15/2024
597	24-138-11	Remedial Order - C.A.M. Electrical Service	10/15/2024
598	24-138-12	Remedial Order - Cabral Irrigation, Inc.	10/15/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

599	24-138-13	Remedial Order - Camdele Construction Company Inc.	10/15/2024
600	24-138-14	Remedial Order - Cleyber Landscaping and Construction Inc.	10/15/2024
601	24-138-15	Remedial Order - Corbett Excavating	10/15/2024
602	24-138-16	Remedial Order - Crown Castle NG Networks	10/15/2024
603	24-138-17	Remedial Order - Crown Castle NG Networks	10/15/2024
604	24-138-18	Remedial Order - Crown Castle NG Networks	10/15/2024
605	24-138-19	Remedial Order - Crown Castle NG Networks	10/15/2024
606	24-138-20	Remedial Order - D'Allessandro Corp.	10/15/2024
607	24-138-21	Remedial Order - D'Allessandro Corp.	10/15/2024
608	24-138-22	Remedial Order - Diamond Touch Masonry Inc.	10/15/2024
609	24-138-23	Remedial Order - Duracraft Construction	10/15/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

610	24-138-24	Remedial Order - Gregory Raith Incorporated	10/15/2024
611	24-138-25	Remedial Order - Hawk Shaw LFX, Inc.	10/15/2024
612	24-138-26	Remedial Order - J. Tropeano, Inc.	10/15/2024
613	24-138-27	Remedial Order - JMZ Roofing - Marek Basta	10/15/2024
614	24-138-28	Remedial Order - Jose's Painting Co.	10/15/2024
615	24-138-29	Remedial Order - Juan Tavares	10/15/2024
616	24-138-30	Remedial Order - K. DaPonte Construction Inc.	10/15/2024
617	24-138-31	Remedial Order - K. DaPonte Construction Inc.	10/15/2024
618	24-138-32	Remedial Order - Medford Landscaping	10/15/2024
619	24-138-33	Remedial Order - Merz Construction Inc.	10/15/2024
620	24-138-34	Remedial Order - Netto Construction	10/15/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

621	24-138-35	Remedial Order - Omar Masonry & Painting LLC	10/15/2024
622	24-138-36	Remedial Order - Paiva & Sons Landscaping Corp	10/15/2024
623	24-138-37	Remedial Order - Poseidon Construction & Paving LLC	10/15/2024
624	24-138-38	Remedial Order - R & D Site Development, LLC	10/15/2024
625	24-138-39	Remedial Order - Right Choice Roofing and Masonry	10/15/2024
626	24-138-40	Remedial Order - Rigid Rock Construction LLC	10/15/2024
627	24-138-41	Remedial Order - Rigid Rock Construction LLC	10/15/2024
628	24-138-42	Remedial Order - Rigid Rock Construction LLC	10/15/2024
629	24-138-43	Remedial Order - Roadsafe Traffic Systems	10/15/2024
630	24-138-44	Remedial Order - Robert Schoepplein CO	10/15/2024
631	24-138-45	Remedial Order - Tyler D Hale Incorporated	10/15/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

632	24-138-46	Remedial Order - Wellington Landscaping	10/15/2024
633	24-138-47	Remedial Order - WJ Home Improvement	10/15/2024
634	24-123	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil for Approval of an Asset Management Agreement with Emera Energy Services, Inc., for effect November 1, 2024 through October 31, 2027, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	10/16/2024
635	24-102	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for review and approval of an Asset Management Agreement with NRG Business Marketing, LLC, for effect November 1, 2024, through October 31, 2027, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	10/18/2024
636	24-92	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Liquefied Natural Gas Investments Cost Recovery Filing, pursuant to Boston Gas Company, D.P.U. 20-120 (2021).	10/21/2024
637	24-97	Calendar Year 2023 Annual Report regarding the Geothermal Energy Demonstration Program of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid	10/21/2024
638	23-146	Petition of Ipswich Electric Light Department for authorization and approval to increase its depreciation rate up to four percent for the calendar year 2023.	10/21/2024
639	24-71	Petition of the Town of Ashfield for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	10/22/2024
640	24-72	Petition of the Town of Ayer for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	10/22/2024
641	24-73	Petition of the Town of Blackstone for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	10/22/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

642	24-74	Petition of the Town of Dudley for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	10/22/2024
643	24-75	Petition of the Town of Hancock for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	10/22/2024
644	24-77	Petition of the Town of Medway for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	10/22/2024
645	24-157	Petition of Aquarius Water Company, Inc. d/b/a Ashmere Water Service, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94, G.L. c. 165, § 2, and 220 CMR 5.00, for Approval of a General Increase in Rates.	10/23/2024
646	23-108	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/d NSTAR Electric Company d/b/d 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 for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Companies' revised model net metering tariff (Model NM Tariff).	10/24/2024
647	23-113	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/a/a National Grid, and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Companies' revised model Standards for the Interconnection of Distributed Generation tariff (Model DG Tariff).	10/24/2024
648	24-113	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2024 Peak Period, November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025.	10/24/2024
649	23-125	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, 2023, through October 31, 2028.	10/25/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

650	24-108	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2024 Peak Period, November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025.	10/25/2024
651	24-159	Massachusetts Clean Energy Center Request for Fiscal Year 2025 Funding Pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 19(d).	10/25/2024
652	24-112	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2024 Peak Period, November 1, 2024, through April 30, 2025.	10/29/2024
653	23-150	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a 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 Electric Service and a Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan.	10/30/2024
654	24-134	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company’s fourth performance-based revenue adjustment for effect November 1, 2024.	10/30/2024
655	24-109	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy, for approval of its Electronic Payment Recovery Factor for effect November 1, 2024.	10/30/2024
656	24-115	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, for approval of its Electronic Payment Recovery Factor for effect November 1, 2024.	10/30/2024
657	24-117	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid, for approval of its Electronic Payment Recovery Factor for effect November 1, 2024.	10/30/2024
658	23-137-A	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2023 electric reconciliation filing effective January 1, 2024, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	10/30/2024
659	24-PGAF-FGE	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 2024/2025 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2024.	10/30/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

660	24-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 2024/25 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2024.	10/30/2024
661	24-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 2024/25 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2024.	10/30/2024
662	24-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 2024/25 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2024.	10/30/2024
663	24-PGAF-BERK	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2024/25 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2024.	10/30/2024
664	24-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 2024/25 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2024.	10/30/2024
665	24-120	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 2024 Peak Period, November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025.	10/31/2024
666	24-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 2023 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for Review and Approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/31/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

667	24-GREC-02	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for Review and Approval of the Reconciliation of its 2023 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for Review and Approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/31/2024
668	24-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 2023 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/31/2024
669	24-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 2023 Gas System Enhancement Plan and Review and Approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/31/2024
670	24-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 2023 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for Review and Approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/31/2024
671	24-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 2023 Gas System Enhancement Plan and Review and Approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/31/2024
672	24-50	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a reset of all components of rate base in distribution rates for capital additions completed through December 31, 2023.	10/31/2024
673	24-116	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's exogenous property tax amortization and rate reconciliation filing.	10/31/2024
674	22-170	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 Monson-Palmer-Longmeadow (East) Capital Investment Project proposal under the Provisional Program established by the Department in Provisional System Planning Program, D.P.U. 20-75-B (2021).	10/31/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

675	23-06	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 Gardner-Winchendon Capital Investment Project proposal under the Provisional Program established by the Department in Provisional System Planning Program, D.P.U. 20-75-B (2021).	10/31/2024
676	23-09	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 Barre-Athol Capital Investment Project proposal under the Provisional Program established by the Department in Provisional System Planning Program, D.P.U. 20-75-B (2021).	10/31/2024
677	23-12	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 Spencer-Rutland Capital Investment Project proposal under the Provisional Program established by the Department in Provisional System Planning Program, D.P.U. 20-75-B (2021).	10/31/2024
678	24-129	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 Grafton, 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. 1477.	10/31/2024
679	24-118	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2024 Peak Period, November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025.	11/1/2024
680	24-124	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2024 Peak Period, November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025.	11/1/2024
681	24-105	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company, pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 579, Section 1.8, and New England Gas Company, D.P.U. 12-50-A (2013), for Approval of Interim Adjustments to its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2024 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024.	11/1/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

682	23-111-A	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2023 electric reconciliation filing effective January 1, 2024, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	11/1/2024
683	24-76	Petition of the Town of Lee for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	11/5/2024
684	24-78	Petition of the Town of Newbury for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	11/5/2024
685	24-79	Petition of the Town of Norfolk for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	11/5/2024
686	24-80	Petition of the Town of Richmond for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	11/5/2024
687	24-81	Petition of the Town of Savoy for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	11/5/2024
688	24-82	Petition of the Town of Stockbridge for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	11/5/2024
689	24-83	Petition of the Town of West Newbury for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	11/5/2024
690	23-GSEP-05	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of its 2024 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2024.	11/7/2024
691	24-50	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a reset of all components of rate base in distribution rates for capital additions completed through December 31, 2023.	11/7/2024
692	24-116	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company’s exogenous property tax amortization and rate reconciliation filing.	11/7/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

693	24-50	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a reset of all components of rate base in distribution rates for capital additions completed through December 31, 2023.	11/7/2024
694	24-157	Petition of Aquarius Water Company, Inc. d/b/a Ashmere Water Service, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94, G.L. c. 165, § 2, and 220 CMR 5.00, for Approval of a General Increase in Rates.	11/7/2024
695	24-134	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its fourth performance-based revenue adjustment (“PBRA”) filing for effect November 1, 2024.	11/8/2024
696	24-114	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.	11/12/2024
697	20-80	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into the role of gas local distribution companies as the Commonwealth achieves its target 2050 climate goals.	11/12/2024
698	24-129	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 Grafton, 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. 1477.	11/12/2024
699	24-BSF-B4	Basic Service Filing of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy	11/15/2024
700	24-BSF-C4	Basic Service Filing of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy	11/20/2024
701	24-10	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 92B, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Electric Sector Modernization Plan.	11/20/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

702	24-11	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 92B, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Electric Sector Modernization Plan.	11/20/2024
703	24-12	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unutil, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 92B, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Electric Sector Modernization Plan.	11/20/2024
704	24-134	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its fourth performance-based revenue adjustment (“PBRA”) filing for effect November 1, 2024.	11/21/2024
705	24-POR-04	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unutil 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, 2024, under the Company’s Purchase of Receivables Program.	11/21/2024
706	24-GSEP-01	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unutil for Approval of its 2025 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2025.	11/21/2024
707	24-GSEP-02	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for Approval of its 2025 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, and for rates effective May 1, 2025.	11/21/2024
708	24-GSEP-03	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of 2025 Gas System Enhancement Plans, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, and for rates effective May 1, 2025.	11/21/2024
709	24-GSEP-04	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. for Approval of its 2025 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2025.	11/21/2024
710	24-GSEP-05	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of its 2025 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2025.	11/21/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

711	24-GSEP-06	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of its 2025 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2025.	11/21/2024
712	24-GC-26	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Massachusetts Port Authority pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	11/22/2024
713	24-03	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, 2024.	11/26/2024
714	19-123	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, 2020.	11/26/2024
715	23-80-A	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (Electric Division), 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.	11/26/2024
716	23-81-A	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (Gas Division), 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.	11/26/2024
717	23-150-B	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a 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 Electric Service, a Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan, and a Capital Recovery Mechanism.	11/26/2024
718	23-150	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a 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 Electric Service, a Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan, and a Capital Recovery Mechanism.	11/27/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

719	24-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 2024/25 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2024.	11/29/2024
720	24-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 2024/25 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2024.	11/29/2024
721	23-20-A	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Revisions to the Single Parcel Rule Pursuant to the Acts of 2022, c. 179, § 55.	11/29/2024
722	23-140	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities, On Its Own Motion, Instituting a Rulemaking Pursuant to the Acts of 2022, c. 179, § 54, G.L. c. 30A, § 2, and 220 CMR 2.00 to Amend the Net Metering Regulations at 220 CMR 18.00.	11/29/2024
723	24-84	Petition of the Town of Westhampton for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	12/4/2024
724	24-85	Petition of the Town of Bridgewater for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	12/4/2024
725	24-86	Petition of the Town of Duxbury for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	12/4/2024
726	24-87	Petition of the Town of Southwick for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	12/4/2024
727	24-88	Petition of the City of Springfield for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	12/4/2024
728	24-90	Petition of the City of Lawrence for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	12/4/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

729	24-GC-33	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., for service to a facility in Peabody, Massachusetts, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	12/9/2024
730	24-ERP-02	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its 2024 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	12/9/2024
731	24-ERP-04	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2024 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	12/9/2024
732	24-ERP-05	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of its 2024 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	12/9/2024
733	24-ERP-06	Petition of Liberty Utilities for approval of its 2024 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	12/9/2024
734	24-ERP-07	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company and Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts each d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2024 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	12/9/2024
735	24-ERP-08	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2024 annual electric Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	12/9/2024
736	24-ERP-09	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of its 2024 annual electric Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	12/9/2024
737	24-ERP-10	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2024 annual electric Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	12/9/2024
738	24-119	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its annual gas and electric pension adjustment factor rate adjustment and reconciliation filing.	12/11/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

739	24-136	Petition by NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company’s 2024 Resiliency Tree Work Program Annual Compliance Filing.	12/12/2024
740	24-GC-27	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and the Trustees of Boston University (East Campus), pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	12/13/2024
741	24-132	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 \$475 million, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 14; and (2) for an exemption from the advertising requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15.	12/18/2024
742	23-80	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (Electric Division), 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.	12/19/2024
743	23-81	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (Gas Division), 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.	12/19/2024
744	23-150	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a 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 Electric Service and a Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan.	12/19/2024
745	24-133	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, for approval of its Electronic Payment Recovery Factor for effect January 1, 2025.	12/19/2024
746	23-108	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/d NSTAR Electric Company d/b/d 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 for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Companies' revised model net metering tariff (Model NM Tariff).	12/23/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

747	23-113	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/a/a National Grid, and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Companies' revised model Standards for the Interconnection of Distributed Generation tariff (Model DG Tariff).	12/23/2024
748	24-BSF-D4	Basic Service Filing of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid For the period February 1, 2025 through July 31, 2025 for Residential And Small Commercial Customers And February 1, 2025 through April 30, 2025 for Industrial Customers.	12/23/2024
749	24-167	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 2025 Energy Efficiency Reconciliation Factors, for effect January 1, 2025.	12/23/2024
750	24-137	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Annual Performance Based Revenue Adjustment, for effect January 1, 2025.	12/23/2024
751	24-101	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 2023 and Capital Cost Adjustment Factors for effect January 1, 2025.	12/23/2024
752	24-183	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, 2025.	12/24/2024
753	24-139	Petition of the Grid Modernization Advisory Council for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Council's budget for Calendar Year 2025.	12/24/2024
754	24-169	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its annual Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for effect January 1, 2025.	12/26/2024

## Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report

755	24-170	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, 2025.	12/26/2024
756	24-BSF-A4	Basic Service Filing for Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil	12/26/2024
757	24-179	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 Factor.	12/26/2024
758	24-172	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 66E, seeking to recover actual and projected costs associated with its Solar Program.	12/26/2024
759	24-173	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 67G to reconcile prior period investment and maintenance costs and market credits for net proceeds associated with its Solar Expansion Program.	12/26/2024
760	24-178	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for review and approval of the eligibility for recovery of storm preparation and response costs associated with seven storm events that occurred in December 2023 through July 2024 and of its storm reserve adjustment factors for effect in calendar year 2025.	12/26/2024
761	24-174	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, 2025.	12/27/2024
762	24-176	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, 2025.	12/27/2024
763	24-177	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for review and approval of its proposed Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Factor Filing for rates to be effective January 1, 2025.	12/27/2024
764	24-10	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 92B, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Electric Sector Modernization Plan.	12/27/2024

**Department of Public Utilities – 2024 Annual Report**

765	24-11	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 92B, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Electric Sector Modernization Plan.	12/27/2024
766	24-12	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 92B, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Electric Sector Modernization Plan.	12/27/2024
767	24-171	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2024 electric reconciliation filing effective January 1, 2025, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	12/30/2024
768	24-168	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2024 electric reconciliation filing effective January 1, 2025, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	12/30/2024