



# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES ANNUAL REPORT

**2020**

*SUBMITTED TO THE GENERAL COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 25, sec. 2*

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## INTRODUCTION

The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (the “Department”) oversees investor-owned electric power, natural gas, and water companies in Massachusetts. The Department also regulates the safety of passenger for-hire bus companies, provides oversight of moving companies, tow companies that perform involuntary or police-ordered tows, and transportation network company (“TNC”) (which are ride-share services) operations. In addition, the Department is charged with developing alternatives to traditional regulation, monitoring service quality, regulating safety in public transportation and gas pipelines, and the siting of energy facilities.

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 Chairman. The Commission in 2020 was comprised of Chairman Matthew Nelson, Commissioner Robert Hayden, and Commissioner Cecile M. Fraser.

In 2020, the Department issued 443 orders, including a shut-off moratorium and several additional orders aimed at supporting Massachusetts ratepayers during the COVID-19 State of Emergency in the Commonwealth declared by Governor Baker on March 11, 2020. The March 13, 2020 moratorium requested utility companies refrain from shutting off gas and electric service to residents across the Commonwealth. The March 24, 2020 Order expanded upon the moratorium to include any investor-owned utility customers, including industrial, commercial, and small business customers. Additionally, the Order prohibited investor-owned utility companies from shutting off gas, electric, and water utility service to any customers for failure to pay a bill or a portion of a bill and it formally requested that that residential competitive electricity suppliers and licensed electricity brokers cease door-to-door marketing activities. On May 11, 2020, the Department issued an Order establishing a Customer Assistance and Ratemaking Working Group to report on recommendations for customer assistance policies and practices, including proposals such as extended payment plans, enhanced arrearage management plans, customer outreach, waived late of fees, and moratorium continuation. The Customer Assistance and Ratemaking Working Group is composed of consumer advocate groups, the Attorney General’s Office, the Department of Energy Resources, and utility companies.

The Department continued to perform its vital functions in 2020 including investigating consumer complaints, conducting field inspections, and processing TNC driver background checks. The Department also began holding its public hearings remotely using teleconferencing software, with the continued goal of seeking public input and providing transparency for Commonwealth ratepayers while keeping the public and its employees safe during the State of Emergency.

Also in 2020, the Department issued an Order approving a settlement agreement under which Columbia Gas of Massachusetts will pay \$56 million for its role in the 2018 Merrimack Valley gas incident, leave Massachusetts, and transfer its assets to Eversource Energy. The approval of the settlement followed Governor Baker’s termination of the State of Emergency that had been in effect in Andover, North Andover and Lawrence since September 14, 2018. Although the State of Emergency is no longer in effect, the Department continues to ensure the safety of residents and businesses through its rigorous oversight and inspections of natural gas companies and infrastructure.

Other major accomplishments in 2020 included the issuance of an Order opening an investigation into the role of local natural gas distribution companies in the future of the Commonwealth’s energy portfolio; the issuance of a final Order on Eversource Gas rates following a year-long investigation that ultimately reduced Eversource’s base revenue request by approximately \$12.2 million, the approval of innovative demonstration projects to study the effectiveness and scalability of a geothermal heating distribution network with the goal of achieving net zero by 2050, overseeing an on-going audit into the efficiencies of operations and productivity of National Grid’s management and personnel; and the issuance of an Order approving long-term contracts for 804 MW of offshore wind between Mayflower Wind and the Commonwealth’s electric distribution companies.

These orders are in line with the Baker-Polito Administration's priorities of reliable, safe, and affordable energy for the Commonwealth.

The Department is pleased to submit this Annual Report pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 2. The 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 2020.

## CONSUMER DIVISION

### Overview

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The Consumer Division is the Department's primary link with utility customers. The Consumer Division works to ensure 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

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#### Investigation and Resolution of Customer Complaints

The Consumer Division is available to assist customers in resolving problems they are having with their utility providers. Most complaints are made by phone, but are also received by mail, email, and via the Department's website. The majority of the complaints concern billing disputes, credit issues, or poor quality of service allegations. In those 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 2020, the Consumer Division received 4,286 complaints that led to 2,453 cases being investigated and directed utilities to make \$123,603.00 in adjustments.

If a customer or utility company is not satisfied with the resolution of a complaint filed with the Consumer Division with respect to 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 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-month average. 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 to evaluate whether to grant energy supply licenses and renewals.<sup>1</sup>

To ensure compliance with Department regulations and policies, Consumer Division staff review regulations pertaining to billing, protections from shutoffs, policies on abatements, and other areas of consumer protection.

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<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.

The Consumer Division also reviews utility billing materials and notices. The Consumer Division reviews bill format changes, bill inserts and notices – including rate change notices – as well as informational letters sent to customers. The Consumer Division may recommend changes to notices where necessary to ensure that customers are provided clear and accurate information.

## Storms

It is crucial for customers to have utility service that is both safe and reliable at all times, including during serious weather events. The Consumer Division gathers and disseminates timely and accurate information regarding outages and restoration efforts during weather-related events so that appropriate actions may be taken by customers, communities, and utilities.

## Distributed Generation/Interconnection Dispute Resolution

As developers apply to interconnect their distributed generation projects to a company's distribution system, disputes can arise. Until April 2020, the Consumer Division Director served as the Department-designated ombudsperson for these disputes. The goal of the ombudsperson is to be easily accessible and provide independent problem-solving assistance to the parties. In April 2020, the Department issued an order that expanded the Department's interconnection ombudsperson role into a full-time broader DG and clean energy ombudsperson role.

## 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 the review of aggregation plans to ensure customer education and outreach.

# 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: Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, doing business as Unitil ("Unitil"); Massachusetts Electric Company ("MECo") and Nantucket Electric Company ("Nantucket Electric"), together doing business as National Grid ("National Grid");<sup>2</sup> and NSTAR Electric Company ("NSTAR Electric"), doing business as Eversource Energy ("Eversource"). EPD's responsibilities fall into six general categories:

1. Energy efficiency;
2. Renewable and distributed energy resources, including development of distributed generation interconnection standards;
3. Grid modernization;
4. Retail power supply markets in Massachusetts;
5. Distribution service quality and reliability; and
6. Regional and federal affairs.

In addition to these specific categories, EPD staff work with other Department Divisions on larger cases such as distribution company rate cases and merger proposals.

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



## Energy Efficiency

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Massachusetts electric distribution companies have administered and implemented ratepayer-funded energy efficiency (“EE”) programs for over 20 years. Since the passage of the Green Communities Act<sup>3</sup> in 2008, gas companies also submit energy efficiency plans to the Department for approval every three years. EPD reviews the proposed plans in ninety days to ensure that, among other things:

- The programs are delivered cost-effectively, capturing all available energy efficiency opportunities;
- 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 ten percent of the budget is allocated toward low income spending, while also being mindful of rate and bill impacts on consumers.

On January 29, 2019, the Department issued an order approving the 2019-2021 Three Year Energy Efficiency Plan for all electric and gas Program Administrators (“2019-2021 Three-Year Plan”). The 2019-2021 Three-Year Plan shifts the focus of electric programs to strategic electrification and peak demand reduction. As a result, the 2019-2021 Three-Year Plan includes novel offerings, such as:

- Fuel-switching incentives targeting oil and propane customers for fuel conversion to more efficient fuels and technologies, including air source heat pumps; and
- Active demand reduction programs, including incentives for energy storage, targeting the most expensive hours of the year in both the summer and winter seasons.

The 2019-2021 Three-Year Plan is expected to result in the avoidance of more than 35.6 million megawatt-hours of electricity use and more than 1.19 billion therms of gas use, as well as greenhouse gas emissions that would have come with that energy use.

In 2020, the Department has worked on various routine EE related dockets, such as reviewing prior term reports, annual reports, and cost recovery matters. Additionally, on December 10, 2020, the Department opened an investigation that includes a proposal to revise the Department’s EE guidelines, which were last updated in 2013.<sup>4</sup>

## Renewable and Distributed Energy Resources

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### Introduction

The Green Communities Act and subsequent legislation<sup>5</sup> include provisions on the following policies related to renewable and other distributed energy resources:

- Net metering;

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<sup>3</sup> *An Act Relative to Green Communities, Chapter 169 of the Acts of 2008* (“Green Communities Act” or GCA), enacted on July 2, 2008.

<sup>4</sup> *Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Updating its Energy Efficiency Guidelines*, D.P.U. 20-150 (opened December 10, 2020).

<sup>5</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; and (6) *An Act to Advance Clean Energy*, Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2018.

- Solar incentive programs;
- Long-term contracts; and
- Interconnection.

### Net Metering and the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (“SMART”) Program

Net metering refers to the process of measuring the difference between the electricity generated by a customer-owned generator and fed back to the grid and the electricity delivered to the customer by its distribution company. While net metering has existed in some form in Massachusetts since the early 1980s, section 78 of the Green Communities Act required the Department to adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement new provisions relating to net metering that substantially expanded the eligibility criteria.

In addition to further modifying the Commonwealth’s net metering rules, Chapter 75 of the Acts of 2016 also directed the Department of Energy Resources (“DOER”) to adopt rules and regulations to establish a new solar incentive program and permitted the program to be implemented via the establishment of a tariff. On August 25, 2017, DOER promulgated final regulations establishing the rules and eligibility criteria for the SMART program, which required Department review and approval of a tariff before the program could fully take effect. On September 12, 2017, the electric distribution companies submitted a model SMART tariff to the Department, which was subsequently approved through the issuance of D.P.U. 17-140-A on September 26, 2018.

Regarding net metering and SMART in 2020, the Department:

- Continued the implementation of a net metering system of assurance, including the issuance of two new related orders;<sup>6</sup>
- Reviewed three petitions for an exception from the net metering regulations;
- Received a joint petition from the electric distribution companies seeking approval of changes to the model SMART tariff related to DOER’s 2020 program review and rulemaking;<sup>7</sup>
- Continued the implementation of the SMART program, including the issuance of four orders;
- Issued an order on net metering and SMART program facilities participating in the ISO New England wholesale markets;
- Reviewed applications for public IDs and blanket exceptions to the net metering rules;
- Issued a straw proposal for public comment regarding the potential establishment of additional blanket exceptions to the net metering rules; and
- Responded to many stakeholder inquiries related to net metering and the SMART program implementation.

### Long-Term Contracts

In 2016, the Massachusetts legislature passed *An Act to Promote Energy Diversity* which, among other things, directed the Massachusetts electric distribution companies to solicit cost-effective long-term contracts for up to 1,600 megawatts (“MW”) of offshore wind energy generation by June 30, 2017. In 2019, the Department approved contracts for the purchase of 800 MW of offshore wind energy generation from Vineyard Wind and further approved solicitation materials for the purchase of an additional 800 MW of offshore wind energy

<sup>6</sup> The website is available at [www.massACA.org](http://www.massACA.org).

<sup>7</sup> Joint Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, for Approval of Revised Model Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Program Tariff, D.P.U. 20-145 (opened December 3, 2020).

generation and renewable energy credits. In response to this solicitation, the electric distribution companies submitted to the Department for approval contracts to purchase 804 MW of offshore wind from Mayflower Wind in early 2020. EPD staff supported the Department’s review of the proposed contracts, resulting in an order approving a total of six contracts for the purchase of offshore wind energy generation and associated renewable energy credits from Mayflower Wind’s offshore wind energy generation project.<sup>8</sup> The electric distribution companies estimate Massachusetts ratepayers will realize approximately \$2.3 billion in direct energy and environmental attribute procurement savings over the twenty-year terms of the contracts and the Commonwealth will secure meaningful progress towards meeting its greenhouse gas reduction requirements. Additionally, Mayflower Wind has committed \$77.5 million for various economic development initiatives in the Commonwealth.

## Interconnection

Interconnection is the process by which distributed generation (“DG”) is electrically integrated into the electric power system. In May 2019, in response to increasing interconnection requests and DG saturation on the Commonwealth’s distribution system, the Department opened an investigation into the interconnection of DG to ensure an efficient and effective interconnection process that will foster continued growth of DG while ensuring a safe and reliable electric power system.<sup>9</sup> The Department has explored several issues as part of its investigation, including:

1. Interconnection of energy storage systems;
2. Methods to manage high volume queues for DG interconnection;
3. Process related to transmission studies conducted during DG interconnection;
4. Timeline enforcement mechanisms;
5. The interconnection process for DG facilities interconnecting to the transmission system; and
6. Methodologies for allocating and recovering interconnection related costs.

The Department’s investigation is a broadly represented stakeholder process, which includes the Attorney General, DOER, DG developers, and environmental organizations, among others. As part of the investigation, the Department has held eight technical conferences, received comments and proposals on approximately 20 discrete topics, provided four sets of interim guidance, and has issued four orders that:

1. Established a DG and Clean Energy Ombudsperson role at the Department to help facilitate disputes and streamline Department review of DG and clean energy related issues;
2. Provided interim guidance for the interconnection of qualifying facilities;
3. Established rules and procedures related to transmission studies conducted during DG interconnection; and
4. Amended the rules and procedures related the management of high volume interconnection queues.

The investigation is expected to continue into 2021 as the Department anticipates it will likely address other issues on which comments have been provided to date, such as the interconnection of energy storage systems,

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<sup>8</sup> Petitions of NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of two long-term contracts for procurement of Offshore Wind Energy Generation, pursuant to Section 83C of An Act Relative to Green Communities, St. 2008, c. 169, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12., D.P.U. 20-16 through D.P.U. 20-18 (opened February 10, 2020).

<sup>9</sup> Inquiry by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Distributed Generation Interconnection, D.P.U. 19-55 (opened May 22, 2019).

timeline enforcement mechanisms, issues pertaining to state and federal jurisdiction over interconnection processes, and the implementation of certain technical standards.

As part of its investigation, the Department solicited proposals from stakeholders on alternative methodologies of the current process for allocating interconnection related costs to DG customers. In February 2020, the Department received proposals from:

1. National Grid;
2. Eversource Energy;
3. DOER;
4. The Attorney General;
5. The Northeast Clean Energy Council; and
6. Pope Energy.

Following a virtual half-day conference to discuss the proposals received, the Department developed and released its own proposal for public comment in October 2020 as part of a separate investigation into distributed energy resource planning and assignment and recovery of costs for the interconnection of distributed generation.<sup>10</sup> This investigation will continue into 2021.

In addition to its broader investigation into interconnection generally, the Department also issued two orders in 2020 that formally adopted a modified group study process proposed by the distribution companies following a pilot version of the process implemented in 2015-2016. The group study process approved by the Department allows the distribution companies to group interconnection customers in a common electrical area for the purpose of expediting the system impact study process and allowing for sharing of system modification costs on a *pro rata* basis.

In April 2020, the Department issued an order that expanded the Department's interconnection ombudsperson role into a full-time broader DG and clean energy ombudsperson role, which continues to facilitate and review the "good faith negotiation" of parties involved in interconnection disputes pursuant to the process set forth in the Standard for Interconnection of DG Tariff and offers independent problem-solving, but also conducts work on issues pertaining to DG, clean energy, and climate change more generally. Further, staff from EPD attends and participates in the Massachusetts Technical Standards Review Group ("TSRG"), an ongoing effort to address various interconnection-related technical challenges. The Department's DG and clean energy ombudsperson is also an *ex officio* member of the TSRG.

Finally, DG saturation on the Commonwealth's distribution system has led to an increased need for transmission level impact studies for DG facilities under 5 MW. In response, the Department continues to work closely with the distribution companies, transmission owners, and ISO New England to ensure efficient processing of transmission level infrastructure impact studies as well as ensuring transparency of information to stakeholders.

## Grid Modernization

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In August of 2015, the electric distribution companies filed Grid Modernization Plans with the Department. As required by the Department, the respective Plans laid out each company's ten-year investment strategy to achieve measurable improvement in four grid modernization objectives:

1. Reduce the impact of outages;

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<sup>10</sup> Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities On Its Own Motion Into Electric Distribution Companies' (1) Distributed Energy Resource Planning and (2) Assignment and Recovery of Costs for the Interconnection of Distributed Generation, D.P.U. 20-75 (opened October 22, 2020).

2. Optimize demand;
3. Integrate distributed resources; and
4. Improve workforce and asset management.

The Grid Modernization Plans included detailed capital plans over five years and information on the costs and benefits of these investments. In May 2018, the Department issued an order on the Grid Modernization Plans that authorized the Massachusetts electric distribution companies to make \$220 million in investments in grid modernization technologies in 2018-2020 to upgrade their distribution systems to ensure a cleaner, more efficient, and reliable electric grid. At the time, the Department determined not to authorize additional investments proposed by the electric distribution companies related to advanced metering functionality because the projected benefits were uncertain and did not justify the substantial costs to ratepayers.

In early 2020, the three electric distribution companies submitted annual reports and performance data regarding the execution of their Department approved Grid Modernization Plans for both 2018 and 2019. As a result of the Department's review of these reports, the Department enabled the electric distribution companies to improve their Plan implementation, including enhanced evaluation methodology on the electric distribution companies' advanced sensing and distribution automation investments, and improving Eversource's electric vehicle charging infrastructure program to allow large institutional customers access to program participation.

According to the 2019 evaluation reports, the three electric distribution companies have installed around 200 advanced sensing devices, 320 advanced distribution automation devices, and 340 volt/VAR optimization devices. The companies have also begun to make progress in building out the advanced distribution management systems. Due to the short amount of time that these assets have been in service, the performance of these grid modernization investments are not yet conclusive based on the 2019 evaluation data.

In early 2020, EPD staff worked with Eversource and stakeholders to make substantial improvements to the energy storage performance metrics proposed by Eversource to evaluate its company owned energy storage projects. The finalized energy storage performance metrics are the first performance metrics of this kind in the Commonwealth.

In mid-2020, the Department opened an investigation on the modernization of the electric grid, focusing on targeted deployment of advanced metering functionality for electric vehicle customers and the long-term metering strategy in the Commonwealth.<sup>11</sup> EPD staff reviewed dozens of stakeholder comments and conducted four technical conferences on a range of issues related to the topic in November and December. The Department anticipates that it may release an order as part of this investigation in 2021.

Based on the pace of the statewide 2018-2020 Grid Modernization Plan implementation and potential impacts of COVID-19, the Department issued an Order extending the 2018-2020 grid modernization term by one year to the end of 2021, allowing the electric distribution companies another year to continue implementation of their Plans before filing their next three-year Grid Modernization Plans for 2022-2024 (now scheduled to be submitted to the Department for review by July 1, 2021). The Department also allowed the electric distribution companies to request supplemental funding for 2021, if needed. Eversource filed a supplemental budget request for 2021, which is currently under review.

## Retail Power Supply Markets

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Prior to the enactment of Chapter 164 of the Acts of 1997, *An Act Relative to Restructuring the Electric Utility Industry in the Commonwealth, Regulating the Provision of Electricity and Other Services, and Promoting Enhanced Consumer Protections Therein* (the "Electric Restructuring Act"), customers had no choice but to

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<sup>11</sup> Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into the Modernization of the Electric Grid - Phase II, D.P.U. 20-69 (opened July 2, 2020).



purchase both the delivery and supply components of their electric service from their electric company. The Electric Restructuring Act introduced competition in the Massachusetts electric industry by giving consumers the option to purchase the supply component of their electric service from a competitive retail supplier or to continue receiving electricity procured by their electric company.

## Competitive Power Supply

Consistent with the objectives of the Electric Restructuring Act, the Department's goal is to provide electricity customers with a broad choice of competitive supply options to allow customers to fully realize the benefits of the restructured electric industry. The Department grants licenses to qualified entities to serve as competitive suppliers<sup>12</sup> and electricity brokers<sup>13</sup> in the restructured industry. 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 2020, there were 76 licensed competitive suppliers and 297 licensed electricity brokers in Massachusetts. While these suppliers and brokers provide services primarily to large and medium-sized commercial customers, they are increasingly serving residential customers as well.

The Department launched Energy Switch Massachusetts<sup>14</sup> in October of 2016. Energy Switch Massachusetts is an interactive online tool that provides product information to residential and small business electricity consumers who seek 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 are able to compare products based on price, length of contract, renewable energy resource content, and additional products and services. As of year-end 2020, there were 22 competitive suppliers actively participating on the website and listing at least one product to consumers.

On July 6, 2017, the Department issued interim guidelines that established the procedures by which it would investigate competitive supplier performance pursuant to our authority under G.L. c. 164, § 1F and 220 CMR 11.07 through the issuance of D.P.U. 16-156-A and accompanying guidelines. The interim guidelines provide for both informal reviews (through which a competitive supplier may agree to enter an informal remedial plan with the Department to address the issue underlying the complaint) and formal proceedings (through which the Department may take licensure action, impose civil penalties, execute a remedial plan, or a combination of the three). During 2020, the Department has opened two informal reviews of supplier marketing activity that remain ongoing as of December 15, 2020. In addition, the Department opened two formal proceedings through the issuance of Notices of Probable Violation that are ongoing and will continue into 2021.<sup>15</sup>

On January 18, 2019, the Department opened its investigation into initiatives to promote and protect consumer interests in the retail electric competitive supply market, particularly for residential and small commercial and

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<sup>12</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>13</sup> Electricity brokers are entities that facilitate or arrange for the sale of electricity to customers, acting as intermediaries between suppliers and customers.

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.energyswitchma.gov/>

<sup>15</sup> These proceedings are: (1) Department of Public Utilities' Notice of Probable Violation to Mega Energy of New England, LLC, D.P.U. 20-47 (issued April 23, 2020); and (2) Department of Public Utilities' Notice of Probable Violation to Palmco Power MA, LLC d/b/a Indra Energy, D.P.U. 20-48 (issued May 4, 2020).

industrial customers.<sup>16</sup> The Department announced that it seeks to work with stakeholders to examine initiatives that would:

1. Increase customer awareness of the electric competitive supply market and the value these markets can provide, thus allowing customers to make well-informed decisions;
2. Improve the Department's ability to oversee and investigate competitive suppliers' marketing practices; and
3. Improve the operational efficiency of the electric competitive supply market to optimize the value that the market provides to customers.

On May 22, 2020, the Department issued an order in the first phase of the investigation that set forth initiatives regarding:

1. The license application review process;
2. Department oversight of supplier marketing activities;
3. Automatic renewal notification and reporting;
4. Reporting of low-income customer enrollments; and
5. Improvements to the Energy Switch competitive supply website.

As of the end of 2020, the investigation is entering a second phase that will focus on initiatives regarding:

1. Enhancements to the third-party verification process;
2. Voluntary product limitations associated with low-income customers, variable-price products, and automatic renewals;
3. Improvements to the customer enrollment process; and
4. Improved Department access to marketing call recordings.

## 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.

The number of customers served by municipal aggregations in the Commonwealth has grown substantially, particularly in the last decade. From 1999 through 2010, the Department received petitions from 23 municipalities to establish municipal aggregation programs, 21 of which were a part of a single aggregation plan managed by the Cape Light Compact. Since the beginning of 2011, the Department has received petitions from an additional 155 municipalities seeking approval to form municipal aggregation programs. As of December 15, 2020, the Department had approved municipal aggregation plans for 167 municipalities and had an additional 11 plans currently under review. In 2020, the Department received eight new petitions and approved 20 that had been submitted prior to the start of the year. Among the plans approved in 2020 was that for the City of Boston, which expects to commence serving customers under its aggregation plan in 2021.

There remain 125 municipalities 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 that have not yet done so. While not all Department approved plans are active and customers within a municipality with an aggregation plan can choose to opt-out, an estimated 55% of the

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<sup>16</sup> Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Initiatives to Promote and Protect Consumer Interests in the Retail Electric Competitive Supply Market, D.P.U. 19-07 (opened January 28, 2019).

Commonwealth’s population now resides in communities with Department approved municipal aggregation plans.

## Basic Service

Basic service, formerly known as “default service”, is the retail power supply service that each electric distribution company provides to customers not receiving such service from the competitive market. Each electric distribution company procures power supply for its basic service customers from the wholesale electricity markets through competitive solicitation processes.

For its residential and small commercial and industrial (“C&I”) customers, each distribution company issues a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for basic service supply on a semi-annual basis. Each solicitation procures 50 percent of the company’s basic service supply requirement for these customers for a 12-month term. As such, 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.

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 percent of the company’s basic service supply requirement for these customers for a three-month term.

In addition to procuring power supply for its basic service customers, each distribution company (as well as all other licensed retail electricity suppliers) must comply with the state’s various portfolio standard programs.<sup>17</sup> These programs require that both competitive suppliers and distribution companies providing basic service provide certain percentages of the electricity they supply to customers 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 (or “Alternative Compliance Payments”) must be procured in an amount equal to a certain percentage of retail sales to customers.<sup>18</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.

## Distribution Service Quality and Reliability

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EPD is responsible for ensuring that Massachusetts electric companies provide their customers with safe and reliable distribution service. EPD discharges this responsibility through three primary tools. First, the Department requires electric companies to submit periodic reports on issues related to distribution service quality and reliability. Some of the periodic reports are described below. Second, the Department requires that the companies maintain an outage reporting website, which allows the Department to access real-time information regarding significant power outages that occur on their distribution systems. Finally, the Department reviews the companies’ annual service quality reports to determine if a penalty is warranted.

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<sup>17</sup> These include the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) Class I program, the RPS Solar Carve-out (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>18</sup> For example, the RPS Class I requirement in 2020 is that 16% of all retail sales be matched with RPS Class I renewable energy certificates generated by qualified renewable facilities.



## Reporting Requirements

The Department requires each electric distribution company to periodically file reports on issues related to distribution, safety, service quality and reliability. EPD staff review these reports and meet with the companies, as necessary, to ensure that the companies' actions are consistent 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 include an analysis of the company'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, will be filed with each Company's 2021 Annual Reliability Report; and
- Heat Maps, as part of the Resiliency Report, indicating highly loaded and highly constrained areas as well as outage vulnerability.

### Annual Storm and Emergency Restoration Report

The annual storm and emergency restoration report details the company's storm and emergency plans ("ERPs") to respond to any emergency event such as hurricanes or snowstorms. The companies are required to file their ERPs annually, including actions taken to prepare for an emergency event. The ERPs are established pursuant to 220 C.M.R. § 19.00, "Standards of Performance for Emergency Preparation and Restoration of Service" for Electric Distribution and Gas Companies and "Emergency Response Plan Guidelines" for electric companies. 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 electric distribution companies regarding plans and preparations in response to such storm events, providing staff to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency ("MEMA") during storm activations, coordinating/liasing with the electric distribution companies for restoration of electric service, and communicating system conditions and preparing briefings to senior Administration leadership.

### Quarterly Outage Report

The quarterly outage 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 with regard to stray voltage and manhole issues, including systematic testing/inspection and corrective actions performed consistent with the approved distribution safety plans. In addition, the companies are required to report on the nature of the stray voltage and manhole incidents as soon as they occur, including corrective actions. EPD 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 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 comes from a pole life-cycle management system (“PLM”) database jointly developed by the utilities. The Department continues to monitor the semi-annual double pole reports. The Department is also monitoring settlement agreements that utilities entered into for pole ownership and cost sharing with Verizon.

### **Reporting of Outage Events**

Each electric distribution company 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 Standards**

The Department requires that each electric distribution company 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. A major component of these guidelines relates to companies’ performance regarding the frequency and duration of outages during the previous year, both on a system-wide and circuit-specific level, and performance relating to service appointments met, customer billing, and other customer-related complaints. EPD staff reviews each electric company’s service quality report to evaluate performance. A company can incur a penalty of up to 2.5 percent of its distribution and transmission revenue if its service quality performance degrades in comparison to historic benchmark performance levels.

On December 11, 2012, the Department opened a generic investigation regarding the service quality guidelines established in D.T.E. 99-84 and amended in D.T.E. 04-116. After a multi-year process including comments on a straw proposal, on December 22, 2014, the Department issued D.P.U. 12-120-C, revising the service quality guidelines. The revised guidelines shifted the goal of service quality from preventing performance deterioration to improving service quality, employing seventeen year (1996-2012) statewide historic averages to evaluate the outage frequency and duration metrics. Subsequently, on January 12, 2015, the electric and gas distribution companies filed a joint motion for reconsideration and/or clarification on certain components of the Department’s revised service quality guidelines. In response to this motion and following subsequent further investigation, the Department issued D.P.U. 12-120-D on December 18, 2015, amending the guidelines to use ten-year (1996-2005), company specific, historic averages to evaluate the outage frequency and duration metrics, which continue to be used today. The Department remains committed in improving service quality over time and driving companies to invest in technological improvements that improve reliability, customer satisfaction, and public safety.

### **Regional and Federal Affairs (“RFA”)**

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RFA actively monitors Independent System Operator New England, Inc. (“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 various New England Power Pool (“NEPOOL”) technical committees (i.e., Markets Committee, Reliability Committee, Transmission Committee, Participants Committee, Planning Advisory Committee, and various other committees and working groups). RFA 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 New England Conference of Public Utility Commissioners (“NECPUC”), and the New England States Committee on Electricity (“NESCOE”). Finally, RFA monitors, oversees, and actively engages in proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”), as well as other federal agencies that act relative to system reliability and/or issues with cost implications for Massachusetts electric and gas consumers.

## Legal Proceedings

Over the course of 2020, RFA has been involved in matters before the federal and state courts and the FERC, representing Massachusetts’s view on issues affecting system reliability and consumer costs. The following is a sampling of RFA activities in these matters:

- Signed a proposed settlement after participating in negotiations among parties to a FERC transmission rate proceeding, including transmission owners, other state agencies, and consumer advocates. The settlement will provide transparency and reformed rates for recovery of more than \$2.3 billion in annual local and regional network transmission costs. A FERC Administrative Law Judge certified the settlement and sent it to FERC in August 2020, recommending that they approve it without condition or modification (Dockets No. EL16-19, ER20-2054).
- Submitted comments encouraging FERC to support a state- and regional-level approach to resolving complex technical issues related to the interconnection of distributed energy generation resources in Massachusetts in FERC’s docket exploring DER aggregation reforms in deregulated energy markets (Docket No. RM18-9).
- Contributed to the NARUC filing protesting the New England Ratepayers Association’s (“NERA”) petition of FERC to assert jurisdiction over wholesale energy sales from generation sources located on the customer side of the retail meter. FERC dismissed NERA’s petition on July 16, 2020 (Docket No. EL20-42).
- Supported NESCOE’s protest of ISO-NE’s proposed Energy Security Improvements program, and three subsequent answers. FERC rejected ISO-NE’s proposal as unjust and unreasonable on October 31, 2020 (Dockets No. EL18-182, ER20-1567).
- Supported NESCOE’s comments in favor of ISO-NE’s proposal to ensure that energy efficiency resources are not financially penalized during capacity scarcity conditions that occur during off-peak hours. FERC approved the proposal on July 21, 2020 (Docket No. ER20-1967).
- Supported NESCOE’s comments outlining state priorities in response to FERC’s policy statement on carbon pricing in organized wholesale electricity markets (Docket No. AD20-14).
- Monitored appeals of relevant FERC orders underway in Federal courts.

## Future Grid

In July 2019, the New England states, through NESCOE, requested that ISO-NE plan to allocate market development and planning resources in 2020 to support states and stakeholders in analyzing and discussing potential future market frameworks that contemplate and are compatible with the implementation of state energy and environmental laws. In 2020 RFA was actively engaged in organizing, scoping, and participating in several processes resulting from this request:

- The NEPOOL market framework path is a NEPOOL stakeholder process designed to identify and explore potential changes to the wholesale power markets that could be implemented to advance state public policy objectives in New England.
- The NEPOOL Transition to the Future Grid is a NEPOOL stakeholder process designed to assess potential market and reliability challenges in light of evolving state energy and environmental policies. This effort involves developing assumptions and future scenarios to identify any operational and reliability needs on the New England power system and then conducting a gap analysis to determine if there are any market deficits that need to be addressed to assure the continued reliable operation of the system. Based on the results of the gap analysis, NEPOOL stakeholders will explore potential wholesale regional market approaches to address the identified gaps.
- The October 2020 New England Governors' Letter and New England States Committee on Electricity NESCOE Vision Statement identifies changes in three elements of the regional energy system (wholesale market design, transmission system planning, and ISO-NE governance) necessary to effectuate a clean, affordable, and reliable 21<sup>st</sup> century regional electric grid. The Vision Statement commits the states to conduct public sessions to introduce the principles of the Vision Statement, seek presentations and proposals from interested stakeholders, and solicit comments and dialogue with all interested stakeholders on the Vision and a path to achieving it.

## Energy Security

In 2020, RFA again worked extensively on regional energy security issues in the continuation of work that began in 2018 when FERC directed ISO-NE to develop new market-based rules designed to address fuel security risks. Earlier this year ISO-NE finalized and filed with FERC its preferred long-term solution based on day-ahead energy call options reflecting several new reserve products. RFA actively engaged in NEPOOL processes to evaluate ISO-NE's approach and then worked closely with NESCOE and the other New England states to develop alternative proposals designed to address consumer interests. As noted previously, FERC rejected both the ISO-NE and the NESCOE alternative market design proposals in Dockets No. EL18-182, ER20-1567. RFA will continue to participate in this effort as ISO-NE considers how to respond to FERC's order.

## Other Matters

RFA is also actively participating in ISO-NE, NEPOOL, and NESCOE processes addressing numerous other issues impacting the cost and reliability of electricity for Massachusetts consumers. The following is a sampling of RFA's work in this area:

- Pursuant to ISO-NE's FERC-approved transmission tariff, every three years NESCOE must provide a submission to ISO-NE identifying regional transmission needs driven by state and federal Public Policy Requirements ("PPRs"). The tariff defines a PPRs as "a requirement reflected in a statute enacted by, or a regulation promulgated by, the federal government or a state or local (e.g., municipal or county) government." In 2020, RFA worked with NESCOE and the other New England states to determine that there were no federal or Massachusetts-specific PPRs driving regional transmission needs to address in ISO-NE's current planning cycle.
- RFA worked with other states as well as the Massachusetts Program Administrators to address the treatment of energy efficiency ("EE") resources under Pay for Performance ("PfP") rules in the Forward Capacity Market. Market rules provide special treatment to EE resources when PfP events occur during off-peak hours. These resources are effectively exempt from charges/credits during these times. However, the previous settlement rules exposed EE resources to settlement shortfall charges during hours in which they were otherwise exempt. RFA, along with NESCOE, explored ways to remedy this exposure to settlement shortfalls during off-peak hours. NESCOE worked with other NEPOOL

stakeholders to offer an alternative approach to the previous market rules. ISO-NE filed proposed tariff changes with the FERC in 2020 and FERC accepted this submittal, with tariff revisions becoming effective on August 1, 2020.

- In 2019, Massachusetts and the other New England states requested that ISO-NE analyze a variety of scenarios for the integration of offshore wind energy into New England by 2035. The objective of the analysis was to estimate transmission upgrade costs associated with integrating various levels of additional offshore wind resources at different points of interconnection, and to analyze wholesale electricity price impacts and changes in power sector air emissions. In 2020, RFA worked with NESCOE to finalize the assumptions for this analysis, reviewed the results of the study, and leveraged study findings to help structure the Future Grid investigation and other regional transmission planning efforts.

## ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD AND DEPARTMENT SITING DIVISION

### Overview

The Energy Facilities Siting Board (“Siting Board”) is a nine-member board charged with reviewing proposed energy facilities defined by statute so as 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 (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 comprised of:

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

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;
- 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 2020 is attached as Appendix 1.

## **Siting Board Responsibilities**

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### **Overview**

The Siting Board reviews petitions to construct major new energy infrastructure, including power plants, electric transmission lines, 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; 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. However, since restructuring of the electric utility industry in 1997, the Board’s review of power plants 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.

### **Review of Generation Facilities**

#### **Brockton Power:**

On February 13, 2017, Brockton Power Company, LLC (“Brockton Power”) filed with the Siting Board a request for an additional interim extension of the Siting Board’s approval of Brockton Power’s petition to construct a generating facility in the City of Brockton. The then-current Siting Board extension would have expired on February 28, 2017. Pursuant to an Action by Consent, effective February 27, 2017, the Siting Board provided an interim extension of Brockton Power’s Siting Board approvals that shall expire within 90 days of the issuance of the Final Decision by the Department of Environmental Protection (“MassDEP”) on a pending appeal of the MassDEP Conditional Approval of Major Comprehensive Plan Application, issued by MassDEP on July 7, 2011. MassDEP held oral arguments on May 29, 2019 and the parties submitted their proposed Final Decisions the beginning of August 2019.

On February 27, 2020, the Chief Presiding Officer in the proceeding before the MassDEP issued an Order Granting the Petitioners' Request for Supplemental Legal Argument on the basis that the decision of the United States Court of Appeals of the Fourth Circuit, in the case of *Friends of Buckingham Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Inc. v. State Air Pollution Control Board*, 947 F.3d 68 (4th Cir. 2020). On April 30, 2020, the Petitioners submitted a Motion to Allow Supplementation of the Record to Include a new Harvard School of Public Health Study on the Association between PM2.5 Exposure and COVID-19 Mortality; MassDEP supported the Motion and Brockton Power opposed the Motion. The Motion is still pending. A Final Decision by MassDEP Commissioner is currently pending. The Siting Board's extension prohibits Brockton Power from commencing construction of the facility unless and until it submits a formal extension request and receives approval of the Siting Board granting such an extension.

#### Exelon West Medway:

On November 18, 2016, the Siting Board issued a Final Decision approving, subject to conditions, the petition of Exelon West Medway to construct a 200 MW dual fuel, simple cycle, quick start generating facility. EFSB 15-01/D.P.U. 15-25. In a decision dated August 4, 2017, the Siting Board granted, in part, the Initial Petition and Application of Exelon for a Certificate of Environmental Impact and Public Interest ("Certificate") for the construction of the Facility and issued a Certificate in place of a Major Comprehensive Plan Approval ordinarily issued by MassDEP. The approval contained in the Certificate comprises the final Major Comprehensive Air Plan Approval issued by MassDEP on December 19, 2016 ("Air Plan Approval"). EFSB 17-01. On August 31, 2020, Exelon West Medway filed a Notice of Project Change for its generating facility, which consisted of a change to the facility's backup fuel and a change to the opacity limit for the backup fuel. The Siting Board issued a request for comments on the Project Change and received no comments. MassDEP also requested comments through its public comment process and received no comments on the air permit change. MassDEP filed its recommended Final Amended Air Quality Plan Approval with the Siting Board. A decision on the Project Change is pending.

#### NRG Canal:

On December 2, 2019, NRG Canal filed a notice of project change. The Project Change consisted of:

1. The construction of a 7,000 square foot warehouse building in the southeast portion of the property;
2. The retention of a temporary gravel parking area in the northeastern portion of the property as a permanent parking lot; and
3. Construction of a 1,737 square foot building along the westerly fence line of the permanent parking lot.

The Siting Board issued a letter on March 17, 2020 finding that no further inquiry needed into the Project Change. On June 8, 2020, and July 22, 2020, NRG Canal submitted its a Final Compliance Report that addresses the Company's compliance with conditions imposed in the Final Decision approving the facility. On November 20, 2020, the Siting Board reviewed the compliance report and issued a letter stating that it had no further questions.

## **Review of Transmission Facilities**

#### East Eagle Substation:

On December 23, 2014, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy filed EFSB 14-04/D.P.U. 14-153/14-154 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. As part of the filing, the Company also sought exemptions from the City of Boston's zoning ordinance. On December 1, 2017, the Siting Board issued a Final Decision approving the project, with conditions, including a requirement for the company to enter into discussions with the City of Boston to explore the possible relocation of the proposed new substation in East Boston to the opposite side of

an adjacent City-owned parcel and report back to the Siting Board within six months. On December 20, 2017, the presiding officer issued a ruling on a joint motion by Eversource and intervenor Channel Fish granting a six-month extension of the appeal period (until June 1, 2018) relating solely to the location of the proposed East Eagle substation; on May 29, 2018, the Presiding Officer approved a further extension until December 1, 2018. 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. The project change was docketed as EFSB 14-04A/D.P.U. 14-153A/14-154A. The Siting Board held a public comment hearing on the project change on February 5, 2019 at East Boston High School and held three days of evidentiary hearings in July 2019.

The Siting Board issued a Tentative Decision recommending approval of the change in location of the proposed substation on February 28, 2020 with a Board meeting scheduled for March 11, 2020, which was postponed during the COVID-19 State of Emergency declared by Governor Baker. Following extensive public notice, the Siting Board held a remote Board meeting on Zoom videoconferencing on December 16, 2020. The scheduled conclusion of the meeting on December 17, 2020 was postponed due to a severe snowstorm, and the meeting continuation dates have been scheduled for February 1 and 2 of 2021.

#### Woburn/Wakefield Transmission Line:

On September 25, 2015, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy and New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid jointly filed petitions with the Siting Board and the Department seeking to construct and operate a new 8.53-mile, 345 kV underground transmission line from an existing substation in Woburn to an existing substation in Wakefield. The petitions were docketed as EFSB 15-04/D.P.U. 15-140/15-141. The Siting Board issued a Final Decision approving the project, with conditions, on February 28, 2018. The Towns of Stoneham and Winchester filed separate, timely appeals of the Final Decision with the Supreme Judicial Court (“SJC”). Following withdrawal from the appeal by Stoneham, a single justice of the SJC transferred the Winchester appeal to Appeals Court.

On July 5, 2018, Eversource filed an Initial Petition for a Certificate of Environmental Impact and Public Interest with the Siting Board seeking various local permits and approvals in Woburn, Winchester and Stoneham, pursuant G.L. c. 164, §§ 69K-69O, citing as cause a denial by the City of Woburn on May 1, 2018 of a Grant of Location application by Eversource to use city streets for the Project. The Certificate Application was docketed as EFSB 18-03. The Siting Board issued a Final Decision, with approvals in lieu of Grants of Location in Woburn and Winchester. The Town of Winchester filed an appeal of the Certificate approval on April 3, 2019. On May 2, 2019, a single justice of the SJC ordered that the Certificate appeal also be transferred to Appeals Court and consolidated with the earlier Winchester appeal of the approval to construct. Briefs in the consolidated appeal were filed in October 2019 and oral arguments before the Appeals Court were held on March 17, 2020. On July 9, 2020, the Appeals Court issued a Memorandum and Order affirming the Siting Board on all counts.

#### Sudbury/Hudson Transmission Line:

On April 20, 2017, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy filed petitions with the Siting Board and the Department, docketed as EFSB 17-02/D.P.U. 17-82/17-83, seeking approval to construct an approximately nine-mile 115 kV underground transmission line that would pass primarily through the Towns of Sudbury and Hudson and through short sections of the Town of Stow and the City of Marlborough, and for exemptions from the zoning bylaws of Sudbury, Hudson, and Stow. Approximately 7.6 miles of the proposed line would use an inactive railroad right-of-way, owned by the MBTA. The proposed line would connect Eversource’s Sudbury substation and Hudson Light & Power Department’s substation. On December 18, 2019, the Siting Board issued a Final Decision approving the project, with conditions.



In late 2019, the Town of Sudbury had challenged the MBTA's right to grant an easement on its inactive railroad right-of-way to Eversource to build the Project. The SJC took jurisdiction over the question and held oral arguments October 2019. On September 22, 2020, the SJC ruled that the "prior public use doctrine" did not prevent the MBTA from granting an easement to Eversource to build the Project. On January 7, 2020, the Town of Sudbury and intervenor Protect Sudbury appealed the Final Decision to the SJC. The Town of Sudbury and Protect Sudbury submitted initial briefs to the SJC on November 20, 2020. Briefs of the Siting Board and Eversource are due on or before January 22, 2021 and the reply briefs of Sudbury and Protect Sudbury on or before February 19, 2021. Oral arguments are scheduled for March 2021.

#### Vineyard Wind Barnstable Substation:

On June 9, 2020, the Siting Board granted a limited waiver of Condition A to Vineyard Wind to allow the Company to perform certain preliminary construction activities in connection with onshore portions of the Project within the Town of Barnstable. On May 11, 2020, Vineyard Wind filed a Notice of Project Change with the Siting Board, proposing refinements to the design of the on-shore substation in Barnstable, including expanding the size of the original site. After reviewing the Company's request, on November 3, 2020, the Siting Board found that the proposed changes will not alter in any substantive way either the assumptions or conclusions reached in its analysis of the Project's impacts in the underlying proceeding, and therefore, no further inquiry was required.

#### Andrews Square/Dewar Street Transmission Line:

On March 1, 2019, NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy filed petitions pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 69J and 72 to construct a new approximately two-mile 115 kV underground transmission line between the Company's existing Andrews Square Substation in South Boston and its existing Dewar Street Substation in Dorchester. The filing was docketed as EFSB 19-03/D.P.U. 19-15. A public comment hearing and evidentiary hearings were held in 2019; briefs were filed early 2020. A decision is expected in the first half of 2021.

#### Salem/Beverly Transmission Line:

On June 27, 2019, New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid filed consolidated petitions with the Siting Board seeking approval to construct and zoning exemptions for an approximately 3.7-mile 115 kV underground electric transmission cable in the cities of Salem and Beverly, Massachusetts. The filing was docketed as EFSB 19-04/D.P.U. 19-77/19-78. The proposed line would connect the Waite Street Switching Station in Salem with the East Beverly Substation. The project also includes the removal of 3.6 miles of existing obsolete underground line in Salem and Beverly. A public comment hearing and evidentiary hearings were held in 2019; briefs were filed July 2020. A decision is expected in the first half of 2021.

#### 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 zoning exemptions for an approximately 12.5-mile overhead 115 kV electric transmission line along an existing right-of-way between Eversource's Bourne Switching Station and West Barnstable Substation (the "MidCape Reliability Project"). The filing was docketed as EFSB 19-06/D.P.U. 19-142/19-143. A public comment hearing and evidentiary hearings were held in 2020; a decision is expected in the first half of 2021.

#### Vineyard Wind Underground Onshore and Subsea Offshore Transmission Line:

On May 28, 2020, Vineyard Wind filed three related petitions with the Siting Board and the Department in connection with Vineyard Wind's proposal to construct and operate approximately 27 miles of underground onshore and subsea offshore 220 or 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. The offshore portion of the proposed Project would pass through state waters in the Towns of Barnstable, Edgartown, Mashpee, and Nantucket, and make landfall in Barnstable. The onshore portion of the Project including the landfall would be located entirely in the Town of Barnstable. On September 29, 2020, Siting Staff conducted a site visit, and on October 7, 2020 conducted a remote public comment hearing. A procedural schedule is to be set for the proceeding.

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

### Ashland/Hopkinton:

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. The company proposed the project to eliminate an existing bottleneck along the Company's Hopkinton-Ashland Transfer Line and improve service reliability and meet future load growth in the greater Framingham area. The project includes removing the existing 6-inch diameter pipeline after the replacement pipeline is installed. The petition was docketed as EFSB 18-02. A public comment hearing was held in September 2018, evidentiary hearings were held in April 2019, and briefs were filed in May 2019. In August 2019, the Town of Ashland, an intervenor in the case, filed suit in Land Court contesting the Company's legal ability to abandon the current gas pipeline in place within the existing easements that comprise the Primary Route; the Land Court agreed with the Town. Pursuant to the Land Court ruling, the Siting Board staff and the Town of Ashland issued additional discovery to Eversource in October 2020. A decision is anticipated in the first half of 2021.

### NEC – Charlton:

On August 31, 2018, Northeast Energy Center filed two petitions pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 69J for approval to construct a natural gas liquefaction, storage, and truck-loading facility and associated infrastructure in the Town of Charlton. NEC also filed for zoning exemptions for the project pursuant to G.L. c. 40A, § 3. The company proposes to take natural gas from an existing underground Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. pipeline in Charlton, and transport the gas to the Facility via a new underground pipeline. At the Facility, the natural gas would be cooled to a liquid state, stored as a liquid on-site, and then transported by truck to storage facilities of National Grid and other customers. The filing was docketed as EFSB 18-04/D.P.U. 18-96. On December 13, 2018, the company notified the Siting Board that it was considering revisions to the location and design of the facility, and the Siting Board directed the company to re-notice the project and provide amended petitions and supporting materials. The Siting Board subsequently held a second public comment hearing on May 29, 2019 in Charlton. Evidentiary hearings were completed in late 2019, and briefs will be filed in early 2020. In December 2020, Northeast Energy Center notified the Siting Board of further changes to the proposed project, which will necessitate further investigation from staff. A decision is anticipated in 2021.

## **Federal Licensing Proceedings**

The Siting Board represents the Commonwealth in proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") with respect to the construction of energy facilities in Massachusetts.

On October 19, 2018, Tennessee Gas Pipeline filed an application for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity under the Natural Gas Act for the 261 Upgrade Project including the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of approximately 2.1 miles of 12-inch diameter pipeline loop and the replacement of two older, less efficient compressor units (with a combined horsepower of 6,689) with a single new and more efficient compressor unit (with horsepower of 11,107) at the location of the existing Compressor Station 261 in Agawam, Massachusetts. A related new meter station in Longmeadow would be built on property owned by the Longmeadow Country Club, and is directly related to the 261 Upgrade Project. The Project would provide an additional 72,000 dekatherms per day of pipeline capacity for Columbia Gas of Massachusetts Springfield

Division, and the Holyoke Gas and Light Department. The Department has already approved the precedent agreement between Columbia and Tennessee for the additional contracted capacity. The Siting Board intervened in this proceeding, held a public comment hearing in Longmeadow on March 27, 2019, and submitted comments to FERC on April 24, 2019. A FERC certificate approving the project was issued on December 19, 2019. The 261 Upgrade Project construction of the pipeline and compressor upgrades was completed at the end of 2020.

### **Permit Override Authority**

Through the granting of a Certificate of Environmental Impact and Public Interest, 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.

On July 24, 2019, Vineyard Wind filed an Initial Petition and an Application for a Certificate of Environmental Impact and Public Interest. The filing was docketed as EFSB 19-05. The Company is seeking issuance of various state permits and local permits and approvals in the Towns of Barnstable and Edgartown. After issuance of a procedural schedule by the Siting Board, the company requested and was granted an extension of time to make progress in obtaining various permits from state and local officials. On March 23, 2020, the Presiding Officer granted a motion from Vineyard Wind requesting to temporarily suspend the procedural schedule due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency and the effect of the Emergency on Vineyard Wind’s ongoing permitting efforts.

### **Enforcement**

The Siting Board is authorized to levy a civil penalty when an applicant has violated any order of the Board, per G.L. c. 164, § 69H. The maximum fine is \$1,000 per day per violation, with a maximum civil penalty of \$200,000 for any related series of violations. The Siting Board did not levy any civil penalties in 2020.

### **Siting Board Regulations**

The regulations of the Siting Board are contained in 980 C.M.R. §§ 1.00-12.00. In 2019, no new regulations were promulgated nor were any rescinded or modified. The Siting Board is in the process of a thorough assessment of its regulations to determine whether to rescind, revise, or retain its current regulations.

### **Department Siting Division Responsibilities**

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

Methuen: On February 1, 2019, New England Power Company, d/b/a National Grid filed a petition with the Department for approval to construct a replacement 0.8-mile segment of 115 kV overhead transmission line in an existing right-of way in Methuen Massachusetts crossing into Salem New Hampshire. The filing was

docketed as D.P.U. 19-16. A public comment hearing and evidentiary hearings were held in 2019. The Department issued an Order approving the project, with conditions, on February 27, 2020.

Dartmouth: On March 22, 2019 NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy filed a petition with the Department seeking approval to construct a new 5.1-mile overhead 115 kV transmission line in the Town of Dartmouth. The petition was docketed as D.P.U. 19-46. A public comment hearing was held on July 23, 2019; evidentiary hearings were held in February 2020. The Department issued an Order approving the project, with conditions, on September 14, 2020.

Barnstable: On June 26, 2019 NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy filed a petition with the Department seeking approval to construct a new 3.3-mile overhead 115 kV transmission line in the Town of Barnstable. The petition was docketed as D.P.U. 19-80. A public comment hearing was held on November 4, 2019; evidentiary hearings were held on April 7, 2020. The Department issued an Order approving the project, with conditions, on December 15, 2020.

Carver, Plympton, and Kingston: On June 5, 2020 NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy filed a petition with the Department seeking approval to construct a new eight-mile-long, predominately overhead 115 kV transmission line in the Towns of Carver, Plympton, and Kingston. The Petition was docketed as D.P.U. 20-67. A public comment hearing was held on October 27, 2020. Evidentiary hearings will commence in early 2021.

## 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. In addition to several cases described above, zoning exemptions were sought in conjunction with Siting Board approval and Section 72 approval from the Department.

Hopkinton: On June 30, 2017, Hopkinton LNG Corp. filed with the Department a request for exemptions from the Town of Hopkinton zoning bylaws in relation with proposed modifications at its existing peak-shaving liquified natural gas (“LNG”) facility in Hopkinton. The modifications include replacing its existing gas pretreatment system, liquefaction system, and boil off gas compressors. The request was docketed as D.P.U. 17-114. On December 21, 2018, the Department issued an order granting the zoning exemptions, with conditions. The Town of Hopkinton appealed the Department’s order on January 10, 2019, and the SJC subsequently transferred the matter to the Appeals Court for further review. Oral arguments were conducted January 3, 2020. On February 7, 2020, the Appeals Court affirmed the Department’s Order on all counts.

Oak Bluffs: On November 30, 2018, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy filed a petition with the Department, pursuant to G.L. c. 40A, § 3, in connection with the Company’s proposed construction and operation of a 14.7 MW energy storage system at the Company’s Oak Bluffs Service Center, in the Town of Oak Bluffs, Martha’s Vineyard. Eversource is seeking zoning exemptions from the Department to allow for construction of the facility. The Department docketed the matter as D.P.U. 18-155. A public comment hearing was held on February 13, 2019 and evidentiary hearings were held in June, 2019. The Department issued an Order approving the project, with conditions, on April 30, 2020.

Dartmouth: On October 31, 2019, NextSun Energy LLC filed a petition with the Department seeking an exemption from the zoning ordinances of the Town of Dartmouth in connection with a proposed grid-connected photovoltaic and battery energy storage project that would be located in an existing, actively farmed cranberry bog. The filing was docketed as D.P.U. 19-133. A public hearing was held on March 2, 2020 and evidentiary hearings were held in July, 2020. An order is expected in early 2021.

## 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 2020.

## Determination of Jurisdiction

On January 4, 2019, Cranberry Point Energy Storage LLC, a company that develops and manages renewable energy and energy storage systems, filed a petition pursuant to 980 CMR 2.09 seeking a determination as to whether the Siting Board has jurisdiction over the Company's proposed construction of a grid-connected, 150 MW lithium-ion battery energy storage system in Carver Massachusetts. The Siting Board docketed the Petition as EFSB 19-01. Cranberry Point LLC contends that the Project is not a jurisdictional facility as defined in G.L. c. 164, § 69G and the Siting Board's regulations and does not constitute a "generating facility" under the definition and use of that term in G.L. c. 164, §§ 69G and 69J<sup>1/4</sup>. The company also maintains that the Project does not consist of transmission, fuel storage facilities, or natural gas pipelines that would otherwise be subject to the Siting Board's jurisdiction. The Project has been sold to a new entity, Plus Power, which has requested that the Determination of Jurisdiction proceeding be placed on hold.

## Assistance to Other Department Divisions

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In 2020, the Siting Division provided technical and legal support to other Department Divisions to assist with ongoing cases and special projects, as needed. Several members of the Siting Division contributed to the Department's involvement in projects or studies or legislative proposals relating to the need for additional electric generating capacity and natural gas pipeline capacity in the Massachusetts and New England market in general.

# LEGAL DIVISION

## Overview

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

## Legal Division Responsibilities

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### Formal Adjudications

The Legal Division's primary duty is presiding over adjudicatory proceedings conducted under the Massachusetts Administrative Procedures Act (G.L. c. 30A) and the Department's procedural regulations (220 CMR 1.00). During 2020, the Legal Division participated in the issuance of 443 Orders. Some of the more notable dockets and initiatives included:

- Legal assistance for the Commonwealth's ongoing response to the gas overpressurization in the Merrimack Valley and other gas industry issues, including most importantly, overseeing the sale of Bay State Gas Company to Eversource Energy and the resolution of all outstanding related proceedings before the Department as well as the continued issuance of utility operational and management directives and cooperation with Federal incident investigation efforts;



- Commencement of an investigation into establishing policies and practices for electric and gas companies regarding customer assistance and ratemaking measures in connection to the state of emergency regarding the novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”);
- Commencement of an investigation into the role of gas companies as the Commonwealth achieves its target 2050 climate goals;
- Continued efforts to quantify and reduce the risks to public safety and to address environmental emissions implications associated with aged gas infrastructure;
- Issuance of Orders approving long-term contracts for each electric distribution company for a total of 804 MW of offshore wind resulting from the state’s second procurement of offshore wind and bringing the total of offshore wind procurement to approximately 1600 MW;
- Issuance of an Order approving new rates for a gas utility company following a ten-month investigation;
- Issuance of an Order approving the acquisition of a gas company by another gas company;
- Issuance of an Order approving the merger of two gas companies;
- Continued implementation of net metering rules and regulations including initiation of investigations into energy storage paired with net metering facilities and participation of net metering in the ISO-NE Forward-Capacity Market;
- The continued implementation of the nation’s leading energy-efficiency program;
- Continued review and approval of multiple dockets associated with municipal aggregation plans; and
- Several forecast and supply planning dockets for natural gas distribution companies.

During this year, the Department continued to review its regulations pursuant to Executive Order 562. A list of the Department’s 2020 orders is attached as Appendix 2.

Adjudications are the formal determination of parties’ rights 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 Chairman 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 sale and purchase of electric power and natural gas;
- Long-term contracts for renewables;
- Long-range forecast and supply planning;
- Energy efficiency plans;
- Service quality plans;
- Financial transactions (e.g., stock, bond, and security issuances);
- Proposed mergers;
- Storm investigations;
- Emergency response plans;
- Municipal aggregation plans;
- Proposed energy facility construction and siting (e.g., electric generation facilities and transmission lines); and
- 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.<sup>19</sup>

Public hearings are publicized throughout the utility's service territory. In certain types of cases, public hearings are held in a utility's service territory. Public hearings are transcribed by a stenographer. If held in a utility's service territory, public hearings are conducted during the evening – usually in an easily accessible public building such as the Town Hall – and are often presided over by a Commissioner. The public hearings afford local consumers the opportunity to learn more about a rate request, offer their input about a pending case, and comment on the practices of the utility. Residential and business customers are a valuable source of information to the Department in developing a case record.

Evidentiary hearings are conducted in a courtroom setting in the Department's Boston offices. These proceedings are also transcribed by a stenographer. The hearings are presided over by the Hearing Officer, with the active participation of the Department's technical staff. The technical staff participates by questioning witnesses to ensure that the record is accurate and complete.

While the adjudicatory process does not require adherence to all formal rules of evidence, the evidentiary hearing process follows many rules of civil procedure as set forth in the Department's regulations, 220 CMR 1.00, and parties are almost always represented by counsel from the utility bar. Evidentiary hearings afford intervenors and the Department 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, the DOER, and local consumer, business, or neighborhood groups. Sometimes intervenors put on a direct case with witnesses of their own.

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 DPU 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 over 35 virtual hearings to date.

## Other Types of Proceedings

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### 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 2020, the Department did not issue any advisory rulings.

### Notice of Inquiry Proceedings

The Department issues a Notice of Inquiry (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.

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<sup>19</sup> In April, the Department began holding public and evidentiary hearings remotely (via videoconference) in order to conform to the commonwealth's COVID-related State of Emergency mandates.

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 by the Department. The policy established through the NOI may be further developed in the future through company-specific adjudications. In 2020, the Department opened one NOI proceeding:

- Policies and Practices for Electric and Gas Companies Regarding Customer Assistance in Connection to COVID-19 State of Emergency DPU 20-58

In addition, the Department continued the following NOI proceedings:

- D.P.U. 17-22 (Net Metering Single Parcel Subdivision);
- D.P.U. 17-146 (Net Metering Eligibility of Energy Storage Systems);
- D.P.U. 18-129 (Exceptions to Towing Regulations 220 CMR 272.00 to Recording Mileage Data and Fuel Charge Information for Tow Slips);
- 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. 19-34 (Professional Engineers); D.P.U. 19-71 (Fee Free); and
- D.P.U. 19-55 (Distributed Generation Interconnection).

## 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. Any final regulation must be published in the Code of Massachusetts Regulations.

In 2020, the Department continued two rulemaking proceedings:

1. D.P.U. 17-54 to amend 220 CMR 8.00 pursuant to § 201 and 210 of Title II of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978; and
2. D.P.U. 19 76/DTC 19-4, joint rulemaking with the Department of Telecommunications and Cable, pursuant to Executive Order No. 562, G.L. c. 30A, § 2, 220 CMR 2.00, and 207 CMR 2.00, to amend 220 CMR 45.00, Pole Attachment, Duct, Conduit and Right-of-Way Complaint and Enforcement Procedures.

In calendar year 2020, the Department opened one new rulemaking proceeding:

- D.P.U. 20-70, Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 2, and 220 CMR 2.00, adopting amended pipeline regulations 220 CMR 36.00, 220 CMR 69.00, 220 CMR 100.00, 220 CMR 101.00, 220 CMR 107.00, 220 CMR 109.00, 220 CMR 111.00, 220 CMR 112.00, and 220 CMR 113.00 and rescinding pipeline regulations 220 CMR 104.00 and 220 CMR 108.00.

## Public Records

While not docketed proceedings, the Department's legal Division staff serves 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 2020, the Department responded to over 296 public records requests. In addition, the Department continued to take all necessary steps to comply with the Public Records Improvement Act ("Act"), St. 2016, c.



121. The Act is intended to enhance transparency and responsiveness of state government in complying with public records requests.

## NATURAL GAS DIVISION

### Overview

The Natural Gas Division (“Gas Division”) provides technical support to the Department in the regulation of the state’s eight investor-owned natural gas companies (also called “local distribution companies” or “LDCs”):

- Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts<sup>20</sup>;
- The Berkshire Gas Company;
- Blackstone Gas Company<sup>21</sup>;
- Fitchburg Gas & Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil;
- Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company, each d/b/a National Grid;
- Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities; and
- NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy.

In total, these companies serve approximately 1.698 million gas customers and have combined operating revenues of approximately \$2.856 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.

<sup>20</sup> On October 7, 2020, the Department approved a Settlement Agreement authorizing the sale of Bay State Gas to Eversource Energy. Eversource Energy/Bay State Gas Company Merger, D.P.U. 20-59. The sale closed on October 9, 2020. The name for Bay State Gas/Columbia Gas of Massachusetts is now Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts.

<sup>21</sup> On October 13, 2020, the Department approved the acquisition of Blackstone Gas Company by Liberty Utilities. Petition of Liberty Utilities for approval by the Department of Public Utilities, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 96, of the acquisition of Blackstone Gas Company, D.P.U. 20-03, at n.5.

## Forecast and Supply Plans<sup>22</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 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 2020, the Gas Division issued orders on two forecast and supply plans for Fitchburg Gas and Electric, and Bay State Gas. The Gas Division is currently reviewing forecast and supply plans for four gas companies, with orders for all four due in 2021. Below is a table compiled from the information presented to the Department in Fitchburg’s and Bay State’s forecast and supply plan. The table indicates expected demand and the types of resources for which the LDC has contracted to meet this demand:

Company	Docket	Order Date	Design Year	Requirements <sup>23</sup>	Available Supplies
<b>Fitchburg Gas &amp; Electric</b>	D.P.U. 19-02	January 13, 2020	2022-2023	2,461,270 MMBtu	Pipeline gas, Storage, LNG, Propane and city-gate purchases
<b>Bay State Gas</b>	D.P.U. 19-135	October 27, 2020	2023-2024	55,917,215 MMBtu	Pipeline gas, Storage, LNG, Propane and city-gate purchases

### Reliability of Gas Supply

Massachusetts LDCs currently hold several types of natural gas resources: interstate pipeline capacity (“pipeline”), upstream storage, gas commodity, and 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 primary facilities in the northeast, primarily Everett LNG (formerly Engie) facility in Everett, operated by Exelon Generation (Constellation) and – to a lesser extent – National Grid’s facility in Providence, Rhode Island, for the delivery of liquefied natural gas 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 the plethora of sources of supply allow the jurisdictional LDCs to enter into these short-term contracts. Such contracts allow Massachusetts LDCs to:

<sup>22</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.

<sup>23</sup> The years indicate the last year of the forecast (November through October) for which the consumption is forecast.

- Benefit from the availability of new supplies from areas such as the Marcellus Shale gas basin in the Appalachian region (Pennsylvania, West Virginia); and
- 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, Bay State Gas Company 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:

1. Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (“Tennessee”), a subsidiary of Kinder Morgan;
2. Algonquin Gas Transmission Company (“Algonquin”), a subsidiary of Enbridge; and
3. 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, MA is jointly owned by the two pipeline companies that feed into it, and it 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.

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 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**

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As discussed above, gas flowing into Massachusetts comes from a variety of production areas, including 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”). Additional Canadian gas produced in the Sable Island area off the coast of Nova Scotia is shipped into the United States via the M&N pipeline. This same pipeline can also be used to transport, if need be, regasified LNG from Repsol’s Canaport LNG facility in Saint John, New Brunswick.

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 2020 was imported from Trinidad & Tobago. Imported LNG arrives in Massachusetts in liquid form and is stored in the Constellation LNG LLC's terminal in Everett. According to the U.S. Department of Energy ("USDOE"), the Everett terminal received 23.7 Bcf of natural gas for the period January 2020 through September 2020. LNG can also be injected into Excelebrate Energy's Northeast Gateway LNG facility, which connects to the Algonquin's Hubline pipeline. The Northeast Gateway Facility, however, did not receive any natural gas during the reporting period.

In terms of pricing, the U.S. Energy Information Administration ("EIA") states that for the upcoming winter of 2020-2021, it expects that spot prices will average \$3.01 per MMBtu. Further, the EIA reports that for the period ending in October 2020, "Gas in Storage" was about 4.0 trillion cubic feet (Tcf). This volume is the second highest end of October level on record and approximately 5% more than the average for the period 2015-2019. Generally speaking, as a result of warmer-than-usual weather storage inventories remain higher than the previous 5-year average, as shown in the chart, below, by Platts – another reporting source.

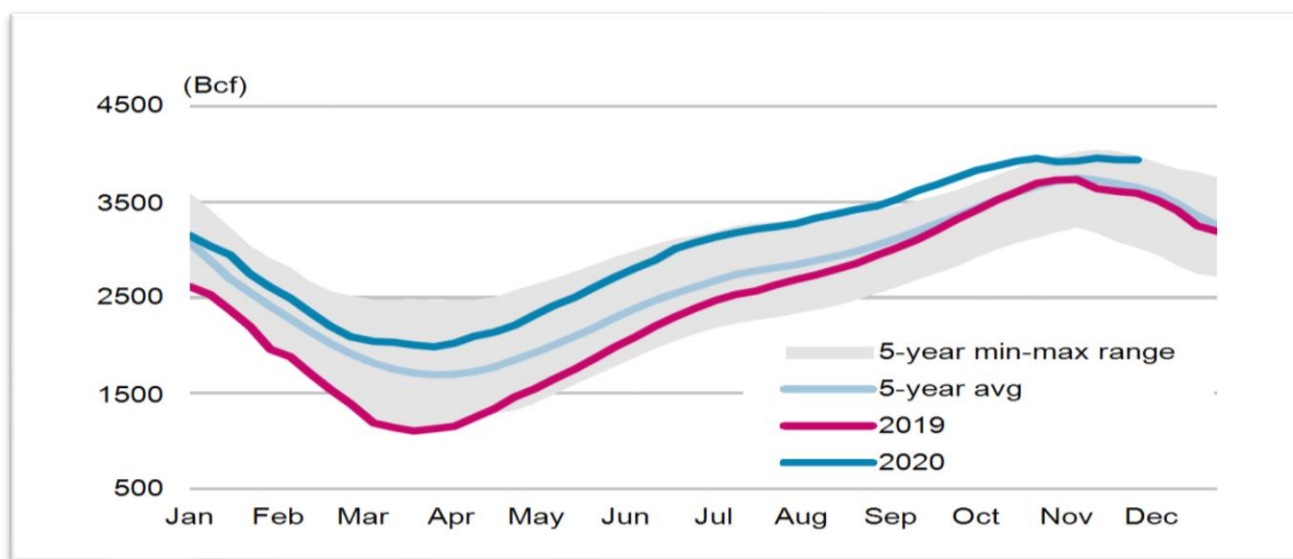


Figure 1-- USGAS STORAGE INVENTORY (Source: Platts)

Platts reports that for Wednesday December 9, 2020 Henry Hub spot prices were \$2.45/MMBtu, \$0.07 less than for the same day in 2019. However, it should be noted that the spot price changes on a daily basis as it is affected by a number of factors such as weather, drilling activity, and pipeline capacity.

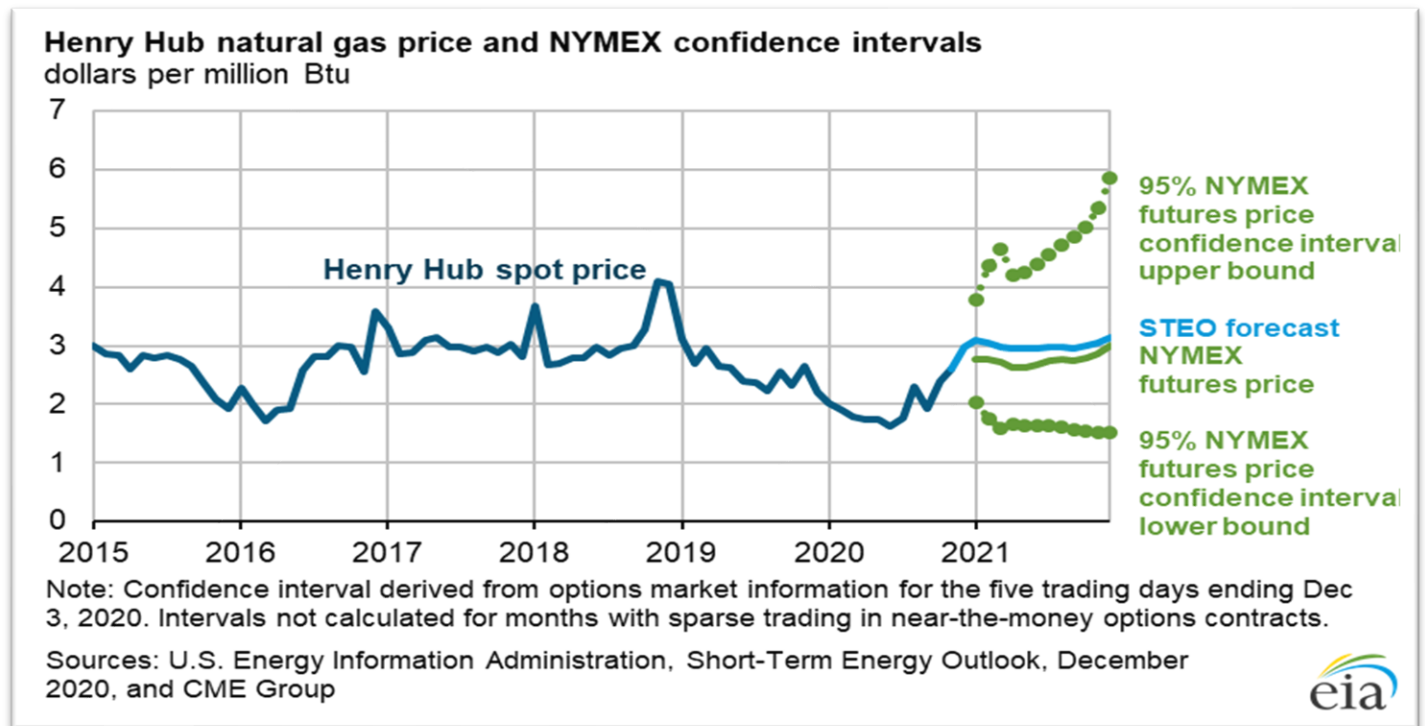


Figure 2- Henry Hub natural gas price and NYMEX confidence intervals (Source: EIA)

## Long-Term Gas Supply Contracts

LDCs must submit all supply contracts with terms longer than one year to the Department for review and approval. 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.

During 2020, the Gas Division reviewed five 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 their gas companies' Department-approved distribution tariffs are not competitive with these alternative-fuel options. To retain these customers and assure a continued stream of revenue, LDCs may offer the customers non-tariff contracts, subject to Department approval. In its review, 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 December 2018, the Department opened 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. In 2020, the Gas Division reviewed 25 non-tariff contracts.

## Requests for Cost Adjustments

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Department regulations allow costs incurred by gas companies for the purchase, storage, and interstate transportation of gas (“gas supply costs”) 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. During 2020, the Gas Division reviewed 26 requests for cost of gas adjustments.

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>24</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 and costs related to the Gas System Enhancement Plans (“GSEPs”). LDCs can also recover costs associated 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 2020, the Gas Division reviewed eight LDAF requests.

## Energy Efficiency Filings

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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 proposed plans in 90 days to ensure that:

- The plans are delivered 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 budget is allocated toward low income energy-efficiency spending.

On January 28, 2019, the Department approved new three-year plans for the 2019 through 2021 term for gas and electric companies. LDCs plan to spend \$800 million over the next three years to save approximately 1.2 billion lifetime therms and achieve \$2 billion in total benefits. The plans include weatherization service programs (e.g., energy audits, attic and wall insulation, and air sealing), behavioral and temperature optimization offerings, and rebates for the installation of Wi-Fi thermostats or for the replacement of boilers, furnaces, and water heaters with high-efficiency units. LDCs recover energy efficiency-related costs via the energy efficiency surcharge in the LDAF. Once a three-year term is completed, the companies submit term

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<sup>24</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.

report filings for Department review of spending and approval of final cost recovery. The 2016-2018 term reports were filed on August 1, 2019 and approved by the Department on September 23, 2020. In 2020, the Gas Division reviewed 10 energy efficiency filings.

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

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The Gas Division works closely with the Department's Rates and Revenue Requirements Division to review various rate case filings, GSEPs, long-term debt issuance, 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, any gas-specific pilots or demonstration projects, gas-related cash working capital, marginal costs, and the treatment of revenues from off-tariff contracts. In 2020, the Gas Division participated in the Department's review of 10 rates-related filings.

### **Service Quality Filings**

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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 Department 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 2020, the Gas Division reviewed eight service quality plans.

### **Gas Expansion Plans**

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Pursuant to Chapter 149, § 3, 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 2020.

### **Licensing of Gas Suppliers and Retail Agents**

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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 customer's neighborhood. This allows customers to comparison shop and negotiate for the best value in gas commodity from 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 on an annual basis. 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 January 2019, the Department opened an investigation into improving the protections provided to residential customers related to the marketing and delivery of competitive suppliers' product offerings for both the gas and electric competitive markets. The Department is currently holding a series of working groups and technical sessions to address the concerns of various stakeholders, including the Attorney General.

In 2020, the Gas Division reviewed 161 Gas Supplier and Retail Agent license applications and the Department approved 159 licenses. The approved licenses include the following:

- 1 new Gas Supplier license;
- 17 Gas Supplier license renewals;
- 17 new Gas Retail Agent licenses; and
- 124 Gas Retail Agent licenses renewals.

In addition, two applications were withdrawn. Any outstanding applications are due to the applicant's failure to submit additional materials, as requested by the Gas Division, in order to complete the application.

### **Cybersecurity-Related Activities**

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Over the last several years, the Gas Division has worked to ensure that LDCs have developed robust cybersecurity programs that help 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 2020.

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

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Over the past decade, actions taken by FERC, the U.S. Department of Energy, 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 other state agencies and regional organizations 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 USDOE, in projects relating to natural gas.

### **Public Information and Review of Consumer Complaints**

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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.

### **2020 Gas Division Accomplishments**

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During 2020, the Gas Division reviewed:

- 6 forecast and supply plan filings;
- 5 long-term gas supply contracts;
- 25 non-tariff contracts for the sale and transportation of natural gas (firm service, quasi-firm service);
- 26 gas adjustment factor filings pursuant to the CGAC;
- 8 cost recovery filings pursuant to the LDAC;
- 10 energy efficiency filings;
- 10 rates-related filings;
- 8 service quality reports; and



- 161 licenses for gas suppliers and gas retail agents.

## PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

### Overview

The Pipeline Safety Division (formerly the Pipeline Engineering and Safety Division) is responsible for technical and safety oversight of seven investor-owned natural gas companies and four municipal gas Departments in Massachusetts. 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 Dig Safe program. 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 21,713.84 miles of gas mains and twelve operators, with 18 LNG plants and five liquified propane gas (“LPG”) air plants. These facilities serve over 1.4 million customers.

In addition, there are approximately 20.5 miles of intrastate gas transmission lines in Massachusetts. 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 aegis 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 general 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.

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

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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 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 \$200,000 per violation for each day that the violation continues or \$2,000,000 for any related series of violations.<sup>25</sup>

In 2020 the Pipeline Safety Division conducted 1,720 safety inspections. These inspections included both field activities and mandated program reviews.

The Pipeline Safety Division issued 20 NOPVs, assessing a total of \$3,815,000 in civil penalties. These revenues are not retained by the Department but are deposited into the Commonwealth’s General Fund.

In addition, in advance of the sale of Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts to NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, the Pipeline Safety Division issued a Consent Order resolving all open Columbia Gas of Massachusetts enforcement matters. The Consent Order resulted in a \$12 million penalty in lieu of payment as part of the Department’s settlement agreement on D.P.U. 20-59 (2020).

In response to the coronavirus (“COVID-19”) pandemic, the Division issued 12 stays of enforcement in accordance with federal guidelines. Operators faced with limited resources as a result of the impacts of the pandemic applied on a case-by-case basis for stays of enforcement in areas where they could not achieve full compliance with applicable provisions of the state and federal pipeline safety regulations. Operators remain fully responsible for the safe operation of their systems and maintaining the capability to detect and respond to critical pipeline safety issues and adequately respond to pipeline emergencies. As a condition of the issued stays of enforcement, all operators must present evidence to the Division about efforts and timelines to achieving full compliance with all applicable state and federal pipeline safety regulations.

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

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When a gas-related incident occurs that results in personal injury or significant property damage, the Pipeline Safety Division’s engineers investigate to determine:

- The cause and origin;

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<sup>25</sup> G.L. c. 164, § 105A, citing 49 U.S.C. § 60122(a)(1).

- 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 2020, there were zero incidents.

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

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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 plants once every three and five years, respectively. In addition, the Pipeline Safety Division conducts specialized inspections at each LNG and LPG plant at least once in a 24-month period. 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 on-site inspections, reviews of procedures, and reviews of operating and maintenance records.

In 2020 the Pipeline Safety Division issued four NOPVs to LNG operators resulting in consent agreements for all four and civil penalties totaling \$205,000.00. These revenues are not retained by the Department but are deposited into the Commonwealth's General Fund.

### **Dig Safe Law Enforcement**

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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. 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 that disputes the written decision may request an adjudicatory hearing before the Department.

In 2020, the Division received 760 reports of possible Dig Safe violations. The Division issued 239 NOPVs and collected \$2,092,500 in civil penalties. These revenues are not retained by the Department but are deposited into the Commonwealth's General Fund.

The Pipeline Safety Division was also able to utilize its finalized revisions to the Dig Safe regulations, 220 CMR 99.00. The revisions were designed primarily to implement the federal minimum safety requirements for damage prevention, pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Parts 192 and 196, and for the following reasons:

- To clarify the obligations of both excavators and utility companies;
- To establish more efficient procedures for the enforcement of violations; and
- To correct minor errors and delete outdated, duplicative, or unnecessary information.

Among other things, the final regulations implemented a 30-day Dig Safe ticket life and changed the civil penalties for violations relating to natural gas pipelines to correspond with the federal civil penalties of up to \$200,000 per violation for each day that the violation continues or \$2,000,000 for any related series of violations. Civil penalties for violations not involving natural gas pipelines remain at \$1,000 for a first offense,

and between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for any subsequent offense within twelve consecutive months. In addition to recovering these higher penalties, these changes have brought increased awareness to damage prevention and pipeline safety.

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 to responding to any report of a damaged pipeline with the release of gas. They are also proactively conducting site visits to drive change and awareness to damage prevention.

## **Steam Distribution**

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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.

## **Gas Meter Testing**

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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, to ensure that a consumer is paying for the correct amount of gas. In 2020, the Pipeline Safety Division collected \$1,336,910 in meter testing fees from operators. Due to compliance with state and local pandemic guidelines, and subsequent stays of enforcement issued, these revenues are lower than those collected in previous years. These revenues are not retained by the Department but are deposited into the Commonwealth's General Fund.

## **Consumer Complaints Regarding Meters**

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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**

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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**

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The Pipeline Safety Division has worked with regulators in the other New England states and with the Northeast Gas Association ("NGA") to develop qualification procedures for steel pipeline welders and plastic pipeline fusers. This effort resulted in uniform qualifications for welders and fusers throughout New England that allow an operator in one New England State to avoid expending resources to requalify an employee from

another New England state. This also assures pipeline safety regulators that the personnel are qualified in these essential pipeline construction functions.

The 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

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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, seven gas distribution companies (Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company each d/b/a National Grid, The Berkshire Gas Company, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities, Columbia Gas of Massachusetts, and Eversource Energy) submit 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 Pipeline Safety Division also reviews the proposed GSEPs to ensure that each operator's plan complies with its DIMP program.

The Department has taken measures to address the potential safety hazards posed by unused service lines. The Department has updated existing regulations requiring the abandonment of unused lines. The regulations also specify more stringent gas leakage survey methods for operating lines.

## 2020 Pipeline Safety Division Accomplishments

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In summary, in 2020 the Pipeline Safety Division:

- Conducted natural gas facility inspections, resulting in the issuance of 20 NOPVs for violations of pipeline safety regulations;
- Increased its staff by four public utilities engineers;
- Fully qualified two field engineers and are on pace to fully qualify six more field engineers by the end of 2021;
- Expanded legal staffing to support the increase in inspections, enforcement actions, and regulatory oversight;



- Assessed gas pipeline operators a total of \$3,815,000 in civil penalties;
- Tested 127,061 meters of various sizes, resulting in the collection of \$1,336,910 in testing fees;
- Settled all CMA matters resulting in \$12 million payment in lieu of penalty;
- Increased the number of enforcement actions opened in 2020 to 72 and reduced the backlog of enforcement actions by 136;
- Completed 1,694 inspections in 2020 which is an increase of 30 percent from last year;
- Completed the following mandated program reviews for all gas operators:
  - Transmission Integrity Management Plan;
  - Control Room Management;
  - Operator Qualifications;
  - Liquefied Propane Gas; and
  - Distribution Integrity Management Plan;
- Developed a business continuity plan for the Pipeline Safety Division, as it applies to the COVID-19 pandemic, to maintain continuous operation, oversight, and enforcement of all critical pipeline facilities ensuring pipeline safety;
- Developed in-house training modules for new inspectors regarding:
  - Damage Prevention
  - Meter and Service Regulator
  - Gate Box inspections
  - Master Meter OPID verification; and
- Investigated 760 reports of Dig Safe violations, issued 239 NOPVs for violations of the Dig Safe Law, and collected \$2,092,500 in civil penalties from Dig Safe violators.

## RATES AND REVENUE REQUIREMENTS DIVISION

### Overview

The Rates and Revenue Requirements Division (“Rates Division”) is responsible for providing the technical expertise to determine the appropriate levels of revenues to recover through rates and to determine the rate design for the four investor-owned electric companies, seven investor-owned gas companies, and nineteen 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 electric boards’ annual depreciation increase requests and municipal towing rate increase proposals. In addition, the Rates Division assists the Electric Power Division with providing technical expertise on public policy programs such as electric grid modernization, review of long-term renewable energy contracts, net metering, electric vehicles, and alternative rate designs.

The Rates Division assists the Department’s Legal Division in developing the evidentiary record in adjudicatory proceedings concerning the rates, accounting, and finances 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 natural gas, electric, and water industries 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 utility restructuring-related filings including the annual reconciliation of basic/default service, transmission, and transition costs and revenues;

- Analyze annual adjustments to base distribution rates in compliance with revenue decoupling mechanisms (“RDM”) and performance-based rate (“PBR”) mechanisms approved in base rate cases;
- Analyze adjustments to rates associated with capital expenditure (“Cap-Ex”) recovery filings;
- Analyze adjustments to gas distribution company rates associated with the replacement of leak prone mains and services in accordance with GSEP;
- Analyze financing petitions (issuing securities);
- Analyze mergers and acquisitions proposals;
- Assist in determining the annual assessment of electric, gas, and water utilities;
- 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, the Energy Act of 2012, the Energy Diversity Act of 2016, the Clean Energy Act of 2018, 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, gas companies, 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 filings.

## **Review of Requests to Change Base Distribution Rates**

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The Rates Division investigates petitions to change base rates as follows:

- Reviewing the filings (both utility and in some instances, intervenor proposals);
- Participating in informal technical conferences;
- Issuing information requests to the Company and intervenors;
- Drafting pre-hearing memoranda for the Commission;
- Cross-examining 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 orders per the directives from the Commission; and
- Reviewing and approving compliance filings.

Changes to base rates are typically based on historic test year cost-of-service regulation or PBR. The Department sets 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 historic 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, and rates of return for shareholders (i.e., return on equity). Appropriate annual expenses plus a return on rate base (i.e., return on net capital investment) make up the company’s cost of service or the revenue requirement upon which rate structures must be designed to recover. Establishing base 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, with provisions for exogenous costs and earnings sharing.

Once 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 cover 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, or SIS, comprised of 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 on the case may submit a proposed rate settlement to the commission. An adjudicatory team comprised 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 MassDEP. In situations where cross-over 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.

## **Review of Annual Performance-Based Ratemaking Adjustments**

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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 price caps 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 events beyond each company's control that have a significant impact on its revenue requirement (i.e., exogenous events). In 2020, the Rates Division was responsible for ensuring that the annual PBR adjustment filings from NSTAR Electric and Massachusetts Electric/Nantucket Electric were in compliance with directives approved in each company's last base rate proceedings. Additionally, in 2020 the Department approved a PBR mechanism for NSTAR Gas.

## **Review of Electric Utility Restructuring-Related Filings**

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As part of the continued implementation of Chapter 164 of the Acts of 1997 (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. In 2020, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company's Electric Division proposed to terminate its transition factor at the end of 2020.

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

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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 the pension and post-retirement benefit adjustment factors, PAFs, and the Residential Assistance Adjustment Factors, or RAAFs.<sup>26</sup> 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 RDM, that allows the electric and gas companies to reconcile the revenues collected from base distribution rates with the revenue requirement approved by the Department in its last base rate case, pursuant to the revenue decoupling plan approved by the Department. RDM adjustments are filed annually for the electric companies and semi-annually for the gas companies.

Further, for National Grid's electric subsidiaries as well as for Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light's electric Division, the Department approved a Capital Expenditure, or Cap-Ex Mechanism that allows both companies to recover the revenue requirement associated with a pre-determined amount of its annual capital investment incurred since its prior rate case. When the Department approved National Grid's PBR mechanism in its last rate case, it determined that National Grid's Cap-Ex would terminate after collection of its revenue requirement associated with calendar year 2019 Cap-Ex.

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

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In 2014, legislation was passed allowing gas distribution companies to each file with the Department a plan to address old natural gas infrastructure via the accelerated repair or replacement of such infrastructure. Pursuant to this legislation, almost all the gas distribution companies filed GSEPs for review and approval by the Department.

Rates staff played a primary role in the review of the 2019 GSEPs. The 2019 GSEPs covered the 2020 construction year and were approved by the Department, with modifications, in April of 2020. The GSEP reconciliation filings were made in May of 2020 and approved in October of 2020. Subsequent GSEP filings, which cover the 2021 construction year, were filed in October of 2020.

## **Review of Financing Requests**

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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 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 2020, the Rates Division evaluated and approved six financing petitions involving a total of \$2,530,700,000 in long-term

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<sup>26</sup> PAFs are factors designed to annually recover a company's costs related to providing their employees with pensions. RAAFs are designed to recover costs related to low-income discounts and arrearage management programs.

debt. As of the end of 2020, one financing petition seeking authorization to issue up to \$1.6 billion in long-term debt was still pending.

## **Mergers and Acquisitions**

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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 2020, the Department ruled on two acquisitions: the Liberty Utilities acquisition of Blackstone Gas Company in D.P.U. 20-03 and the Eversource Energy acquisition of Columbia Gas of Massachusetts in D.P.U. 20-59. With assistance from other Divisions, 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**

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

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The Rates Division is responsible for the review of negotiated electric contracts between electric distribution companies and retail customers. Such contracts are evaluated to ensure consistency with Department standards. The onset of competitive options for generation service for industrial customers has reduced the number of requests for electric contracts in recent years.

## **Review of Utility Accounting Matters**

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Utility companies are required to maintain their books in accordance with Department regulation. 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.

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.

## **Review of Storm Funds**

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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 collected from



ratepayers 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. During 2020, the Rates Division completed review of twelve storm-fund eligible events. Further, the Department has continued its review of requests for cost recovery through the storm fund mechanisms of twenty-two storm fund eligible events. In 2020, National Grid requested review of cost recovery for nine storm fund eligible storms, and there is one ongoing NSTAR Electric storm cost recovery proceeding that remains an open investigation.

## Oversight of Municipal Utilities

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The Department's role in regulating municipal light plants is limited in comparison to the jurisdiction exercised over investor-owned utilities. Municipal light plant rates are set by public officials acting under legislative mandate and therefore do not require the close scrutiny and measure of Department supervision that is authorized or required in the case of investor-owned utilities. For example, the Department does not have authority over municipal light plant financing and does not have authority to suspend and investigate the rates of municipal light plants. 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 3.0 percent set forth in G.L. c. 164, § 57;
- Requiring compliance with the Department's billing and termination regulations in accordance with 220 C.M.R. §§ 25.00 et seq.; and
- Hearing petitions from customers who have been denied service, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 60.

The Department does not have any jurisdiction over the municipal light plant in the Town of Gosnold. While this system is subject to the requirements of G.L. c. 164, Gosnold was exempted from Department oversight by special legislation in 1936 and 1941. Similarly, the Department does not exercise any jurisdiction over Devens Utilities, a combination gas/electric/water/wastewater system operated by the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency ("MDFA") that serves the Devens Economic Area at the site of the former Fort Devens. The MDFA is authorized pursuant to G.L. c. 23G, § 3 to provide utility services to the former Fort Devens facility; § 31 of the 1998 enabling act exempts the MDFA as a quasi-government agency from any state oversight of its utility rates.

## Review of Municipal Depreciation Requests

Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 57, municipal utilities 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 utilities rely on depreciation funds as a source of funds for plant improvements and expansions without resorting to outside financing, municipal utilities may seek authorization to increase their depreciation rate for a particular year. During 2020, the Rates Division evaluated and approved two requests for increases in municipal depreciation rates. As of the end of 2020, one request for an increase in municipal depreciation rates was still pending.

## Review of Customer Complaints

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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

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

## 2020 Rates Division Major Activities

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During 2020, the Rates Division participated in more than 100 docketed matters, including (but not limited to):

- 9 rate case filings
- 2 merger/acquisition filings
- 1 water company valuation
- 5 Cap-Ex filings
- 9 financing requests
- 6 grid modernization factor filings and/or investigations
- 12 GSEPs
- 7 GRECs
- 14 pension and PBOP adjustment factor filings
- 2 annual performance-based ratemaking adjustment filings
- 15 revenue decoupling adjustment factor filings
- 5 SMART program filings
- 13 solar program related filings
- 8 storm fund or cost recovery filings
- 7 annual true-ups reconciliation filings
- 3 vegetation management/resiliency tree work filings
- 3 municipal depreciation requests
- 13 other uncategorized filings, including Inquiry of the Department of Public Utilities into Establishing Policies and Practices for Electric and Gas Companies Regarding Customer Assistance and Ratemaking Measures in Connection to the State of Emergency Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), D.P.U. 20-58, Assessment of the impacts of COVID-19 on gas and electric utilities and their customers

## TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY DIVISION

### Overview

On August 5, 2016, Massachusetts created a statewide regulatory framework for TNCs when Governor Baker signed into law House Bill 4570, *An Act Regulating Transportation Network Companies* (“Legislation”). The law established the new TNC Division under the general supervision and control of the Department, vested it with jurisdiction over TNCs to ensure public safety and convenience, and provided it with funding through an annual proportional surcharge levied on each TNC.

Since its inception on March 24, 2017, the TNC Division has pioneered advanced background-check initiatives while screening well over 200,000 drivers, continued its leadership in the area of TNC ride data reporting, disbursed approximately \$46.2 million to address the impact of transportation network services in Massachusetts, and worked collaboratively with transportation industry representatives to improve transportation network services.

### Background Checks

The TNC Division began running background checks in January 2017 and this effort has continued throughout 2020. Prior to becoming a TNC driver, a person must undergo a two-part background check. First, a TNC performs a multi-state check of an applicant’s criminal and driving histories and, if the applicant meets the TNC Division standards, the TNC forwards the applicant’s information to the Department. The TNC Division then performs a comprehensive Massachusetts-based background check, obtaining criminal offender record information (“CORI”), Sex Offender Registry Information, and Registry of Motor Vehicles’ driving history. Today, any person who arranges a ride through a TNC will know that their driver underwent a thorough two-part background check.

TNC Driver Background Check Clearance Certificates January 2017-December 2020 <sup>27</sup>	
Approved Applications	242,036
Denied Applications	40,115

In 2019, the TNC Division – in collaboration with the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services and the Executive Office of Technology Services & Security – completed implementation of Subsequent Activity Service capability for CORI background checks, becoming the Commonwealth’s first and only non-law enforcement agency to use this service. This means that the TNC Division has near instantaneous notification of new criminal entries on a TNC driver’s CORI. Rapid notification of this kind substantially improves public safety by allowing the TNC Division to remove unsuitable drivers from the road immediately.

### Ride Data

For the past three years, the TNC Division has collaborated with the Executive Office of Technology Services & Security to publish an innovative ride data website (<https://tnc.sites.digital.mass.gov/>). New to 2020, municipal origin and destination information is available in an interactive format. Notably,

<sup>27</sup> The above numbers are de-duplicated by license number (if a person applies to drive from more than one TNC, they are only counted once). The above numbers reflect the decision made on a driver’s initial application only. An approved driver may later have his/her BCCC revoked. The TNC Division has revoked the clearance certificates of 17,568 drivers from January 2017 through December 2020. Additionally, a denied driver may later successfully appeal a denial.

approximately 91.1 million rides began in Massachusetts in 2019, which is more than a 12% increase from the 81.3 million rideshare trips in 2018. The largest increases in numbers of rides from 2017 to 2019 happened in Boston (3 million more), Worcester (314,000 more), and Springfield (almost 233,000 more). However, many smaller towns with smaller numbers of rides saw a much larger percentage increase in rides when compared to 2018 ridership. For example, in Wareham, TNCs reported 25,652 rides in 2019, or 116.9% more rides than 2018. The data also shows high percentage growth in southeastern Massachusetts, for example in Fall River (237,276 rides in 2019 and +76.9% growth), and in New Bedford (281,498 rides and +70.7% growth). TNC rides increased considerably across the Cape and Islands in 2019 when compared to 2018, including in Nantucket (63,119 more), Barnstable (52,803 more), Falmouth (24,732 more), Oak Bluffs (15,657 more), and Provincetown (13,392 more). Year over year, the increase in the number of rides is dramatic in other parts of the state too. Rides starting in Beverly increased from 121,950 in 2017 to 165,270 in 2018 and then to 220,311 in 2019. Similarly, rides starting in Marlborough have grown dramatically from 84,122 in 2017 to 132,263 in 2018 and then to 184,387 in 2019. This rapid growth underscores the important, public safety function of the TNC Division in regulating this new industry.

### **Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Trust Fund**

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In the summer of 2020, the TNC Division distributed over \$18.2 million statewide to address the impact of TNCs on transportation in Massachusetts, an increase from the nearly \$16 million distributed in 2019. The \$0.20 per-ride assessment was again collected from the TNCs and deposited into the Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Trust Fund. As a result, the TNC Division disbursed approximately \$9.1 million to municipalities (proportionally based on the number of rides that originated in each municipality); approximately \$4.5 million the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency; and approximately \$4.5 million to the Commonwealth Transportation Fund. These funds are to be used to address TNC impacts on state and municipal transportation services and to assist small businesses operating in the taxicab, livery, or hackney industries. Also in 2019, the TNC Division published the projects and funding amounts reported by each municipality that received funds, as required by the Legislation, and enabled more streamlined reporting of future projects and funding amounts via a fillable form on the TNC Division's Mass.gov website.

## **TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT DIVISION**

### **Overview**

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The Transportation Oversight Division ("Transportation Division") regulates the rates and practices of common carriers used to transport passengers and property including trucks, railways, buses, household moving companies, towing companies, and hazardous waste companies. In addition, the Transportation Division licenses all Massachusetts based intrastate motor bus companies. The Transportation Division investigates after receiving a consumer complaint regarding a driving violation or an accident involving a Department licensed common carrier. The Transportation Division serves consumer protection and critical public safety functions, including oversight of the MBTA and regional transit authorities for safety of equipment and operation.

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 2020, the Transportation Division generated approximately \$153,440 in revenues which were deposited into the General Fund.

### **Motor Bus Certificates**

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For-hire vehicles with a capacity to carry 10 or more passengers are regulated by the Division. The drivers of Division-regulated vehicles are required to hold a motorbus certificate. The 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 motorbus certificate on-road driver evaluation exams. The motorbus certificate is valid until a driver turns 70 years of age. After turning 70 years of age, drivers must renew their certificate every six months.

<b>Motor Bus Certificates Issued in 2020 (New and Renewals)</b>	
14 Passenger Restricted Renewals	351
14 Passenger Restricted Road Tests	49
<b>Total Certificates Issued</b>	<b>400</b>

### **Destination-Specific Bus Company Compliance Inspections**

Under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Massachusetts State Police Truck Team, Transportation Division bus inspectors perform Joint Passenger Carrier Compliance Inspections (“Compliance Inspection Program”) to check passenger-for-hire vehicles, motor coaches and drivers. These inspections are conducted at multiple locations throughout the Commonwealth at sites with a high frequency of subject vehicles. Examples include: South Station, Logan Airport, Fan Pier, Faneuil Hall and Six Flags New England. Due to the impact of the pandemic, the Inspection Program was suspended from March through October 2020. During the time the program was active, it generated citations totaling \$930.00.

Working with the State Police and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (“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 target inspection locations and times are designed to prevent passenger disruption wherever possible. The compliance schedule includes one passenger-carrier compliance check per week at various locations such as Logan Airport, Boston’s Seaport District, Six Flags New England, Plymouth, and ski areas. The Compliance Inspection Program is funded through the Unified Carrier Registration (“UCR”) Program, which supports random inspections to ensure that passenger carriers are operating with the correct authority, proper insurance levels, and with safe drivers and equipment.

<b>Destination Inspection with State Police Totals for 2020</b>	
Total Vehicle Inspections	143
Total Violations	99
Total Vehicles Placed Out of Service	10
Total Drivers Placed Out of Service	5
Total Citation Fines Issued	\$930.00

Transportation Division field staff also conduct what the FMCSA defines as a “Safety Assessment” (“SAs”). The SAs are a type of audit designed to provide a regulated carrier with an overview of its compliance with various federal safety regulations. Unlike a FMCSA Compliance Review (49 CFR Part 385.109), which is a comprehensive audit performed at the request of the FMCSA, the results of the SA are not reported to the FMCSA; rather, the SAs is an outreach and education tool that the Department provides to carriers in an effort to help them identify any deficiencies that will need attention without imposing a penalty.

### **Safety Oversight of Transit Authorities and Passenger-For-Hire Bus Companies**

State law specifies the Department as the oversight agency responsible for the safety of equipment and operations of all Massachusetts regional transit authorities and passenger-for-hire bus companies based in Massachusetts, including transit bus systems, motor coaches, and sightseeing vehicles. The Transportation Division performed 2,892 bus safety inspections during 2020.



<b>Bus Safety Inspections in 2020</b>	
Bus, Duck, Limo Inspections	1,697
Transit Bus Inspections	890
Vehicles Placed Out of Service	118
Compliance Reviews	30
<b>Total Bus Safety Inspections (as of November 30)</b>	<b>2,735</b>

### **Safety Oversight of the Rail Transit Authority**

The new requirements of 49 CFR Part 674 significantly increase the State’s responsibility for performing field assurance activities and assessing the effectiveness of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (“PTASP” or “Agency Safety Plan”) in ensuring safety. The Department conducted a total of 225 field assurance activities (i.e. Risk Monitoring Activities) in the year 2020 (as of November 30).

<b>Rail (MBTA) Oversight/Risk Monitoring Activities in 2020 (as of November 30, 2020)</b>	
Reviews	126
Field Observations	68
Interviews	60
Inspections	9
Event Investigations Initiated and Being Tracked	38
Triennial Audit of MBTA Safety Plan Implementation	1
<b>Total Rail Oversight Activities</b>	<b>225</b>

### **Background and Status of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (“PTASP”)**

On July 19, 2018, the Federal Transit Administration (“FTA”) published PTASP Final Rule 49 CFR 673. This final rule requires States and certain operators of urban public transportation systems that receive federal funds to develop safety plans that include the processes and procedures to implement Safety Management Systems (“SMS”). The objective of 49 CFR Part 673 Final Rule is improving public transportation safety by guiding transit agencies to more effectively and proactively manage safety risks within their operating systems. The PTASP rule became effective July 19, 2019, and transit operators – in this case, MBTA – must certify they have a safety plan in place meeting the requirements of the rule by July 20, 2020. However, in light of the extraordinary operational challenges presented by the COVID-19 health emergency, the FTA issued a Notice of Enforcement Discretion effectively extending the PTASP compliance deadline from July 20, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

The initial PTASP must be certified by the Department and updated by the MBTA annually. On June 25, 2020, the Department received the MBTA’s initial PTASP in the form of its “2020 Safety Plan”. The Department completed its review and certified the PTASP on July 16, 2020.

The Department continuously monitors and measures the implementation of the Agency Safety Plan to assess the safe operations of the transit system. To satisfy the new requirements and responsibilities of the Division, the number of personnel was increased through a series of new full-time personnel and a third-party contractor.

### **The FTA Audit of the Massachusetts State Safety Oversight (“SSO”) Program**

Federal regulation, 49 CFR Part 674.11, requires FTA to audit each State’s compliance of their SSO program at least once every three years. From October 21-25, 2019, the FTA conducted its triennial audit of the Department’s SSO Program for the MBTA, its first audit of the Division since certification of the SSO program.

This audit consisted of interviews with members of the Division and the MBTA, as well as various field activities. As part of the audit process, the FTA provided the Division an opportunity to review the draft audit report for errors of fact and to submit factual corrections to the FTA. The Division received the FTA’s draft audit report in the first quarter of 2020. On December 8, 2020, the FTA issued the “Final State Safety Oversight Program Audit Report of the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities”. The Department has 45 business days to respond to each finding with a corrective action plan.

### **The Triennial Audit of the MBTA**

Under 49 CFR Part 674, the Department is required to conduct an external audit of the MBTA’s implementation of its Safety Plan at least once every three years.

The triennial audit has been split into 12 groupings that encompass all the components of the PTASP. The Department, with support from its third-party contractor, conducted various interviews with the MBTA personnel responsible for key safety programs and functions. In addition to interviews, the Department continues to conduct verification activities, which includes field observations (to observe implementation of processes) and records reviews (to verify procedures and supporting documents described in the Agency Safety Plan).

At the close of 2020, the triennial audit remains in progress. At the conclusion of the audit, the Department will issue a final report to the MBTA summarizing the scope and activities of the audit. Accordingly, any non-conformance to the Agency Safety Plan identified will result in recommendations and findings.

### **Licensing of Certain Common Carriers**

In accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 159B, § 3, and G.L. c. 159A, §§ 7 and 11A, the Transportation Oversight Division licenses common carriers transporting people or property “for hire”. This includes bus companies, tow companies and household movers. During 2020, the Transportation Oversight Division conducted 60 licensing hearings.

<b>Licensing Hearings in 2020</b>	
Bus Companies	17
Tow Companies	16
Household Movers	27
<b>Total Licensing Hearings</b>	<b>60</b>

### **Vehicle Decals and Permits**

Vehicle specific decals and permits (for trucks and buses) are required by law to denote a licensed common carrier. In 2020, the Transportation Oversight Division issued 2,630 decals and permits, collecting over \$106,200 in revenues that were deposited into the Commonwealth’s General Fund.

### **2020 Tow Company Audits**

In 2020, the Transportation Division conducted 88 random tow company audits designed to monitor compliance with the Department’s towing regulations and rates published at 220 CMR Section 272.00. These audits uncovered various violations with respect to the rates charged for “involuntary tows” which include police and public authority ordered tows (e.g. arrest, snow emergencies, street cleaning, etc.) as well as trespass tows. In 2020, 20 tow companies signed agreements, and each paid a \$100.00 fine to resolve violations discovered during an audit. In addition to tow company audits, the Division also investigated a total of 60 consumer tow complaints.

## 2020 Consumer Tow Complaints

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In 2020, the Transportation Division investigated 60 consumer tow complaints. These investigations resulted in \$143.00 dollars refunded to consumers.

## APPENDIX 1: 2020 SITING BOARD DECISIONS AND SITING DIVISION'S DEPARTMENT ORDERS

- NSTAR Electric Company, D.P.U. 18-155
- New England Power Company, D.P.U. 19-16
- NSTAR Electric Company, D.P.U. 19-46
- NSTAR Electric Company, D.P.U. 19-80

## APPENDIX 2: DEPARTMENT ORDERS ISSUED IN 2020

Docket #	Caption	Order Date
19-119	Petition of Berkshire Gas Company for authorization and approval: (1) to issue long-term debt securities in an amount not to exceed \$25,000,000, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 14; and (2) for an exemption from the advertising requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15.	1/3/2020
19-GAF-P3	Blackstone Gas Company request for approval of a revised gas adjustment factor filing effective January 1, 2020, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	1/3/2020
19-120	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company doing business as Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.00, for Approval of General Increases in Base Distribution Rates for Gas Service.	1/3/2020
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.	1/6/2020
19-GC-59	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Bird Incorporated d/b/a CertainTeed, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	1/6/2020
18-SQ-12	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid's 2017 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).	1/7/2020
17-161	Petition of Western Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 1044E, to the Department of Public Utilities Seeking to Recover Actual and Projected Costs Associated With its Solar Program.	1/10/2020
19-02	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil 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 2018-2023.	1/13/2020
19-SQ-10	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2018 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).	1/13/2020

19-SQ-11	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2018 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).	1/13/2020
19-SQ-12	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2018 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).	1/13/2020
19-SQ-13	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2018 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).	1/13/2020
19-SQ-14	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2018 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).	1/13/2020
18-08	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, M.D.P.U. No. 1339.	1/14/2020
18-23	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 its Solar Phase II generation facilities in Fall River, Massachusetts pursuant to Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 14-01 (2014).	1/14/2020
18-41	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil, to the Department of Public Utilities for approval of recovery of costs through its Solar Cost Adjustment tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 299.	1/15/2020
20-02	Order of Delegation for Electric Competitive Supply and Electricity Broker Renewal Applications.	1/16/2020
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.	1/23/2020
19-GC-13	Petition of Colonial Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of the First Amendment to a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Tanner Street Generation, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	1/22/2020
19-GC-14	Petition of Colonial Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of the First Amendment to a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid	1/22/2020



	and Tanner Street Generation, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	
19-GC-33	Petition of Colonial Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of the Second Amendment to a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Tanner Street Generation, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	1/22/2020
19-GC-34	Petition of Colonial Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of the Second Amendment to a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Tanner Street Generation, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	1/22/2020
19-GC-42	Petition of Colonial Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of the Third Amendment to a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Tanner Street Generation, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	1/22/2020
19-GC-43	Petition of Colonial Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of the Third Amendment to a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Tanner Street Generation, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	1/22/2020
19-GC-52	Petition of Colonial Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of the Fourth Amendment to a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Tanner Street Generation, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	1/22/2020
19-GC-53	Petition of Colonial Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of the Fourth Amendment to a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Tanner Street Generation, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	1/22/2020
19-GC-54	Petition of Colonial Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Tanner Street Generation, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	1/22/2020
19-GC-55	Petition of Colonial Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement and the First Amendment to a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Tanner Street Generation, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	1/22/2020
19-82	Adjudicatory hearing in the matter of a revocation of a towing certificate No. 31592 issued by the Transportation Oversight Division of the Department of Public Utilities to Joseph Lewis d/b/a All Over Towing concerning failure to comply with certain regulatory and statutory requirements for tow operators.	1/24/2020
19-118	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 \$270,000,000, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 14 and (2) for an exemption from the advertising requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15.	1/27/2020

15-182	Petition of Sun Edison LLC for Clarification of a Net Metering Order or, in the alternative, an Exception from the Net Metering Regulations, 220 CMR 18.00, pursuant to 220 CMR 18.09(7).	1/29/2020
19-GAF-P2	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its revised gas adjustment factor filing effective February 1, 2020, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	1/30/2020
19-GAF-P4	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its revised gas adjustment factor filing effective February 1, 2020, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	1/30/2020
19-GC-60	Petition of Colonial Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Aggregate Industries - Northeast Region, Inc., pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	2/3/2020
16-74	Petition by NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy to the Department of Public Utilities for Review and Determination of the Eligibility for Recovery of \$109 Million in Storm-Related Preparation and Response Costs Associated with Eight Storm Events in 2012 through 2015.	2/6/2020
17-51	Petition by NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy to the Department of Public Utilities for Review and Determination of the Eligibility for Recovery of \$11 Million in Storm-Related Preparation and Response Costs Associated with Two Storm Events in 2016.	2/6/2020
18-133	Petition of the Town of Becket for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	2/7/2020
18-134	Petition of the Town of Buckland for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	2/7/2020
18-135	Petition of the Town of Charlemont for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	2/7/2020
18-136	Petition of the Town of Colrain for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	2/7/2020
18-137	Petition of the Town of Conway for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	2/7/2020
18-138	Petition of the Town of Deerfield for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	2/7/2020
18-139	Petition of the Town of Gill for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	2/7/2020
18-140	Petition of the Town of Huntington for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	2/7/2020
18-141	Petition of the Town of New Salem for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	2/7/2020

18-142	Petition of the Town of Northfield for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	2/7/2020
18-143	Petition of the Town of Shelburne for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	2/7/2020
18-144	Petition of the Town of Sunderland for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	2/7/2020
18-145	Petition of the Town of Warwick for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	2/7/2020
18-146	Petition of the Town of Whately for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	2/7/2020
18-116	Petition of 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 2019 through 2021.	2/10/2020
19-137	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, 2020.	2/18/2020
20-12	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, M.D.P.U. No. 1411.	2/20/2020
18-93	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 four Solar Phase II generation facilities in Charlton, Leicester, and Shirley, Massachusetts pursuant to Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 14-01 (2014).	2/20/2020
19-SQ-01	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2018 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).	2/20/2020
19-SQ-02	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2018 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).	2/20/2020
19-SQ-03	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2018 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).	2/20/2020

19-SQ-04	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2018 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).	2/20/2020
19-SQ-05	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2018 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).	2/20/2020
19-SQ-06	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2018 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).	2/20/2020
19-SQ-08	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2018 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).	2/20/2020
19-SQ-09	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2018 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).	2/20/2020
20-BSF-B1	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy's Basic Service Filing for Western Massachusetts Electric Company.	2/24/2020
20-05	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, 2020.	2/24/2020
20-05	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, 2020.	2/24/2020
19-104	Petition of Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2019 Peak Period, November 1, 2019, through April 30, 2020.	2/26/2020
19-GAF-P3	Blackstone Gas Company request for approval of a revised gas adjustment factor filing effective March 1, 2020, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	2/26/2020
19-SQ-10	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil's 2018 Service Quality Report filed pursuant to Service Quality Standards for Electric Distribution Companies and Local Gas Distribution Companies, D.T.E. 04-116-B (2006) and D.T.E. 04-116-C (2007).	2/27/2020
19-50	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	2/27/2020

	recovery of costs through, and revisions to, its Solar Cost Adjustment tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 299.	
19-144	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.	2/27/2020
19-117	Investigation and audit by the Department of Public Utilities, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 5E and G.L. c. 164, § 76A into the efficiencies of operations and productivity of the management and personnel of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid	2/27/2020
19-81	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid requesting approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Capital Investment Report for calendar year 2018 and CapEx Factors for effect March 1, 2019.	2/28/2020
17-146	Inquiry by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into the eligibility of energy storage systems to net meter pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 138-140 and 220 CMR 18.00, and application of the net metering rules and regulations relating to the participation of certain net metering facilities in the Forward Capacity Market pursuant to Net Metering Tariff, D.P.U. 09-03-A (2009).	2/28/2020
20-01	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval of their 2019 electric reconciliation filing effective March 1, 2020, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	2/28/2020
20-04	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, 2020.	2/28/2020
19-131	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 Gas Base Distribution Rates.	2/28/2020
20-BSF-C1	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy's Basic Service Filing.	3/2/2020
18-150	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each doing business as National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.00, for Approval of General Increases in Base Distribution Rates for Electric Service.	3/2/2020
15-184	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion to Establish Electronic Filing Guidelines.	3/4/2020
20-05	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, 2020.	3/4/2020



20-ASMT-04	Steam Distribution Company Assessment of the Department of Public Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 25, §18A, for fiscal year 2020.	3/10/2020
20-ASMT-01	General Assessment of the Department of Public Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 18, for fiscal year 2020.	3/12/2020
20-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 2020.	3/12/2020
20-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 2020.	3/12/2020
19-117	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its Own Motion into the efficiencies of operations and productivity of National Grid’s management and personnel [Management Audit].	3/12/2020
19-47	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of consolidated 2019 service quality benchmarks and a single service quality plan for NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company.	3/12/2020
19-GC-57	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 Hanscom Air Force Base, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	3/19/2020
20-GC-01	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Hanscom Air Force Base, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	3/19/2020
20-GC-02	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 d/b/a Union Hospital, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	3/23/2020
18-133	Petition of the Town of Becket for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	3/23/2020
20-BSF-D1	Basic Service Filing of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid	3/24/2020
20-25	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval to extend existing gas-resource contracts, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	3/26/2020
20-GC-03	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	3/30/2020
19-57	Petition of East Northfield Water Company pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94; G.L. c. 165, § 2; and 220 CMR 5.00 et seq. for Approval of a General Rate Increase as set forth in M.D.P.U. No. 13.	3/31/2020
19-13	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	4/1/2020

	annual reconciliation filing for recovery of costs through its Solar Cost Adjustment Provision Tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 1369	
18-SQ-12	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid's 2017 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).	4/1/2020
18-134	Petition of the Town of Buckland for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	4/3/2020
18-135	Petition of the Town of Charlemont for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	4/3/2020
18-136	Petition of the Town of Colrain for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	4/3/2020
18-137	Petition of the Town of Conway for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	4/3/2020
18-138	Petition of the Town of Deerfield for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	4/3/2020
18-139	Petition of the Town of Gill for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	4/3/2020
18-140	Petition of the Town of Huntington for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	4/3/2020
18-141	Petition of the Town of New Salem for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	4/3/2020
18-142	Petition of the Town of Northfield for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	4/3/2020
18-143	Petition of the Town of Shelburne for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	4/3/2020
18-144	Petition of the Town of Sunderland for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	4/3/2020
18-145	Petition of the Town of Warwick for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	4/3/2020
18-146	Petition of the Town of Whately for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	4/3/2020
20-BSF-A2	Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil Basic Service Filing.	4/8/2020
17-164	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 and Western Massachusetts Electric	4/8/2020

	Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of a proposed revision of Section 3.4.1 of the Standards of Interconnection of Distributed Generation Tariff.	
16-141	Petition of the Town of Pembroke for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	4/9/2020
16-57	Petition of the Town of Franklin for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	4/9/2020
20-16	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of two long-term contracts for procurement of Offshore Wind Energy Generation, pursuant to Section 83C of An Act Relative to Green Communities, St. 2008, c. 169, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12.	4/10/2020
20-17	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of two long-term contracts for procurement of Offshore Wind Energy Generation, pursuant to Section 83C of An Act Relative to Green Communities, St. 2008, c. 169, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12.	4/10/2020
20-18	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of two long-term contracts for procurement of Offshore Wind Energy Generation, pursuant to Section 83C of An Act Relative to Green Communities, St. 2008, c. 169, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12.	4/10/2020
19-08	Request of Sippican Community Solar Garden, LLC, for an Adjudicatory Proceeding pursuant to Section 9.3 of the Standards For Interconnection of Distributed Generation, M.D.P.U. No. 55, of NSTAR Electric Company.	4/10/2020
18-40	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of the rates and charges set forth in proposed tariffs M.D.P.U. Nos. 492 through 514 and approval of a general increase in base distribution rates for gas service pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.00.	4/10/2020
19-GREC-02	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for review and approval of the reconciliation of its 2018 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	4/10/2020
18-110	Petition of Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2019 through 2021.	4/10/2020
17-13	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for Approval of its Electric Vehicle Market Development Program, and of its Electric Vehicle Market Development Program Provision, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 76, 94, and Acts of 2016, c. 448.	4/13/2020
19-28	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, to the Department of Public Utilities for approval of	4/16/2020

	recovery of costs associated with one Solar Phase III generation facility located in Athol, Massachusetts.	
17-109	Petition of the Town of Easton for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	4/16/2020
19-130	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 Electric Base Distribution Rates	4/17/2020
19-120	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company doing business as Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.00, for Approval of General Increases in Base Distribution Rates for Gas Service.	4/22/2020
19-55	Inquiry by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Distributed Generation Interconnection.	4/22/2020
20-09	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil, for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2020 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2020, through October 31, 2020.	4/23/2020
20-11	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2020 Off-Peak Period, for effect May 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020.	4/23/2020
20-13	Petition of Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval of their Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2020 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020.	4/23/2020
20-14	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corporation d/b/a Liberty Utilities for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2020 Off-Peak Period, for effect May 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020.	4/23/2020
20-08	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2020 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2020, through October 31, 2020.	4/23/2020
20-10	Petition of Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2020 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2020, through October 31, 2020.	4/23/2020
20-GAF-01	Petition of Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2020, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/24/2020
20-GAF-02	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2020, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/24/2020
20-GAF-03	Petition of Blackstone Gas Company for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2020, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/24/2020

20-GAF-04	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, 2020, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/24/2020
20-GAF-06	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2020, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/24/2020
20-GAF-08	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2020, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/24/2020
20-32	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for review and approval of their basic service costs adder rate adjustment for effect May 1, 2020.	4/27/2020
20-31	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Program Factors for effect May 1, 2020.	4/28/2020
20-30	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of its 2020 Smart Grid Pilot Program Rate Adjustment and Reconciliation Filing.	4/28/2020
20-26	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for Approval of their 2020 Energy Efficiency Reconciling Factors, for effect May 1, 2020.	4/29/2020
20-GAF-05	Petition of Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company, each d/b/a National Grid for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2020, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/30/2020
20-POR-01	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid pursuant to the Company's Tariffs M.D.P.U. 1420 and 1421, § 8B, for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's Standard Complete Billing Percentages for effect May 1, 2020, under the Company's Purchase of Receivables Program.	4/30/2020
20-POR-02	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy pursuant to § 8B.2.b of the Company's Terms and Conditions-Competitive Suppliers and Competitive REA Suppliers for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's Standard Complete Billing Percentages for effect May 1, 2020, under the Company's Purchase of Receivables Program.	4/30/2020
19-GSEP-01	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2020 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2020.	4/30/2020
19-GSEP-02	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for Approval of its 2020 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2020.	4/30/2020



19-GSEP-03	Petition of Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company, each d/b/a National Grid for Approval of 2020 Gas System Enhancement Plans, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, and for rates effective May 1, 2020.	4/30/2020
19-GSEP-04	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities for Approval of its 2020 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2020.	4/30/2020
19-GSEP-05	Petition of Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts for Approval of its 2020 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2020.	4/30/2020
19-GSEP-06	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2020 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2020.	4/30/2020
16-37	Joint Petition of Sheffield Water Company and Mountain Water Systems, Inc. for Approval of the Sale of Sheffield Water Company to Mountain Water Systems, Inc., pursuant to G.L. c. 165, § 2 and G.L. c. 164, § 96, and for Approval of the Issuance of Debt Securities and Common Stock by Mountain Water Systems, Inc., pursuant to G.L. c. 165, § 2 and G.L. c. 164, §§ 14, 16, 17A.	5/1/2020
19-57	Petition of East Northfield Water Company pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94; G.L. c. 165, § 2; and 220 CMR 5.00 et seq. for Approval of a General Rate Increase as set forth in M.D.P.U. No. 13.	5/1/2020
20-30	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of its 2020 Smart Grid Pilot Program Rate Adjustment and Reconciliation Filing.	5/1/2020
20-07	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities, for revisions to a regulated money pool agreement, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 17A.	5/4/2020
19-GSEP-05	Petition of Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts for Approval of its 2020 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2020.	5/7/2020
20-41	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil, to the Department of Public Utilities for approval of recovery of costs through its Solar Cost Adjustment tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 328.	5/11/2020
20-58	Inquiry of the Department of Public Utilities into Establishing Policies and Practices for Electric and Gas Companies Regarding Customer Assistance and Ratemaking Measures in Connection to the State of Emergency Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).	5/11/2020
15-120	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, d/b/a National Grid for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Plan.	5/12/2020

15-121	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Plan.	5/12/2020
15-122	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, each d/b/a Eversource Energy, for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of their Grid Modernization Plan	5/12/2020
20-AMST-01	Supplemental Assessment of the Department of Public Utilities pursuant to Orders issued under G.L. c. 25, § 4B.	5/12/2020
20-BSF-B2	Basic Service Filing of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy.	5/15/2020
19-117	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its Own Motion into the efficiencies of operations and productivity of National Grid’s management and personnel [Management Audit].	5/19/2020
20-42	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval of revised Energy Efficiency Reconciling Factors, for effect June 1, 2020.	5/20/2020
20-BSF-C2	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, Basic Service Filing.	5/20/2020
19-130	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 General Increases in Base Distribution Rates for Electric Service, to become effective January 1, 2020.	5/21/2020
18-132	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of 2019 Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Factors.	5/21/2020
19-07	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Initiatives to Promote and Protect Consumer Interests in the Retail Electric Competitive Supply Market	5/22/2020
18-157	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities, on its own motion, into the operations, practices, and rates of Century Mill Limited Partnership pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 93, and G.L. c. 165, §§ 2, 4.	5/29/2020
20-55	Petition of Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company’s proposal for the cable facilities surcharge factors for effect beginning June 2020 for the second of the two submarine cables that serve the island of Nantucket.	5/28/2020
20-55	Petition of Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company’s proposal for the cable facilities surcharge factors for effect beginning June 2020 for the second of the two submarine cables that serve the island of Nantucket.	5/28/2020
19-124	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its annual Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for effect January 1, 2020.	6/1/2020
19-139	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company Energy d/b/a Unitil (electric division) for approval of its annual Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for effect January 1, 2020.	6/1/2020

20-42	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil, for Approval of its 2020 Energy Efficiency Reconciling Factors, for effect June 1, 2020.	6/2/2020
18-46	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid requesting approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Capital Investment Report for calendar year 2017 and CapEx Factors for effect March 1, 2019.	6/2/2020
19-24	Joint Petitions of Distribution Companies to Revise Model Tariffs Governing Net Metering and SMART pursuant to Department Inquiry, D.P.U. 17-146.	6/3/2020
20-GREC-01	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for review and approval of the reconciliation of its 2019 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	6/3/2020
20-GREC-02	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for review and approval of the reconciliation of its 2019 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	6/3/2020
20-GREC-03	Petition of Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company each d/b/a/ National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for review and approval of the reconciliation of its 2019 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factor.	6/3/2020
20-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 2019 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	6/3/2020
20-GREC-05	Petition of Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for review and approval of the reconciliation of its 2019 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	6/3/2020
20-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 2019 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factor.	6/3/2020
19-39	Petition of Grafton & Upton Railroad Company for Authority to Acquire Property in Hopedale, Massachusetts, pursuant to G.L. c.160, § 83	6/5/2020
17-170	Petition of Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company, each doing business as National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.00, for Approval of General Increases in Base Distribution Rates for Gas Service.	6/10/2020
19-07	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Initiatives to Promote and Protect Consumer Interests in the Retail Electric Competitive Supply Market.	6/10/2020

19-AMP	2019 Arrearage Management Plans.	6/10/2020
18-123	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 66B, to the Department of Public Utilities Seeking to Recover Actual and Projected Costs Associated With its Solar Program.	6/11/2020
19-17	Petition of the City of Haverhill for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	6/11/2020
18-134	Petition of the Town of Buckland for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	6/12/2020
18-135	Petition of the Town of Charlemont for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	6/12/2020
18-136	Petition of the Town of Colrain for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	6/12/2020
18-137	Petition of the Town of Conway for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	6/12/2020
18-138	Petition of the Town of Deerfield for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	6/12/2020
18-139	Petition of the Town of Gill for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	6/12/2020
18-140	Petition of the Town of Huntington for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	6/12/2020
18-141	Petition of the Town of New Salem for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	6/12/2020
18-142	Petition of the Town of Northfield for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	6/12/2020
18-143	Petition of the Town of Shelburne for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	6/12/2020
18-144	Petition of the Town of Sunderland for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	6/12/2020
18-145	Petition of the Town of Warwick for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	6/12/2020
18-146	Petition of the Town of Whately for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	6/12/2020
17-36	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid, for authorization and approval (1) to issue long-term debt in the principal amount of up to \$1.25 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.	6/15/2020

20-BSF-D2	Basic Service filing of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for the period August 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020.	6/22/2020
19-55	Inquiry by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Distributed Generation Interconnection.	6/23/2020
20-40	Petition of the Cape Light Compact JPE for Approval to Implement a Strategic Electrification and Energy Optimization Offering and Associated Budget.	6/23/2020
20-64	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 for effect July 1, 2020.	6/26/2020
20-GAF-01	Petition of Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts for approval of its revised gas adjustment factor filing effective July 1, 2020, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	6/26/2020
20-GAF-O3	Blackstone Gas Company request for approval of a revised gas adjustment factor filing effective July 1, 2020, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	6/26/2020
20-GAF-O4	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its revised gas adjustment factor filing effective July 1, 2020, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	6/26/2020
20-GAF-O5	Petition of Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company, each d/b/a National Grid for approval of its revised gas adjustment factor filing effective July 1, 2020, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	6/26/2020
20-GAF-O8	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its revised gas adjustment factor filing effective July 1, 2020 pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	6/26/2020
20-58	Inquiry of the Department of Public Utilities into Establishing Policies and Practices for Electric and Gas Companies Regarding Customer Assistance and Ratemaking Measures in Connection to the State of Emergency Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic	6/26/2020
20-54	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of Revised Grid Modernization Program Factors for effect July 1, 2020.	6/29/2020
20-49	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of Revised Energy Efficiency Reconciling Factors for Effect July 1, 2020.	6/29/2020
18-130	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval of 2019 Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Factors.	6/30/2020
19-17	Petition of the City of Haverhill for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	7/1/2020
20-49	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of Revised Energy Efficiency Reconciling Factors for Effect July 1, 2020.	7/1/2020



20-49	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of Revised Energy Efficiency Reconciling Factors for Effect July 1, 2020.	7/1/2020
n/a	2019 Onsite Generation Facilities Report	7/1/2020
20-69	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into the Modernization of the Electric Grid – Phase Two.	7/2/2020
19-132	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a fourteen-year firm transportation agreement with Algonquin Gas Transmission Company, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	7/3/2020
20-70	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 the following regulations: 220 CMR 36.00, 220 CMR 69.00, 220 CMR 100.00, 220 CMR 101.00, 220 CMR 104.00, 220 CMR 107.00, 220 CMR 108.00, 220 CMR 109.00, 220 CMR 111.00, 220 CMR 112.00, and 220 CMR 113.00.	7/7/2020
19-122	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2019 electric reconciliation filing effective January 1, 2020, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	7/8/2020
19-138	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2019 electric reconciliation filing effective January 1, 2020, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	7/8/2020
20-GC-04	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.	7/9/2020
15-122	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, each d/b/a Eversource Energy, for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of their Grid Modernization Plan.	7/9/2020
20-01	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval of their 2019 electric reconciliation filing effective March 1, 2020, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	7/10/2020
19-88	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its annual pension adjustment factor reconciliation filing for effect November 1, 2019.	7/15/2020
19-102	Petition of Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company each d/b/a National Grid for approval of their annual pension adjustment factor reconciliation filing for effect November 1, 2019.	7/15/2020
19-103	Petition of Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts for approval of its annual pension adjustment factor reconciliation filing for effect November 1, 2019.	7/15/2020

19-105	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its annual gas division and electric division pension adjustment factor reconciliation filing for effect November 1, 2019 (gas) and January 1, 2020 (electric).	7/15/2020
19-107	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities for approval of its annual pension adjustment factor reconciliation filing for effect November 1, 2019.	7/15/2020
18-133	Petition of the Town of Becket for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	7/15/2020
18-157	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities, on its own motion, into the operations, practices, and rates of Century Mill Limited Partnership pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 93, and G.L. c. 165, §§ 2, 4.	7/15/2020
20-65	Appeal of the Innovation Academy Charter School from the decision of the Director of the Electric Power Division to deny eligibility as an other governmental entity pursuant to G.L. c. §§ 138, 139 and 220 CMR 18.02.	7/17/2020
20-ASMT-01	Supplemental Assessment of the Department of Public Utilities pursuant to Orders issued under G.L. c. 25, § 4B.	7/20/2020
20-27	Petition of the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Council's 2020 budget.	7/21/2020
15-32	Petition of The Cadmus Group, Inc. for an Investigation into the Matter of the Interpretation and Application of Orders of the Department of Public Utilities with Respect to the Administration of the System of Assurance of Net Metering Eligibility.	7/22/2020
16-116	Petition of Genbright LLC for a Declaratory Order concerning Net Metering Rules and Regulations.	7/22/2020
19-65	Petition of the City of Boston for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134	7/22/2020
19-134	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for Review and Approval of its proposed 2020 Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Factor Filing for rates to be effective January 1, 2020.	7/27/2020
20-66	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for authorization and approval to issue long-term debt in the principal amount of up to \$35,000,000, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §14; and for an exemption from the competitive solicitation and advertising requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15.	7/27/2020
20-33	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil (Electric Division), for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Active Demand Reduction, Daily Dispatch Pay-For Performance offering.	7/28/2020

20-34	Petition of 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, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Active Demand Reduction, Daily Dispatch Pay-For Performance offering.	7/28/2020
20-35	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 Active Demand Reduction, Daily Dispatch Pay-For Performance offering.	7/28/2020
20-36	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Active Demand Reduction, Daily Dispatch Pay-For Performance offering.	7/28/2020
19-125	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for review and approval of its proposed Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Factor Filing for rates to be effective January 1, 2020.	7/29/2020
20-GAF-O8	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2020, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	7/29/2020
19-134	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, 2020.	7/29/2020
19-125	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for review and approval of its proposed Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Factor Filing for rates to be effective January 1, 2020.	7/29/2020
20-58	Inquiry of the Department of Public Utilities into Establishing Policies and Practices for Electric and Gas Companies Regarding Customer Assistance and Ratemaking Measures in Connection to the State of Emergency Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic.	7/31/2020
20-58	Inquiry of the Department of Public Utilities into Establishing Policies and Practices for Electric and Gas Companies Regarding Customer Assistance and Ratemaking Measures in Connection to the State of Emergency Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic.	8/3/2020
19-55-C	Inquiry by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Distributed Generation Interconnection.	8/6/2020
17-140	Joint Petition of Electric Distribution Companies for Approval of Model Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Tariff pursuant to An Act Relative to Solar Energy, St. 2016, c. 75, § 11(b), 225 CMR 20.00.	8/7/2020
20-52	Petition of Harbor Electric Energy Company for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Capacity and Support Charge True-Up Adjustment for 2019.	8/7/2020

18-94	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid for recovery of incremental storm-related expenses associated with the March 2, 2017 and March 14, 2017 storms, pursuant to D.P.U. 15-155-A.	8/11/2020
20-BSF-B3	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy Basic Service Rates Filing (Western Massachusetts).	8/13/2020
17-164	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 and Western Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of a proposed revision of Section 3.4.1 of the Standards of Interconnection of Distributed Generation Tariff.	8/13/2020
19-19	Petition of the Town of Lincoln for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	8/18/2020
20-BSF-C3	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, Basic Service Rates.	8/19/2020
20-69	Petition of Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into the Modernization of the Electric Grid – Phase Two.	8/24/2020
16-57	Petition of the Town of Franklin for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	8/24/2020
16-141	Petition of the Town of Pembroke for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	8/24/2020
17-109	Petition of the Town of Easton for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	8/24/2020
19-17	Petition of the City of Haverhill for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	8/24/2020
19-65	Petition of the City of Boston for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	8/24/2020
18-124	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 67B, seeking to recover investment and ongoing maintenance costs associated with its Solar Expansion Program.	8/31/2020
20-61	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company, d/b/a National Grid, for authorization and approval (1) to issue long-term debt in the principal amount of up to \$1.1 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.	8/31/2020
20-62	Petition of New England Power Company, d/b/a National Grid, for authorization and approval (1) to issue long-term debt in the principal amount of up to \$1.1 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.	8/31/2020

19-32	Petition of the Town of Sharon for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	9/1/2020
20-GAF-03	Petition of Blackstone Gas Company for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2020, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	9/2/2020
20-58	Inquiry of the Department of Public Utilities into Establishing Policies and Practices for Electric and Gas Companies Regarding Customer Assistance and Ratemaking Measures in Connection to the State of Emergency Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).	9/3/2020
19-48	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2018 Interconnection Timeline Enforcement Mechanism Report.	9/8/2020
19-49	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of its 2018 Interconnection Timeline Enforcement Mechanism Report.	9/8/2020
19-54	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2018 Annual Interconnection Timeline Enforcement Mechanism Report.	9/8/2020
20-37	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of its 2019 Annual Interconnection Timeline Enforcement Metric Report.	9/8/2020
20-39	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2019 Annual Interconnection Timeline Enforcement Metric Report.	9/8/2020
20-44	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2019 Annual Interconnection Timeline Enforcement Metric Report.	9/8/2020
19-55	Inquiry by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Distributed Generation Interconnection.	9/16/2020
20-BSF-D3	Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid's Basic Service filing for the periods November 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021 for the residential and commercial customer groups and November 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021 for the industrial customer group.	9/18/2020
20-76	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for review and approval of its five-year Forecast and Supply Plan for the period November 1, 2019 through October 31, 2024.	9/21/2020
19-90	2016-2018 Energy Efficiency Term Report for Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts.	9/23/2020
19-91	2016-2018 Energy Efficiency Term Report for The Berkshire Gas Company.	9/23/2020
19-92	2016-2018 Energy Efficiency Term Report for Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (Gas Division).	9/23/2020
19-93	2016-2018 Energy Efficiency Term Report for Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities	9/23/2020



19-94	2016-2018 Energy Efficiency Term Report for Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company, each d/b/a National Grid.	9/23/2020
19-95	2016-2018 Energy Efficiency Term Report for NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy.	9/23/2020
19-97	2016-2018 Energy Efficiency Term Report for Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Department d/b/a Unitil (Electric Division).	9/23/2020
19-98	2016-2018 Energy Efficiency Term Report Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid.	9/23/2020
19-99	2016-2018 Energy Efficiency Term Report for NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy.	9/23/2020
20-68	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 Companies' Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan for effect October 1, 2020.	9/23/2020
20-68	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 Companies' Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan for effect October 1, 2020.	9/28/2020
20-GAF-O8	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2020, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	9/30/2020
20-73	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil for Review and Approval of an Asset Management Agreement with Emera Energy Services, Inc., for effect November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2023.	10/1/2020
20-BSF-A4	Basic Service Filing of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil.	10/2/2020
19-24	Joint Petitions of Distribution Companies to Revise Model Tariffs Governing Net Metering and SMART pursuant to Department Inquiry, D.P.U. 17-146.	10/2/2020
19-19	Petition of the Town of Lincoln for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	10/5/2020
19-32	Petition of the Town of Sharon for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	10/5/2020
20-59	Joint Petition of Eversource Energy, NiSource Inc., Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts, and Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of (1) the sale of Bay State Gas Company to Eversource Energy; and (2) a settlement agreement resolving the proposed sale and two pending Department investigations into the Merrimack Valley Incident: Bay State Gas Company, D.P.U. 19-140 and Bay State Gas Company, D.P.U. 19-141.	10/7/2020

19-140	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts' responsibility for and response to the September 13, 2018 Merrimack Valley Incident, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 60105, G.L. c. 164, § 76, G.L. c. 164, § 105A, and 220 CMR 69.00.	10/7/2020
19-141	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into the Preparation and Response of Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts with respect to the September 13, 2018 Merrimack Valley Gas Event pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1J, 76, and 85B, and 220 CMR 19.00.	10/7/2020
20-68	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 Companies' Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan Filing for effect October 1, 2020.	10/13/2020
20-03	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities for approval by the Department of Public Utilities, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 96, of the acquisition of Blackstone Gas Company.	10/13/2020
17-164	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 a proposed revision of Section 3.4.1 of the Standards of Interconnection of Distributed Generation Tariff.	10/15/2020
20-58	Inquiry of the Department of Public Utilities into Establishing Policies and Practices for Electric and Gas Companies Regarding Customer Assistance and Ratemaking Measures in Connection to the State of Emergency Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).	10/15/2020
20-58	Inquiry of the Department of Public Utilities into Establishing Policies and Practices for Electric and Gas Companies Regarding Customer Assistance and Ratemaking Measures in Connection to the State of Emergency Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).	10/15/2020
20-58	Inquiry of the Department of Public Utilities into Establishing Policies and Practices for Electric and Gas Companies Regarding Customer Assistance and Ratemaking Measures in Connection to the State of Emergency Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).	10/15/2020
20-58	Inquiry of the Department of Public Utilities into Establishing Policies and Practices for Electric and Gas Companies Regarding Customer Assistance and Ratemaking Measures in Connection to the State of Emergency Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).	10/15/2020
20-58	Inquiry of the Department of Public Utilities into Establishing Policies and Practices for Electric and Gas Companies Regarding Customer Assistance and Ratemaking Measures in Connection to the State of Emergency Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).	10/15/2020

20-58	Inquiry of the Department of Public Utilities into Establishing Policies and Practices for Electric and Gas Companies Regarding Customer Assistance and Ratemaking Measures in Connection to the State of Emergency Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).	10/15/2020
20-58	Inquiry of the Department of Public Utilities into Establishing Policies and Practices for Electric and Gas Companies Regarding Customer Assistance and Ratemaking Measures in Connection to the State of Emergency Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).	10/15/2020
20-82	Petition of Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company each d/b/a National Grid for approval of their annual pension adjustment factor reconciliation filing for effect November 1, 2020.	10/15/2020
20-GC-05	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.	10/16/2020
19-59	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy to the Department of Public Utilities to recover investment and ongoing maintenance costs associated with its Solar Expansion Program pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 67B and NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, D.P.U. 16-105 (2016).	10/19/2020
20-75	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities On Its Own Motion Into Electric Distribution Companies' (1) Distributed Energy Resource Planning and (2) Assignment and Recovery of Costs for the Interconnection of Distributed Generation.	10/22/2020
19-51	Petition of the Town of Abington for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	10/23/2020
19-52	Petition of the Town of Stoughton for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	10/23/2020
20-53	Petition of Hopkinton LNG Corporation d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of the demand charge, effective November 1, 2020, developed pursuant to the gas service agreement between NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy and Hopkinton LNG Corporation.	10/23/2020
20-78	Petition of Boston Gas Company and former Colonial Gas Company d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 3.12, for Approval of Calendar Year 2019 Gas Business Enablement Program Costs and Gas Business Enablement Factors.	10/23/2020
20-78	Petition of Boston Gas Company and former Colonial Gas Company d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 3.12, for Approval of Calendar Year 2019 Gas Business Enablement Program Costs and Gas Business Enablement Factors.	10/23/2020

19-135	Petition of Bay State Gas Company for review and approval of its five-year forecast and supply plan for the period November 1, 2019 through October 31, 2024.	10/27/2020
20-79	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2020 Peak Period, November 1, 2020, through April 30, 2021.	10/28/2020
20-81	Petition of Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company, each d/b/a National Grid for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2020 Peak Period, November 1, 2020, through April 30, 2021.	10/28/2020
20-83	Petition of Bay State Gas Company, d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2020 Peak Period, November 1, 2020, through April 30, 2021.	10/28/2020
20-86	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 2019 Peak Period, November 1, 2020, through April 30, 2021.	10/28/2020
20-88	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2020 Peak Period, November 1, 2020, through April 30, 2021.	10/28/2020
20-89	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2020 Peak Period, November 1, 2020, through April 30, 2021.	10/28/2020
20-GAF-P1	Petition of Bay State Gas Company pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00 for approval of its 2020/21 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, for effect November 1, 2020.	10/29/2020
20-GAP-P2	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00 for approval of its 2020/21 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, for effect November 1, 2020.	10/29/2020
20-GAF-P3	Petition of Blackstone Gas Company pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00 for approval of its 2020/21 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, for effect November 1, 2020.	10/29/2020
20-GAF-P4	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00 for approval of its 2020/21 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, for effect November 1, 2020.	10/29/2020
20-GAF-P5	Petition of Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company, each d/b/a National Grid pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00 for approval of its 2020/21 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2020.	10/29/2020
20-GAF-P6	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00 for approval of its	10/29/2020

	2020/21 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2020.	
20-GAF-P8	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00 for approval of its 2020/21 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2020.	10/29/2020
20-93	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 one Solar Phase III generation facility located in Charlton, 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. 1440.	10/29/2020
20-93	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 one Solar Phase III generation facility located in Charlton, 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. 1440.	10/29/2020
20-93	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 one Solar Phase III generation facility located in Charlton, 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. 1440.	10/29/2020
20-ERP-08	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2020 annual electric Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	10/29/2020
20-ERP-09	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of its 2020 annual electric Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	10/29/2020
20-ERP-10	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2020 annual electric Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	10/29/2020
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.	10/29/2020
20-115	Petition by Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for a waiver of a provision contained in the Company's tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 17.3, High Load Factor General Service Rate – Extra Large Classification No. G-54B.	10/29/2020
20-GREC-01	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145 for review and approval of the reconciliation of its 2019 Gas	10/30/2020



	System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	
20-GREC-02	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for review and approval of the reconciliation of its 2019 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/30/2020
20-GREC-03	Petition of Boston Gas Company and its Colonial Gas Company Division d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145 for review and approval of the reconciliation of their 2019 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of their Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/30/2020
20-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 2019 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for Review and Approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/30/2020
20-GREC-05	Petition of Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for Review and Approval of the Reconciliation of its 2019 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for Review and Approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/30/2020
20-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 2019 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/30/2020
14-150	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.00 et seq., for Approval of a General Increase in Gas Rates and a Revenue Decoupling Mechanism.	10/30/2020
19-120	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company doing business as Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.00, for Approval of General Increases in Base Distribution Rates for Gas Service.	10/30/2020
20-GC-06	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Concrete Block Insulating Systems, Inc., pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	11/2/2020
19-07/19-AMP	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Initiatives to Promote and Protect Consumer Interests in the Retail Electric Competitive Supply Market.	11/2/2020
20-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 2019 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	11/4/2020
20-16	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of two long-term contracts for procurement of	11/5/2020

	Offshore Wind Energy Generation, pursuant to Section 83C of An Act Relative to Green Communities, St. 2008, c. 169, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12.	
20-17	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of two long-term contracts for procurement of Offshore Wind Energy Generation, pursuant to Section 83C of An Act Relative to Green Communities, St. 2008, c. 169, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12.	11/5/2020
20-18	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of two long-term contracts for procurement of Offshore Wind Energy Generation, pursuant to Section 83C of An Act Relative to Green Communities, St. 2008, c. 169, as amended by St. 2016, c. 188, § 12.	11/5/2020
20-92	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities for review and approval of its five-year Forecast and Supply Plan for the period 2020/2021 through 2024/2025.	11/6/2020
19-65	Petition of the City of Boston for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	11/17/2020
20-70	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 the following regulations: 220 CMR 36.00, 220 CMR 69.00, 220 CMR 100.00, 220 CMR 101.00, 220 CMR 104.00, 220 CMR 107.00, 220 CMR 108.00, 220 CMR 109.00, 220 CMR 111.00, 220 CMR 112.00, and 220 CMR 113.00.	11/18/2020
20-05	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, 2020.	11/18/2020
17-179	Petition of the Town of Millis for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	11/18/2020
20-GC-08	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., pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03	11/18/2020
20-BSF-B4	Basic Service Filing of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy	11/19/2020
20-95	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for review and approval of its basic service costs adder rate adjustment for effect December 1, 2020.	11/19/2020
20-120	Petition of Boston Gas Company, doing business as 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 Gas Service and a Performance Based Ratemaking Plan.	11/20/2020
19-83	Petition of the City of Waltham for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	11/24/2020

20-BSF-C4	Basic Service Filing for NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy.	11/24/2020
19-126	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 66C, to the Department of Public Utilities Seeking to Recover Actual and Projected Costs Associated With its Solar Program.	11/25/2020
15-32	Petition of The Cadmus Group, Inc. for an Investigation into the Matter of the Interpretation and Application of Orders of the Department of Public Utilities with Respect to the Administration of the System of Assurance of Net Metering Eligibility.	11/25/2020
20-POR-04	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil 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, 2020, under the Company's Purchase of Receivables Program.	11/30/2020
20-77	Petition of Marblehead Municipal Light Department for authorization and approval to increase its depreciation rate to five percent for the calendar year 2020.	11/30/2020
20-28	Petition of Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Department for authorization and approval to increase its depreciation rate to five percent for the calendar year 2020.	11/30/2020
20-GC-07	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Vibram Corporation, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	12/1/2020
19-GSEP-06	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of its 2020 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2020.	12/1/2020
19-120	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company doing business as Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.00, for Approval of General Increases in Base Distribution Rates for Gas Service.	12/1/2020
20-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 2019 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factor.	12/1/2020
20-58	Inquiry of the Department of Public Utilities into Establishing Policies and Practices for Electric and Gas Companies Regarding Customer Assistance and Ratemaking Measures in Connection to the State of Emergency Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).	12/2/2020
20-GC-09	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and New England Baptist Hospital, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	12/2/2020

20-59	Joint Petition of Eversource Energy, NiSource Inc., Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts, and Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of Purchase and Sale of Assets.	12/3/2020
18-44	Amended and Restated Order of Delegation to the Pipeline Safety Division	12/3/2020
19-144	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.	12/4/2020
20-GESEP-01	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval of its 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2021.	12/4/2020
20-GSEP-02	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for Approval of its 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, and for rates effective May 1, 2021.	12/4/2020
20-GSEP-03	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plans, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, and for rates effective May 1, 2021.	12/4/2020
20-GSEP-04	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. for Approval of its 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2021.	12/4/2020
20-GSEP-05	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of its 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2021.	12/4/2020
20-GSEP-06	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of its 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2021.	12/4/2020
20-97	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's 2020 Resiliency Tree Work Program Annual Compliance Filing.	12/9/2020
20-100	Petition of Colonial Water Company for approval and issuance of a Promissory Note or Notes in an Amount up to \$700,000, pursuant to G.L. c. 165, § 2 and G.L. c. 164, § 14 and 16.	12/10/2020
20-150	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Updating its Energy Efficiency Guidelines.	12/10/2020
20-GLR-01	Report on the Prevalence of Natural Gas Leaks in the Natural Gas System to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy, and the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, pursuant to An Act Relative to Natural Gas Leaks, St. 2014, c. 149, § 9.	12/11/2020

20-120	Petition of Boston Gas Company, doing business as 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 Gas Service and a Performance Based Ratemaking Plan.	12/11/2020
18-125	Petition by NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of revised storm cost recovery adjustment factors for effect January 1, 2019 and for review and determination of the eligibility for recovery of storm-related preparation and response costs associated with storm events in 2017 to 2019.	12/14/2020
19-128	Petition by NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of its Annual Storm Cost Recovery Adjustment Factors for effect January 1, 2020.	12/14/2020
20-121	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy to recover investment and ongoing maintenance costs associated with its Solar Expansion Program pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 67C and NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, D.P.U. 16-105 (2016).	12/16/2020
20-123	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 66C, seeking to recover actual and projected costs associated with its Solar Program.	12/16/2020
20-43	Petition of Women's Institute for Housing & Economic Development, Inc. for an Exception to the Net Metering Regulations pursuant to 220 CMR 18.09, and to the Single Parcel Rule, pursuant to Net Metering and Interconnection of Distributed Generation, D.P.U. 11-11-C (2012).	12/16/2020
20-87	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its annual gas division and electric division pension adjustment factor reconciliation filing for effect November 1, 2020 (gas) and January 1, 2021 (electric).	12/17/2020
20-132	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid, for review and approval of its five-year Forecast and Supply Plan for the period November 1, 2020 through October 31, 2025.	12/17/2020
20-71	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 2019 and Capital Cost Adjustment Factors for effect January 1, 2021.	12/17/2020
20-BSF-D4	Basic Service Filing of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid for the period February 1, 2021 through April 30, 2021 for Industrial Customers.	12/21/2020
20-130	Petition by NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of its Annual Storm Cost Recovery Adjustment Factors for effect January 1, 2021.	12/21/2020
19-79	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 2018 and Capital Cost Adjustment Factors for effect January 1, 2020.	12/22/2020

18-62	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 2017 and Capital Cost Adjustment Factors for effect January 1, 2019.	12/22/2020
20-SQ-01	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2019 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).	12/22/2020
20-SQ-02	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into The Berkshire Gas Company's 2019 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).	12/22/2020
20-SQ-03	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Blackstone Gas Company's 2019 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).	12/22/2020
20-SQ-04	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil's 2019 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).	12/22/2020
20-SQ-05	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid's 2019 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).	12/22/2020
20-SQ-06	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Colonial Gas Company d/b/a National Grid's 2019 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).	12/22/2020
20-SQ-08	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities 2019 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).	12/22/2020
20-SQ-09	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy's 2019 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).	12/22/2020
20-GC-12	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.	12/22/2020



20-GC-14	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.	12/22/2020
20-120	Petition of Boston Gas Company, doing business as 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 Gas Service and a Performance Based Ratemaking Plan.	12/22/2020
20-58	Inquiry of the Department of Public Utilities into Establishing Policies and Practices for Electric and Gas Companies Regarding Customer Assistance and Ratemaking Measures in Connection to the State of Emergency Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).	12/22/2020
20-119	Petition of Harbor Electric Energy Company for approval of its 2021 Capacity and Support Charge, for effect January 1, 2021.	12/23/2020
20-126	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, 2021.	12/23/2020
20-122	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 2021 Energy Efficiency Surcharges, for effect January 1, 2021.	12/28/2020
20-135	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, 2021.	12/28/2020
20-GAF-P2	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2020/21 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2020.	12/28/2020
20-GAF-P3	Petition of Blackstone Gas Company pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2019/20 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2020.	12/28/2020
20-GAF-P6	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 2020/21 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2020.	12/28/2020
n/a	Ratification of the Chair's Seventh Set of Orders under c. 25, s. 4B re. COVID-19	12/28/2020
20-CS-07	Competitive Supplier application of Hampshire Power Corporation for license approval by the Department of Public Utilities.	12/28/2020
20-134	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2020 electric reconciliation filing effective January 1, 2021, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	12/29/2020

20-129	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for Review and Approval of their proposed 2020 Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Factor Filing for rates to be effective January 1, 2021.	12/29/2020
20-131	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, 2021.	12/29/2020
20-133	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, 2021.	12/29/2020
19-84	Petition of the Town of Milton for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	12/30/2020
19-83	Petition of the City of Waltham for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	12/30/2020
20-96	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Third Annual Performance Based Ratemaking Adjustment, for effect January 1, 2021.	12/30/2020
20-124	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2020 electric reconciliation filing effective January 1, 2021, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	12/30/2020
20-125	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its annual Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for effect January 1, 2021.	12/30/2020
20-GC-13	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.	12/30/2020
20-GC-15	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.	12/30/2020
20-131	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for review and approval of its proposed Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Factor Filing for rates to be effective January 1, 2021.	12/31/2020
20-133	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, 2021.	12/31/2020
20-134	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2020 electric reconciliation filing effective January 1, 2021, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	12/31/2020
19-85	Petition of the Town of Leicester for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	12/31/2020

20-58-D	Inquiry of the Department of Public Utilities into Establishing Policies and Practices for Electric and Gas Companies Regarding Customer Assistance and Ratemaking Measures in Connection to the State of Emergency Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic.	12/31/2020
20-91	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into (1) the Ratemaking Proposal of the Electric and Gas Companies Subject to the Department's Jurisdiction for the Treatment of Costs Related To the Financial Impacts of the State of Emergency Declared Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic and (2) Alternative Bill Payment Options for Customers.	12/31/2020
	<b>Number of Orders Issued:</b>	<b>443</b>