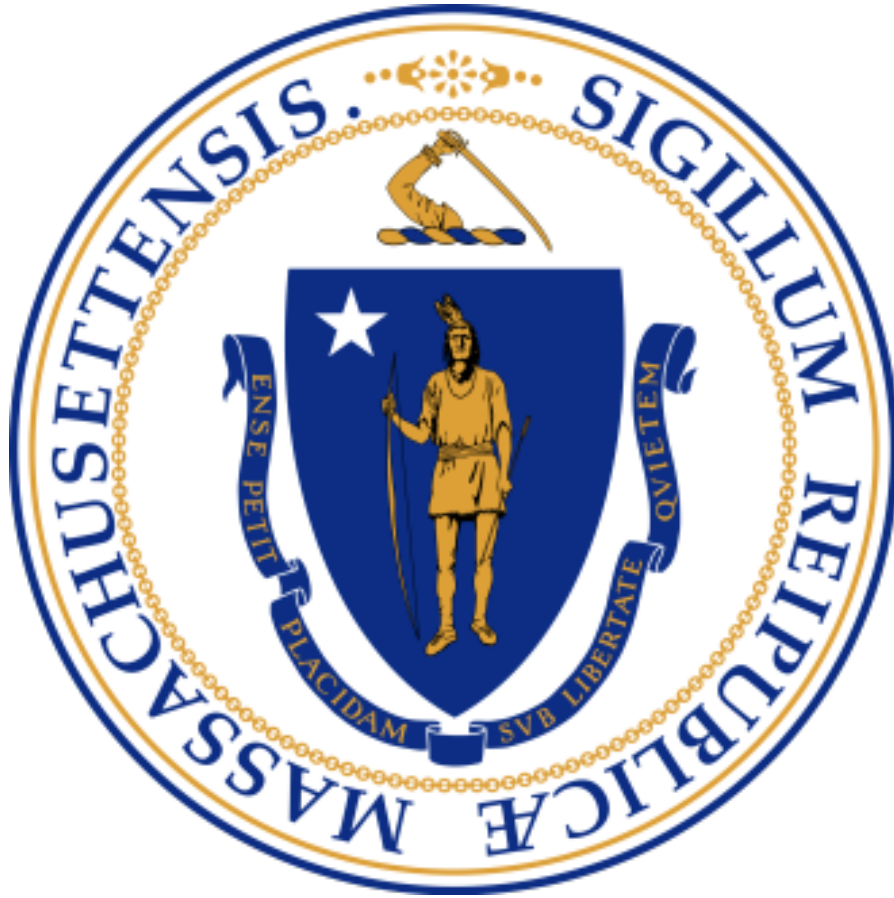




DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES ANNUAL REPORT

2021

*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” or “DPU”) is responsible for oversight of investor-owned electric power, natural gas, and water utilities in the Commonwealth. In addition, the DPU is charged with developing alternatives to traditional regulation, monitoring service quality, regulating safety in the transportation and gas pipeline areas, and the siting of energy facilities. The mission of the DPU is to ensure that consumers’ rights are protected, and that utility companies are providing the most reliable service at the lowest possible cost. The DPU oversees the public safety from transportation and gas pipeline-related accidents, and the energy facilities siting process. The DPU seeks to promote safety, security, reliability of service, affordability, equity, and greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emission reductions.

The Department is overseen by the three-member Commonwealth Utilities Commission appointed by the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs with approval by the Governor. The Secretary designates one of the Commissioners as Commission Chair. In 2021, the Commission was comprised of Chair Matthew Nelson, Commissioner Robert Hayden, and Commissioner Cecile M. Fraser.

In 2021, the Department issued 374 orders, including a continuation of the residential electric, gas, and water utility shutoff moratorium to July 1, 2021. By extending the moratorium past its scheduled end date in April 2021, the Department provided additional time for ratepayers in arrears to coordinate a payment plan with a utility company and explore the availability of financial assistance programs.

The Department continued to perform its vital oversight functions in 2021, including investigating consumer complaints, performing field inspections, conducting Transportation Network Company (“TNC”) driver background checks, and holding public hearings remotely. Guided by its experience serving the public during the State of Emergency, the DPU as well as the Energy Facilities Siting Board opened formal inquiries to assess opportunities to enhance equitable public awareness of and participation in Department proceedings. The investigations seek to explore how to boost community outreach and increase participation and engagement in proceedings, including through enhanced language access. The Department expects to ultimately establish comprehensive rules, guidelines, procedures and/or regulations which will support robust, comprehensive, and equitable public engagement in proceedings.

Other major accomplishments include the issuance of an Order in October 2021 on a National Grid rate case that will lead to reductions in GHG emissions and improvements in infrastructure safety and service reliability, with an approved base distribution rate increase of nearly \$76 million less than the company requested. The Order further directed National Grid to commit to not revising base distribution rates through a rate case until October 1, 2026. The Department also issued an Order in December 2021 approving National Grid’s proposed five-year geothermal energy demonstration project. The demonstration project explores the use of geothermal energy to provide the technology as a low-carbon heating solution for customers and an alternative that avoids replacing “leak-prone” natural gas pipe that contributes to GHG emissions.

The Department continued its comprehensive investigation into the role of local natural gas distribution companies in the future of the Commonwealth’s energy portfolio following the Baker-Polito Administration’s determination of net zero GHG emissions as Massachusetts’ legal emissions limit for 2050. As part of the investigation, the Department will assess the role of gas companies in ensuring a low-carbon future and explore strategies that enable the Commonwealth to achieve net zero GHG emissions while safeguarding ratepayer interests and 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 2021.

CONSUMER DIVISION

Overview

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

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 2021, the Consumer Division received 2,612 complaints that led to 2,459 cases being investigated and directed utilities to make \$205,231.77 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.¹

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. 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.

¹ 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.

Municipal Aggregation

Massachusetts General Law c. 164, § 134 authorizes municipalities to aggregate the electrical load of customers within their borders to procure competitive supply of electricity. The Director of the Consumer Division participates in reviewing the implementation of aggregation plans to ensure appropriate 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; Massachusetts Electric Company (“MECo”) and Nantucket Electric Company (“Nantucket Electric”), together doing business as National Grid;² and NSTAR Electric Company (“NSTAR Electric”), doing business as Eversource Energy (“Eversource”). EPD’s responsibilities fall into seven general categories:

1. Energy efficiency;
2. Renewable and distributed energy resources, including development of distributed generation interconnection standards;
3. Grid modernization;
4. Electric vehicle charging infrastructure and utility-scale storage;
5. Retail power supply markets in Massachusetts;
6. Distribution service quality and reliability; and

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.

Energy Efficiency

Massachusetts electric distribution companies have administered and implemented ratepayer-funded energy efficiency (“EE”) programs for more than 20 years. Since the passage of the Green Communities Act³ in 2008, gas companies also submit energy efficiency plans to the Department for approval every three years. The EPD reviews the proposed plans 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 Nov 1, 2021, the Department received the 2022-2025 Three Year Energy Efficiency Plan for all electric and gas Program Administrators (“PAs”). The 2022-2025 Three-Year Plan shifts the focus of the PAs’ efficiency programs towards strategic electrification, sets a path to net zero greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions by 2050, and prioritizes equitable program delivery and participation. The Department is expected to rule on this plan at the end of January 2022. In 2021, the Department worked on various routine EE related dockets, such as reviewing prior term reports, annual reports, outstanding motions, cost recovery matters, and updating our guidelines. Additionally, on May 3, 2021, the Department concluded its investigation that revised and updated the Department’s EE guidelines, which were last updated in 2013.⁴

² MECo and Nantucket Electric frequently make joint filings.

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

⁴ 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).

Renewable and Distributed Energy Resources

Introduction

The Green Communities Act and subsequent legislation⁵ include provisions on the following policies related to renewable and other distributed energy resources:

- Net metering;
- 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 and compensating or crediting customers the difference between customer-owned excess electric generation that is exported back to the grid and the electricity purchased by the customer from the distribution company. While net metering has existed in some form in Massachusetts since the early 1980s, section 78 of the 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. Chapter 8 of the Acts of 2021 also directed the Department to modify some of the net metering rules and regulations.

In addition to further modifying the Commonwealth’s net metering rules, Chapter 75 of the Acts of 2016 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. The Department approved the program through the issuance of D.P.U. 17-140-A on September 26, 2018.

Regarding net metering and SMART in 2021, the EPD Division:

- Continued the implementation of a net metering system of assurance, including the issuance of one new related order;⁶
- Reviewed three petitions for an exception from the net metering regulations;
- Reviewed a joint petition from the electric distribution companies (“EDCs”) seeking approval of changes to the model SMART tariff related to DOER’s 2020 program review and rulemaking, including the issuance of three orders;⁷
- Continued implementing and working on expanding the SMART program, including the issuance of three orders;
- Reviewed applications for public IDs and blanket exceptions to the net metering rules; and

⁵ 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.

⁶ The website is available at www.massACA.org.

⁷ 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).

- Responded to many stakeholder inquiries related to net metering and the SMART program implementation.

Interconnection

Interconnection is the process by which distributed generation (“DG”) is electrically integrated into the electric power system (“EPS”). In May 2019, in response to increasing interconnection requests and DG saturation on the Commonwealth’s distribution system, the Department opened an investigation (D.P.U. 19-55) into the interconnection of DG to ensure an efficient and effective interconnection process that will foster continued growth of DG while ensuring a safe and reliable EPS. As part of the investigation, the Department held nine technical conferences, received comments and proposals on approximately twenty discrete topics, provided four sets of interim guidance, and issued four orders. The investigation is ongoing and expected to continue into 2022 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, 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 for alternative methodologies to allocate interconnection related costs among DG customers. In February 2020, the Department received six proposals.

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.⁸ Upon identification of an imminent issue of high interconnection costs for almost a gigawatt of DG seeking to interconnect to the EPS, the Department bifurcated its investigation into 1) establishment of a long-term system planning program, and 2) establishment of a provisional program to address short-term concerns. Following public comment, several rounds of information requests and a technical conference, the Department issued an Order in November 2021, establishing a provisional program for planning and funding essential upgrades to the EPS to foster timely and cost-effective development and interconnection of DG. The provisional framework allows the EDCs to file certain EPS infrastructure upgrade proposals (also known as capital investment projects or “CIPs”) with the Department that limit the interconnection costs allocated to each DG facility. Under the provisional design, customers will help fund the initial construction of the EPS upgrades but will be reimbursed over time from fees charged to future DG facilities that are able to interconnect due to the prior upgrades. This new pathway should help facilitate an equitable allocation of costs and remove barriers to the Commonwealth’s progress to a clean energy future. The Department expects to review a number of CIP proposals in 2022 and will continue its investigation into a long-term system planning program.

In addition to its investigations, the DG and Clean Energy Ombudsperson and Department staff:

- Respond to stakeholder inquiries, concerns, and complaints related to DG interconnection;
- 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 offer independent problem-solving;
- Attend and participate 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 an *ex officio* member of the TSRG; and

⁸ 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).

- Work with stakeholders and the distribution companies to identify and resolve issues related to DG interconnection not appropriate for resolution through docketed matters.

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 megawatts ("MW"). In response, the Department continues to work closely with the EDCs, transmission owners, and Independent System Operator New England, Inc. ("ISO-NE") to ensure efficient processing of transmission level infrastructure impact studies as well as ensuring transparency of information to stakeholders.

Grid Modernization

The Department's vision for grid modernization is a cleaner, more efficient and reliable electric grid that would empower customers to manage and reduce their energy costs. The Department has also established three grid modernization objectives:

1. Optimizing system performance;
2. Optimizing system demand; and
3. Facilitating and integrating distributed energy resources.

In May 2018, the Department issued an Order pre-authorizing the EDCs to make \$220 million in grid modernization investments in the 2018-2020 term. In 2020, the Department extended that term by one year, and in early 2021, the Department preauthorized Eversource an additional \$56 million in continued investments for the extended term.

After just two years of implementation, a third-party evaluation finds that the quantifiable benefits from the EDCs' grid modernization investments include:

1. Almost 210,000 customers are benefiting from grid modernization devices commissioned through 2020; and
2. In one company's service territory, on circuits with advanced distribution automation devices commissioned through 2020, the average number of customers in zones that are affected by outages has decreased by about 250 customers.

In May 2021, as a result of its own investigation into the modernization of the electric grid, the Department issued an Order (D.P.U. 20-69-A) – phase two, which provided guidance to the EDCs on the content and form of their second grid modernization plans. The Department also concluded that it is appropriate to consider a path to achieve advanced metering functionality through a full-scale deployment of advanced metering infrastructure ("AMI"). In July 2021, the EDCs filed their 2022-2025 grid modernization plans with proposed grid-facing investments of over \$500 million and preliminary AMI plans of \$1.2 billion, which are currently under review by the Department.

In June 2021, based on Department review of the distribution companies' 2019 and 2020 annual reports, the Department held a technical conference to clarify and discuss some of the data reporting requirement revisions. As a result of the technical conference, in addition to revisions that all three EDCs will implement in future annual reports, Eversource will soon update its performance metrics reporting on system automation levels with both its own calculation method and the method used by National Grid and Unitil.

In October 2021, the Department opened a docket proposing the content and form of grid modernization term reports to support the term-end prudence review of the EDCs' investments. The Department is currently working on finalizing the term report requirements.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure and Utility-Scale Storage

In May and September 2018, the Department pre-authorized the first two utility electric vehicle (“EV”) charging infrastructure programs in the Commonwealth, with a total investment of \$70 million by Eversource and National Grid. In September 2019, the Department approved a few components of National Grid’s Phase II EV charging infrastructure program for \$10 million as part of its rate case. In February 2021, the Department approved Eversource’s request of \$10 million in additional funding for 2021. So far, Eversource and National Grid have enabled the installation of 750 Level 2 EV charging sites and 2 direct current fast charging (“DCFC”) sites.

Beginning late 2020, the Department has been conducting a prudence review of National Grid’s Phase I and Phase II EV charging investments. In November 2021, National Grid requested additional funding for its Phase I EV charging infrastructure program for 2022, which is currently under review by the Department.

In D.P.U. 20-69-A, the Department provided detailed guidance to the EDCs on filing EV charging infrastructure plans, including requirements under the Transportation Act to develop demand charge alternatives for commercial and industrial customers. In July 2021, the distribution companies submitted their coordinated EV charging infrastructure plans with a total investment of \$471 million, which are currently under review by the Department.

In May 2018, the Department preauthorized the first two utility-scale storage demonstration projects in the Commonwealth. Eversource continues to implement the storage demonstration project in the Outer Cape. Additional storage investment plans are expected in the near future.

Retail Power Supply Markets

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 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

The Department grants licenses to entities qualified to serve as competitive suppliers⁹ and electricity brokers¹⁰ 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 2021, there are 78 licensed competitive suppliers and 313 licensed electricity brokers in Massachusetts.

The Department launched Energy Switch Massachusetts¹¹ 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

⁹ Competitive suppliers are entities that procure electricity from generation facilities at the wholesale level and sell the electricity to consumers at retail cost.

¹⁰ Electricity brokers are entities that facilitate or arrange for the sale of electricity to customers, acting as intermediaries between suppliers and customers.

¹¹ <http://www.energyswitchma.gov/>

meets their needs. Shoppers can compare products based on price, length of contract, renewable energy resource content, and additional products and services. As of year-end 2021, there are 15 competitive suppliers actively participating on the website who list 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 2021, the Department entered into an informal remedial plan with a competitive supplier whose direct mail marketing material was found to be inaccurate – the plan resulted in the supplier refunding a total of approximately \$550,000. In addition, the Department commenced an informal review of a competitive supplier's telemarketing activities – the review was ongoing as of December 15, 2021. Finally, the Department entered into settlement agreements (in the context of formal proceedings) with two competitive suppliers related to their telemarketing activities – the agreements were still under review by the Department as of December 15, 2021.¹²

In August 2018, the Attorney General's Office issued a report on the market, which was subsequently updated twice (most recently in March 2021), that alleged that residential Massachusetts ratepayers on competitive supply have collectively paid \$426 million more than they would have paid for electricity if they remained on basic service over the course of July 2015 – June 2020. The Attorney General's report also found that low-income residents, elderly residents, and communities of color are being disproportionately impacted by the market and are absorbing a higher share of costs than other residential customers participating in the market. As a result of this report and legislative inquiries about it, the Department initiated a new investigation into the competitive supply market on January 18, 2019, which remains ongoing.¹³ 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.

In 2020 the Department underwent a data collection effort that corroborated the Attorney General's findings and demonstrates that in 2020 customers enrolled with individual suppliers paid \$94.2 million more for electric supply than they would have if they had been on basic service; paid rates that were on average more than 3.4 cents per kWh higher than basic service; incurred average monthly bills that were \$18 higher than basic service customers; and incurred average annual bills that were \$218 higher than basic service customers. Data

¹² The settlement agreements resulted from the following formal proceedings: (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).

¹³ 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).

also demonstrates that low-income customers are 63% more likely to be enrolled in an individual competitive supply plan than non low-income customers and pay competitive electric supply rates that are 13% higher on average than non low-income customers. In 2021, Chair Nelson testified before the Legislature alongside Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Theoharides regarding this data and concerns with the harmful impact of the continuance of the competitive supply market as it stands today on disadvantaged populations.

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. Since 1999, the Department has received 262 petitions from municipalities to establish or amend municipal aggregation programs, with 250 of the petitions received since the beginning of 2013. As of November 18, 2021, the Department has approved municipal aggregation plans for 169 municipalities and is currently reviewing another 33 plans. In 2021, the Department received six new petitions. In 2020, the Department approved the plan for the City of Boston, which commenced serving customers under its aggregation plan in February 2021. There are 122 municipalities remaining in the Commonwealth that are eligible to establish a municipal aggregation program (i.e., those not served by a municipal electric company that have not already submitted a plan to the Department) but have not done so yet.

Basic Service

Basic service, formerly known as “default service”, is the retail power supply service that each EDC provides to those customers who choose to not receive such service from the competitive market. Each EDC 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 EDC issues a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) for basic service supply on a semiannual basis. Each solicitation procures fifty percent of the company’s basic service supply requirement for these customers for a twelve-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. As a result, the fixed basic service rate that an EDC assesses to its residential and small C&I customers typically changes every six months.

For its medium and large C&I customers, a distribution company issues an RFP solicitation for basic service supply on a quarterly basis. Each solicitation procures 100 percent of the company’s basic service supply requirement for these customers for a three-month term. As a result, the fixed basic service rate that an EDC assesses to its larger C&I customers typically changes every three months.

In addition to procuring power supply for its basic service customers, each EDC (as well as all other licensed retail electricity suppliers) must comply with the state’s various portfolio standard programs.¹⁴ These programs

¹⁴ 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”).

require that certain percentages of the electricity they supply to customers come from renewable and clean energy resources. Compliance with these programs is documented through the purchase and retirement of certificates (or through making Alternative Compliance Payments) generated by qualified renewable and clean energy resources. These certificates (or “Alternative Compliance Payments”) must be procured in an amount equal to a certain percentage of retail sales to customers.¹⁵

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.

Arrearage Management

The Department requires each electric and gas utility to offer an arrearage management program (“AMP”), or financial assistance program, to low-income customers with overdue utility bills. AMPs enable low-income gas and electric customers who are behind on their utility payments to make regular, on-time payments consistent with the terms of the AMP in exchange for forgiveness of a portion of the arrears. The electric and gas utilities also offer payment plans to any customers with accumulated arrearages.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when numerous factors contributed to customers falling behind on their utility bills, the Department began requesting arrearage data from the gas and electric utilities to inform recommendations on ratepayer protections and service reliability. With this data, the Department has implemented new customer assistance measures designed to support customers with arrearages and mitigate the numbers and totals of arrearages, including extended and more flexible payment arrangements for customers with past due balances, an increased maximum forgiveness amount for AMP programs, and waiver of previously required payments for customer re-enrollment in an AMP.

Specifically, utility data as of November 2021 shows approximately 557,000 electric customers (20%) and 348,000 gas customers (20%) were in arrears (i.e., late paying their utility bills) among the eleven regulated companies. By comparison, the number of electric and gas customers in arrears in November 2020 was 601,000 and 375,000, respectively. Low-income electric and gas customers had the highest percentage arrearage decrease as compared to the same time last year at 12.1% and 10.8% respectively. Comparatively, C&I electric had the highest percentage arrearage increase as compared to the same time last year at 11.4%. Through these efforts, both the residential and low-income customers on arrearages are below their 2019 pre-pandemic levels.

Distribution Service Quality and Reliability

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 which 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.

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

¹⁵ For example, in 2020, 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.

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 2022 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 EDCs 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 EDCs 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 lifecycle management system ("PLM") database jointly developed by the utilities. The Department continues to monitor

the semiannual double pole reports. The Department also monitors settlement agreements between the utilities and Verizon for pole ownership and cost sharing.

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. 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.

DIVISION OF REGIONAL AND FEDERAL AFFAIRS

Regional and federal affairs were formerly monitored out of the Electric Power Division but, in 2021, the Department created a dedicated Division of Regional and Federal Affairs (“DRFA”) in response to the amount of involvement and coordination the Department has with regional and federal stakeholders on critical energy issues. DRFA actively monitors ISO-NE transmission planning, operations, and administration of competitive wholesale markets and actively engages in ISO-NE’s stakeholder processes including monitoring and participating in the ISO-NE Planning Advisory Committee and various New England Power Pool (“NEPOOL”) technical committees (i.e., Markets Committee, Reliability Committee, Transmission Committee, Participants Committee, and other working groups). DRFA also participates in national and regional policy groups including the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (“NARUC”), the Eastern Interconnection States’ Planning Council (“EISPC”), the New England Conference of Public Utility Commissioners (“NECPUC”), and the New England States Committee on Electricity (“NESCOE”). Finally, DRFA monitors, oversees, and actively engages in proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”), as well as other federal agencies that relate to system reliability and/or issues with cost implications for Massachusetts electric and gas consumers.

Legal Proceedings

Over the course of 2021, DRFA has been involved in matters before the federal and state courts and FERC, representing Massachusetts’ view on issues affecting system reliability and consumer costs. The following is a sampling of DRFA activities in these matters:

- Submitted to FERC a filing supporting ISO-NE’s request for additional time for New England stakeholders to discuss more comprehensively an approach for complying with Order No. 2222, including, for example, the development of the role of regulatory authorities in the ISO-NE asset registration process (Docket No. RM18-9).
- Drafted select sections of comments that NARUC submitted in FERC’s Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Building for the Future Through Electric Regional Transmission Planning and Cost Allocation and Generator Interconnection (Docket No. RM21-17-000). Supported NESCOE’s initial and reply comments in the same docket.
- Partnered with NECPUC to file comments in FERC’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Cybersecurity Incentives (Docket No. RM21-3-000).
- Supported NESCOE’s initial and reply comments in FERC’s supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Electric Transmission Incentives Policy (Docket No. RM20-10-000).
- Supported NESCOE’s post-technical conference comments outlining state priorities in response to the FERC’s May 25, 2021 discussion of resource adequacy, state policies, and ISO-NE’s wholesale markets (Docket No. AD20-14).
- Followed appeals of relevant FERC orders underway in Federal courts.
- Monitored FERC’s monthly open meetings.

Transmission

Bulk power transmission commanded priority attention in 2021. At the federal level, the FERC launched two related initiatives:

- Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“ANOPR”): Building for the Future Through Electric Regional Transmission Planning and Cost Allocation and Generator Interconnection (Docket No. RM21-17-000). In this ANOPR, the FERC is soliciting comments from all interested stakeholders on a very broad set of questions about potential reforms to improve existing electric regional transmission

planning, cost allocation and generator interconnection processes. DRFA has actively participated in discussions and in drafting comments by the Commonwealth, NESCOE, and NARUC in response to the ANOPR. DRFA anticipates that, in 2022, the FERC will use the record developed in the ANOPR docket to craft one or more Notice of Proposed Rulemakings through which it will propose specific rules to address these topics.

- Joint Federal-State Task Force on Electric Transmission (“Task Force”). In Docket No. AD21-15-000, the FERC established the Task Force to conduct joint hearings on the following transmission-related topics:
 - Identifying barriers that inhibit planning and development of optimal transmission necessary to achieve federal and state policy goals, as well as potential solutions to those barriers;
 - Exploring potential bases for one or more states to use FERC-jurisdictional transmission planning processes to advance their policy goals, including multi-state goals;
 - Exploring opportunities for states to voluntarily coordinate in order to identify, plan, and develop regional transmission solutions;
 - Reviewing FERC rules and regulations regarding planning and cost allocation of transmission projects and potentially identifying recommendations for reforms;
 - Examining barriers to the efficient and expeditious interconnection of new resources through the FERC-jurisdictional interconnection processes, as well as potential solutions to those barriers; and
 - Discussing mechanisms to ensure that transmission investment is cost effective, including approaches to enhance transparency and improve oversight of transmission investment including, potentially, through enhanced federal-state coordination.

FERC determined that the Task Force will be comprised of all FERC Commissioners as well as representatives from ten state commissions and asked NARUC to submit nominations to the Commission for the ten state commission representatives. Through this process, the FERC appointed the Department’s Chair to the Task Force for a one-year term commencing September 1, 2021. In 2021, DRFA supported the Department Chair’s participation in the Task Force, including drafting sections of NARUC’s ANOPR comments in RM21-17-000 and preparing for the initial Task Force public meeting in November.

In 2021, DRFA also participated actively in efforts to reform regional transmission planning processes:

- The October 2020 New England Governors’ Letter and NESCOE Vision Statement identified 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 21st century regional electric grid. One of the recommendations in the Vision Statement was for ISO-NE to conduct a comprehensive long-term regional transmission planning study to inform all stakeholders of the amount and type of transmission infrastructure needed to cost-effectively integrate clean energy resources and distributed energy resources (“DERs”) across the region to meet New England states’ energy policy requirements and goals. In response, ISO-NE coordinated with NESCOE during 2021 to initiate a high-level transmission study for the year 2050. ISO-NE is also completing a stakeholder process through which it will prepare a filing with the FERC for approval to revise its tariff to permit NESCOE to request subsequent long-term transmission studies. This longer-term planning process will allow ISO-NE to implement a state-led, proactive scenario-based planning process for longer-term analysis of state mandates and policies as a routine regional planning practice. DRFA actively participated in these regional transmission reform efforts, including working with NESCOE and ISO-NE on identifying the appropriate scope and set of assumptions for the 2050 transmission study.
- In 2021 ISO-NE also completed its Transmission Planning for the Clean Energy Transition project. Working with stakeholders through the Planning Advisory Committee, ISO-NE updated the assumptions

it uses in its transmission planning studies to reflect future grid trends and completed a pilot study to test the assumptions for 2030 (i.e., typical ten-year planning horizon). Based on study results and stakeholder input, ISO-NE finalized the updated assumptions it will use going forward in its planning studies. DRFA actively participated in this effort through NESCOE.

Future Grid

In July 2019, the New England states, through NESCOE, requested that ISO-NE plan to allocate market development and planning resources 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 2021, DRFA was actively engaged in organizing, scoping, and participating in processes resulting from this request:

- In the Pathways to the Future Grid study, ISO-NE is evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of two potential market frameworks in facilitating the evolution of New England’s power grid that reflects two state energy policies: net carbon pricing and a forward clean energy market (“FCEM”). In response to state concerns with the potential of high consumer cost and reliability risks associated with a comprehensive FCEM approach, ISO-NE also will evaluate a hybrid approach featuring an FCEM only for new clean energy resources paired with a net carbon pricing approach for existing clean resources. ISO-NE is now releasing preliminary results of its work and plans to issue a report in Q1 2022.
- In the Future Grid Reliability Study (“FGRS”), ISO-NE is conducting both engineering and economic analyses that use stakeholder defined scenarios to identify grid reliability challenges that could occur in the year 2040 in light of state energy 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. ISO-NE has been releasing preliminary results of its work since mid-2021 and plans to issue a report in Q1 2022.

Wholesale Market Reform

In 2021 DRFA has participated actively in several efforts to reform regional wholesale markets to better align them so that they appropriately incentivize the economic entry of new clean energy resources while ensuring system reliability in a future grid featuring new energy technologies and changing consumer demands driven by state energy and environmental law and policies. These efforts include:

- In 2021, ISO-NE committed to work with the New England states and NEPOOL stakeholders to make a filing with the FERC to eliminate the minimum offer price rule (“MOPR”). The MOPR is an existing feature of ISO-NE’s tariff that is intended to mitigate the ability of state-sponsored supply resources to exercise buyer-side market power in the wholesale markets, but that also hinders such resources’ ability to participate and be compensated in the wholesale forward capacity market. ISO-NE has been conducting this effort in two stages:
 1. ISO-NE’s external market monitor has completed a study estimating the incremental financial risk for regional generators in a future without the MOPR; and
 2. ISO-NE is developing a proposed set of tariff changes to eliminate the MOPR and make associated changes designed to address both the estimated increased financial risk and the continued need to screen for and mitigate potential buyer-side market power. The ISO plans to file its proposed tariff changes with the FERC in Q1 2022.
- In 2021, ISO-NE began a Resource Capacity Accreditation (“RCA”) project designed to address how it should revise its existing methodology to assess, measure prospectively, and plan for the adequacy of

the wholesale power resources it procures to provide capacity through the forward capacity market. This work supports a clean energy transition by seeking to identify a methodology that more appropriately credits resource contributions to supporting system reliability as the resource mix evolves over time (e.g., as renewable generation and energy storage resources become more prevalent). This work is data intensive and computationally complex and DRFA anticipates it will continue throughout 2022.

- In 2020, ISO-NE finalized and filed with the FERC new market-based rules designed to address energy security risks by procuring day-ahead energy call options on several new reserve products (Dockets No. EL18-182, ER20-1567). DRFA 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. Late last year, the FERC rejected both the ISO-NE and the NESCOE alternative market design proposals. ISO-NE has indicated that it expects to revisit this effort through the NEPOOL stakeholder process in 2022 by revising its previous approach and considering alternative market designs. As part of this effort, ISO-NE plans to engage with stakeholders on how best to improve the existing wholesale ancillary services market design for the evolving power system, including evaluating new products and services that may be needed to address reliability needs such as inertia, ramping, load following or duration capability. DRFA will continue to participate in this effort.

Other Matters

DRFA is also actively participating in ISO-NE, NEPOOL, and NESCOE projects addressing numerous other issues impacting the cost and reliability of electricity for Massachusetts consumers, which include:

- Order 2222: in 2020 the FERC issued Order No. 2222, which requires all grid system operators to allow distributed energy resources ("DERs") to provide all wholesale services that they are technically capable of providing through aggregations of DERs. Throughout 2021, ISO-NE worked through the NEPOOL stakeholder process to create a market design, operational rules, and detailed tariff language to comply with the FERC's Order 2222 directives. Because Order 2222 applies to DERs interconnected at the distribution system level, it has potentially significant operational and cost implications for the Commonwealth's regulated distribution companies and could trigger future requests for Department authorizations. DRFA has been following ISO-NE's proposed compliance plan and has been working actively with the distribution companies, NESCOE, and other stakeholders to evaluate those elements that impact distribution company operations and to voice concerns and suggested alternative approaches to ISO-NE through the NEPOOL process. ISO-NE has committed to file its compliance proposal with the FERC in February 2022. DRFA anticipates that its work in this area will continue in 2022 and beyond as the FERC considers and acts on ISO-NE's proposal.
- Extreme Weather/Tail Risk: the severe weather and electricity system failure events in Texas in 2021 caused ISO-NE to examine whether New England is adequately assessing and preparing for low probability, high impact reliability risks. In response, ISO-NE undertook an initiative to consider how to study and address such reliability risks. This effort initially is focused on discussing approaches to modeling and quantifying tail risks related to extreme weather events and electric system contingencies. ISO-NE plans to complete this analysis and modeling effort by the end of 2022 and then begin a stakeholder discussion focused on understanding if and how the region should protect against the risks, considering both market-based and policy or administrative tools.

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 Chair 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 2021 is attached as Appendix 1.

Siting Board Responsibilities

Overview

The Siting Board reviews petitions to construct major new energy infrastructure, including power plants, electric transmission lines, 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 generating facilities no longer includes need or cost. The Siting Board's environmental reviews typically cover a broad range of issues, including:

- Potential impacts of a project on air quality, climate change, land use, wetlands and water resources, noise, traffic, visual impacts, flora and fauna habitat areas, magnetic fields, public health, and safety;
- Impact minimization and mitigation measures; and
- The feasibility and cost of mitigation.

Siting Board decisions represent a balancing of cost, local and regional environmental impacts, and the benefits of the project in terms of contributing to a reliable energy supply. Currently, the Siting Board has open cases regarding the review of generating facilities, transmission facilities, natural gas pipeline and storage facilities.

Additionally, July 1, 2021, the Siting Board opened a Notice of Inquiry ("NOI") to examine procedural enhancements to increase public awareness of and participation in its proceedings. Specifically, the Siting Board will explore avenues to increase both the visibility of its public notices and promote equitable and meaningful public and stakeholder involvement throughout its proceedings. As part of the NOI, the Siting Board intends to develop an environmental justice strategy, consistent with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Environmental Justice Policy, that will enhance meaningful involvement in Siting Board matters for all people and communities with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies, including climate change policies, and the equitable distributions of energy and environmental benefits and burdens.

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. The Siting Board was not active in any FERC proceedings during 2021.

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. The Certificate proceeding is still suspended.

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 2021.

Siting Board Regulations

The regulations of the Siting Board are contained in 980 C.M.R. §§ 1.00-12.00. In 2021, 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

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.

Zoning Exemption Review

State law authorizes the Department to exempt public service corporations from compliance with specific municipal zoning ordinances or by-laws if it determines that the present or proposed use of the land or structure is reasonably necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public, per G.L. c. 40A, § 3. The Siting Division adjudicates these cases for the Department. The Department currently has several cases open for zoning exemptions.

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 2021.

LEGAL DIVISION

Overview

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

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 2021, the Legal Division participated in the issuance of 374 Orders. Some of the more notable dockets and initiatives included:

- Commencement of a notice of inquiry to assess opportunities to enhance equitable public awareness of and participation in Department proceedings;
- Issuance of an Order approving a geothermal demonstration project;
- Issuance of an Order enhancing consumer protection by imposing new requirements on competitive suppliers;
- Continued 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"), including issuance of several Orders increasing ratepayer protections and prohibiting utility companies from shutting off gas, electric, and water utility service to any customers for failure to pay a bill while the State of Emergency remained in effect;
- Continued 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 an Order approving new rates for a gas utility company following a ten-month investigation;
- Issuance of an Order approving the merger of several water 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;
- Continued implementation of the nation's leading energy-efficiency program;
- Continued review and approval of multiple dockets associated with municipal aggregation plans; and
- Issuance of 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 2021 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 Chair of the Department may delegate authority to an attorney from the Legal Division, known as the Hearing Officer, to preside over Department adjudications.

Adjudicatory proceedings vary in complexity and include a wide range of subjects, such as reviews of:

- Rates;

- Contracts for the 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.¹⁶

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 Department adapted its adjudicatory process to allow for safe, remote participation by stakeholders and parties. In addition to expanding public comment and discovery periods in lieu of hearings, the Department developed protocols for virtual hearings and has conducted numerous virtual evidentiary and public hearings.

¹⁶ In April 2020, 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.

Other Types of Proceedings

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 2021, 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.

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 2021, the Department opened one NOI proceeding:

- D.P.U. 21-50 (Procedures for Enhancing Public Awareness of and Participation in Department Proceedings).

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. 19-55 (Distributed Generation Interconnection); and
- D.P.U. 20-58 (COVID-19 State of Emergency).

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 2021, the Department continued one rulemaking proceeding:

- 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.

In calendar year 2021, the Department completed two rulemaking proceedings opened in previous years:

- D.P.U. 20-70, Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 2, and 220 CMR 2.00, adopting final 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.
- 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, adopting final amended regulations 220 CMR 45.00, Pole Attachment, Duct, Conduit and Right-of-Way Complaint and Enforcement Procedures.

In addition, the Department opened two new rulemakings proceedings, completing one of the proceedings:

- D.P.U. 21-04, Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 2, and 220 CMR 2.00, adopting final regulations to establish requirements for Use of Professional Engineers for Gas Utility Work, 220 CMR 105.00; and
- D.P.U. 21-38, Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 2, and 220 CMR 2.00, to amend 220 CMR 20.00, Steam Distribution Companies.

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 2021, the Department responded to over 323 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 six investor-owned natural gas companies, also called local distribution companies or “LDCs”:

- The Berkshire Gas Company;
- Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid;
- Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts, d/b/a Eversource Energy, formerly known as Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts¹⁷;
- Fitchburg Gas & Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil;
- 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 1.717 million gas customers and have combined operating revenues of approximately \$2.7 billion.

The Gas Division has the authority and responsibility to:

- Review LDCs’ forecast and supply plans;
- Review LDCs’ long-term gas supply contracts;
- Review LDCs’ gas expansion plans;
- Review non-tariff contracts for the sale and transportation of natural gas;
- Review the appropriateness and accuracy of LDC filings made pursuant to the Cost of Gas Adjustment Clause (“CGAC”) and the Local Distribution Adjustment Clause (“LDAC”);
- Review LDCs’ energy efficiency filings;
- Review LDCs’ service quality filings;
- License gas suppliers and retail agents;
- Assist the Rates and Revenue Requirements Division in base distribution rate, merger, and gas system enhancement plan filings; and
- Review and, where appropriate, intervene in federal regulatory proceedings and activities that affect the interests of gas consumers in the Commonwealth.

Forecast and Supply Plans¹⁸

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

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ 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.

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 2021, the Gas Division issued orders on four forecast and supply plans for The Berkshire Gas Company, Boston Gas Company, Liberty Utilities and NSTAR Gas Company. The Gas Division is currently reviewing forecast and supply plans for two gas companies, with orders for both due in 2022. Below is a table compiled from the information presented to the Department in each of the above-named companies' 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 ¹⁹	Available Supplies
Berkshire Gas	D.P.U. 20-139	November 17, 2021	2024-2025	7,395,000 MMBtu	Pipeline gas, Storage, LNG, Propane and city-gate purchases
Boston Gas	D.P.U. 20-132	October 20, 2021	2024-2025	166,898,092 MMBtu	Pipeline gas, Storage, LNG, Propane and city-gate purchases
Liberty Utilities	D.P.U. 20-92	August 4, 2021	2024-2025	7,236,416 MMBtu	Pipeline gas, Storage, LNG, Propane and city-gate purchases
NSTAR Gas	D.P.U. 20-76	June 9, 2021	2023-2024	70,675,000 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:

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

¹⁹ The years indicate the last year of the forecast (November through October) for which the consumption is forecast.

- 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, Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts 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, Massachusetts – 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

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”). The M&N pipeline can also be used to transport, if need be, regasified LNG from Repsol’s facility in Saint John, New Brunswick. On November 15, 2021, Repsol completed the acquisition of 100% ownership of the facility Canaport LNG facility which has now been renamed Saint John LNG.

To meet the increasing demand during the winter peaking months, LDCs rely on upstream storage gas and additional supplies such as LNG, propane/air mix and delivered supplies. The LNG used in Massachusetts

during 2021 was imported from Trinidad. 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 18.1 Bcf of natural gas for the period January 2021 through September 2021. This represents a reduction of 5.6 Bcf compared to the same period in the previous year. LNG can also be injected into Exceleerate 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 natural gas market experienced a significant increase in price during the months of September through November 2021, rising to \$6.31 on October 4, 2021. It has since been retreating and – as of December 2, 2021 – it was at \$4.06. This change in pricing has rendered all early forecasts inaccurate. Further, the EIA reports that, as of Friday November 26, 2021, “Gas in Storage” was about 3.56 trillion cubic feet (Tcf). This volume is just 86 Bcf below the 5-year average of 3.65 Bcf. Regardless, at the current levels, total working gas is within the five-year historical range as shown in the chart, below, by Platts – another reporting source:

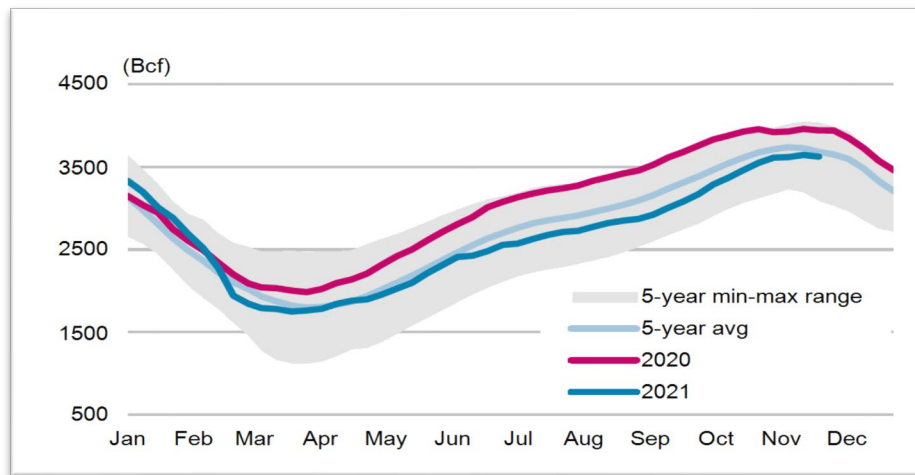


Figure 1-- USGAS STORAGE INVENTORY (Source: Platts)

Platts reports that, for December 1, 2021, Henry Hub spot prices were \$4.26/MMBtu, \$1.48 higher than for the same day in 2020. 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.

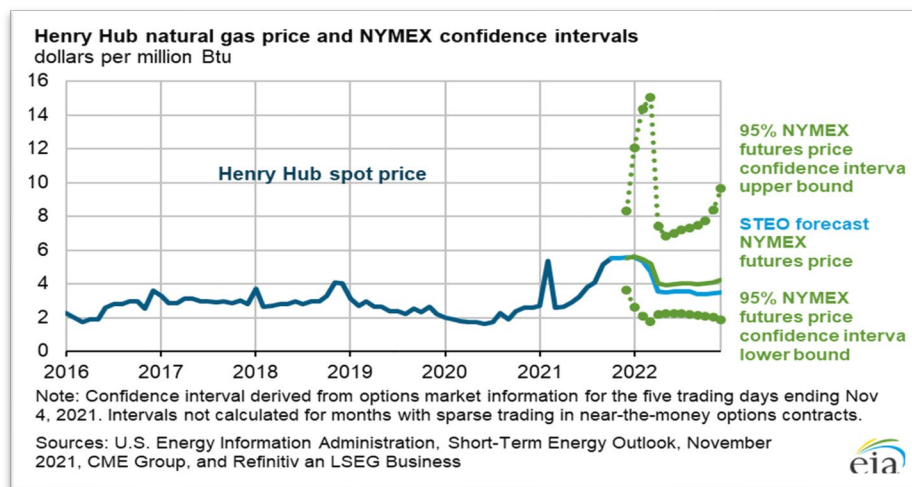


Figure 2- Henry Hub natural gas price and NYMEX confidence intervals (Source: EIA)

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 2021, the Gas Division reviewed six 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 nontariff 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 2021, the Gas Division reviewed 27 non-tariff contracts.

Requests for Cost Adjustments

Department regulations allow costs incurred by gas companies for the purchase, storage, and interstate transportation of gas ("gas supply costs") 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 1st and November 1st 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 2021, 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.²⁰ The charge used to recover all these costs is referred to as the Local Distribution Adjustment Factor ("LDAF"). Examples

²⁰ 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.

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 2021, the Gas Division reviewed eight LDAF requests.

Energy Efficiency Filings

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 May 3, 2021, the Department updated its Energy Efficiency Guidelines to incorporate changes in laws and Department policies and experience concerning energy efficiency. The revised Guidelines will apply to the upcoming three-year plans and other energy efficiency matters that come before the Department.

On November 1, 2021, each LDC submitted its 2022-2024 three-year plan to the Department. LDCs propose to spend \$1.25 billion over the next three years to save approximately 1.15 billion lifetime therms and achieve \$3.8 billion in total benefits. The proposed plans include behavioral offerings, weatherization (e.g., energy audits, attic/wall insulation, and air sealing), and rebates for thermostats, faucet aerators, and the installation of high efficiency heating equipment. New offerings in this plan include rebates for the installation of heat pumps to partially, or fully, displace gas heating equipment. The companies recover energy efficiency related costs via the energy efficiency surcharge in the LDAF. The Department must issue an order on the three-year plans within 90 days (i.e., January 31, 2022). Once a three-year term is completed, the companies submit term report filings for Department review of spending and approval of final cost recovery. The 2019-2021 term reports will be filed with the Department on August 1, 2022. In 2021, the Gas Division reviewed eleven energy efficiency filings.

Cooperation with the Rates and Revenue Requirements Division

The Gas Division works closely with the Department’s Rates and Revenue Requirements Division to review various rate case filings, 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 2021, the Gas Division participated in the Department’s review of five rates-related filings.

Service Quality Filings

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 2021, the Gas Division reviewed eight service quality plans.

Gas Expansion Plans

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 2021.

Licensing of Gas Suppliers and Retail Agents

Over the last several years, the Gas Division has worked to promote competition in the local gas distribution industry through the “unbundling” of rates. The Gas Division has brought about regulatory changes that provide gas customers with opportunities to participate in a competitive gas market, while maintaining traditional consumer protections. Massachusetts customers may choose a gas supplier other than the LDC serving the 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 2021, the Gas Division reviewed 15 Gas Supplier and Retail Agent license applications and the Department approved 115 licenses. The approved licenses include the following:

- 5 new Gas Supplier licenses;
- 8 Gas Supplier license renewals;
- 12 new Gas Retail Agent licenses; and
- 92 Gas Retail Agent license renewals.

Cybersecurity-Related Activities

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 2021.

Participation in Federal Policy-Making

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 DRFA, 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

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.

2021 Gas Division Accomplishments

During 2021, the Gas Division reviewed:

- 4 forecast and supply plan filings;
- 6 long-term gas supply contracts;
- 27 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;
- 11 energy efficiency filings;
- 5 rates-related filings;
- 8 service quality reports; and
- 115 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 six investor-owned natural gas companies and four municipal gas departments. It oversees the intrastate transmission facilities of three additional operators. As a certified agent of the U.S. Department of Transportation (“USDOT”), the Pipeline Safety Division enforces federal and state safety regulations pertaining to natural gas distribution pipelines within the Commonwealth. The Pipeline Safety Division also enforces the Department’s pipeline safety regulations and the Commonwealth’s 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 21,798.25 miles of gas mains and thirteen operators, with 18 LNG plants and seven liquified propane gas (“LPG”) air plants. These facilities serve over 1.4 million customers.

In addition, there are approximately 30.063 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.

In 2021, the Pipeline Safety Division assisted the Department in conducting a rulemaking, D.P.U. 21-04, implementing new regulations 220 CMR 105.00: Use of Professional Engineers for Gas Utility Work, and associated guidelines. The final regulations and guidelines, which took effect on October 15, 2021, promote the safety of natural gas engineering work or services through the use of professional engineer stamps on engineering work or services that could pose a material risk to public safety.

Pipeline Safety Division Gas Facility Inspections and Enforcement Actions

The Pipeline Safety Division’s Public Utility Engineers inspect jurisdictional gas facilities, pipelines, meter stations, regulator stations, dispatch centers, LNG plants, and LPG air plants for compliance with federal and state safety regulations. If the Pipeline Safety Division determines that a probable violation has occurred or is occurring, the Pipeline Safety Division issues a Warning Letter to the alleged violator, advising them to correct the probable violation or be subject to an enforcement action. The Pipeline Safety Division may also issue a Letter of Concern for minor infractions.

If the Pipeline Safety Division has reason to believe that a violation has occurred or is occurring, it may issue a Notice of Probable Violation (“NOPV”), thereby commencing an enforcement action. The NOPV will include a Consent Order that proposes the action(s) to be taken by the respondent to correct the violation and the civil penalty to be paid. The respondent may agree to the Consent Order and pay the civil penalty, thereby resolving the case, or may request an informal review conference with the Pipeline Safety Division. Following an informal review conference and any further investigation, if necessary, the Pipeline Safety Division issues a written decision. If the respondent disputes the written decision, it may request an adjudicatory hearing before the Department.

These remedial actions may include civil penalties when the Department determines that a natural gas operator did not comply with federal or state pipeline safety regulations. The penalties cannot exceed \$500,000 per violation for each day that the violation continues or \$10,000,000 for any related series of violations.²¹

In 2021, Public Utilities Engineers performed approximately 2,649 pipeline safety inspections. These inspections included both field activities and mandated program reviews.

The Pipeline Safety Division issued 24 NOPVs, assessing a total of \$1,795,000. These revenues are not retained by the Department but are deposited into the Commonwealth’s General Fund.

Investigation of Natural Gas Incidents

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;
- 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 2021, there were two incidents:

²¹ G.L. c. 164, § 105A. The statute was amended by Section 81 of Chapter 8 of the Acts of 2021: *An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy*, approved March 26, 2021. Prior to that, penalties were capped at \$200,000 per violation for each day that the violation continues or \$2,000,000 for any related series of violations.

- 56 Locustfield Road, Falmouth (fire, 2/9/21);
- 27 Park Street, Maynard (fire, 9/2/21).

Intrastate LNG/LPG Facilities

LNG and LPG plants are important parts of the gas supply system in Massachusetts. Particularly in the winter months, LNG and LPG plants provide a significant source of gas during peak demand times. Ensuring the safe and effective operation of these plants has always been a priority for the Pipeline Safety Division.

The Pipeline Safety Division comprehensively inspects each LNG and LPG 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.

Dig Safe Law Enforcement

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 2021, the Division received reports of approximately 950 incidents involving possible Dig Safe violations. The Division issued 356 NOPVs and assessed \$7,519,000 in civil penalties. These revenues are not retained by the Department but are deposited into the Commonwealth's General Fund.

The Division also continued to implement a new Dig Safe penalty matrix for repeat offenders.

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

State regulations for steam distribution companies apply to every steam distribution company operating a plant, equipment, or facilities for the manufacture, production, transmission, furnishing, or distribution of steam to or for the public for compensation within the Commonwealth. The steam regulations prescribe minimum safety requirements for the design, fabrication, installation, inspection, testing, operation, and maintenance of steam facilities by steam distribution companies. The Department has the authority to conduct examinations and investigations into a steam distribution company's safety performance, and to levy fines against steam distribution companies for failure to comply with the regulations. At present, there is only one steam distribution company in the state, Vicinity Energy, operating in Boston and Cambridge.

In 2021, the Pipeline Safety Division conducted 142 inspections of steam facilities.

In 2021, the Pipeline Safety Division assisted the Department in opening a rulemaking, D.P.U. 21-38, to amend the regulations for steam distribution companies, 220 CMR 20.00. The final regulations will provide substantive changes throughout the current regulations and enhance public safety.

Gas Meter Testing

State law requires that the Pipeline Safety Division test each natural gas meter for volumetric accuracy and leakage once every seven years, or when the meter is removed from service. Gas companies and municipal gas departments (“operators”) typically remove meters to be tested and replace them with previously approved meters. Operators then deliver meters to their meter shops, where one of the Pipeline Safety Division’s compliance officers tests them to ensure that they are not leaking and that they are accurate, to ensure that a consumer is paying for the correct amount of gas. In 2021, the Pipeline Safety Division assessed \$1,511,260 in meter testing fees from operators. These revenues are not retained by the Department; instead, they are deposited into the Commonwealth’s General Fund.

Consumer Complaints Regarding Meters

The Pipeline Safety Division assists the Department’s Consumer Division in addressing consumer complaints pertaining to both electric and gas meters. For electric meters, a Pipeline Safety Division staff member observes while the meter in question is tested for accuracy. For gas meters, a Pipeline Safety Division compliance officer removes and tests the meter in question using calibrated meter-testing equipment.

Restoration of the Public Way after Utility Openings

In response to complaints from municipalities and the industry about the lack of repairs made to public roads after utility work is completed, the Department promulgated street restoration standards in 1998. The regulations set standards for soil compaction, paving, and other activities affecting road condition.

Partnership with Industry

The Division also worked with utilities and the Dig Safe Call Center to conduct training sessions for excavators. The sessions provide excavators with information about underground utility lines and precautions to take when excavating near those lines. Programs such as Managing Underground Safety Training are an important tool for preventing damage to underground pipelines and cables.

Precedent, Policies, and Practice

The Department is a national leader in gas pipeline safety. The Pipeline Safety Division’s actions in response to violations of the pipeline safety regulations have gained the recognition of USDOT and other pipeline safety organizations across the United States. With more LNG plants than any other state, the Commonwealth’s LNG safety regulations are among the most stringent in the country.

Massachusetts has continued to address the important issue of replacement or abandonment of aging pipe consisting of unprotected bare steel, cast iron, or unprotected coated steel. The Department’s regulations require pipeline operators to prioritize and replace segments of unprotected bare steel and cast-iron pipe in accordance with Department developed criteria. In addition, companies must replace or abandon cast iron pipes, subject to specific criteria, when third-party excavation occurs nearby.

In 2014, the Massachusetts State Legislature passed *An Act Relative to Natural Gas Leaks* (“Gas Leaks Act”). The Gas Leaks Act permits local distribution companies to submit to the Department annual plans to repair or replace aged natural gas infrastructure in the interest of public safety. On October 31 of each year since then,

pursuant to the Gas Leaks Act, seven²² 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, Eversource Gas of Massachusetts (formerly Columbia Gas) and NSTAR each d/b/a 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.

2021 Pipeline Safety Division Accomplishments

In summary, in 2021 the Pipeline Safety Division:

- Conducted natural gas facility inspections, resulting in the issuance of 24 NOPVs for violations of pipeline safety regulations and assessed gas pipeline operators a total of \$1,795,000 in civil penalties;
- Fully qualified 15 field engineers, making all 19 field engineers in the Division fully qualified by the PHMSA Training Qualifications Program;
- Tested 136,672 meters of various sizes, resulting in the assessment of \$1,511,260 in testing fees;
- Completed 2,649 pipeline safety inspections;
- Completed 142 steam inspections;
- Completed the following mandated program reviews for all gas operators:
 - Transmission Integrity Management Plan;
 - Control Room Management;
 - Distribution Integrity Management Plan;
 - Drug & Alcohol;
 - Public Awareness Plan;
- Continued to conduct business despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Implemented 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;
- Received approximately 950 reports of Dig Safe violations, issued 356 NOPVs for violations of the Dig Safe Law, and assessed \$7,519,000 in civil penalties from Dig Safe violators;
- Implemented a new Dig Safe penalty matrix for repeat offenders;
- Developed new regulations and guidelines for the use of professional engineers by natural gas companies, and proposed amendments to the steam distribution company regulations.

²² Six gas companies now submit GSEPs. As of March 15, 2020, Boston Gas Company, Colonial Gas Company, and National Grid operate as one company within the National Grid USA holding company system.

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 distribution companies, six investor-owned natural gas companies (also called local distribution companies or LDCs), and 18²³ 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 also assists the Gas Division with review of certain components of the LDAC filings and with public policy programs such as Geothermal Pilots.

The Rates Division assists the Department’s Legal Division in developing the evidentiary record in adjudicatory proceedings concerning the rates, accounting, finances, tariffs, and terms & conditions of the investor-owned natural gas, electric, and water companies doing business in Massachusetts. The Department’s decisions in these proceedings are directly appealable to the Supreme Judicial Court under G.L. c. 25, § 5.

The regulation of the 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 distribution company filings including the annual reconciliation of basic/default service and reconciliation, transmission, transition costs and revenues, grid modernization investments, interconnection cost allocations, electric vehicles program costs, residential assistance adjustment factor, pension and PBOP costs, Attorney General consultant expenses, and net metering costs;
- Analyze annual adjustments to base distribution rates in compliance with revenue decoupling mechanisms (“RDM”) and performance-based rate (“PBR”) mechanisms approved in base rate cases;
- Analyze adjustments to rates associated with capital expenditure (“Cap-Ex”) recovery filings;
- Analyze adjustments to LDC rates associated with the replacement of leak prone mains and services in accordance with Gas System Enhancement Program (“GSEP”);
- Analyze financing petitions (issuing securities);
- Analyze merger and acquisition 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;

²³ Milford Water Company (“Company”) and the Town of Milford (“Town”) entered into negotiations for the Town to purchase the assets of the Company. The sale and transfer of the assets took place on Friday, December 3, 2021. Milford Water Company will remain in existence for approximately the next year to allow for various wind down activities (e.g., tax returns), but the water system has been incorporated into the Milford Water Department effective with the December 3, 2021 transfer of assets.

- 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, the Climate Act of 2021, retail power supply markets, and service quality investigations where expertise in Rates and Revenue Requirements is needed;
- Provide information and assistance to the public, government agencies, press, private industries, and other government officials where expertise in rates is needed; and
- Provide technical support to the Department in the defense of decisions that are appealed to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

Additionally, the Rates Division maintains tariff logs for the investor-owned electric distribution, natural gas, and water companies conducting business in Massachusetts, as well as the municipal light plants and water and fire districts in Massachusetts, and reviews annual return filings.

Review of Requests to Change Base Distribution Rates

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

- Reviewing the filings (both utility and 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 compliance filings.

Changes to base rates are typically based on historic test year cost of service regulation or PBR. The Department sets base rates using cost-of-service pricing principles where electric, gas, and water rates are based upon the cost to serve various classes of ratepayers. Under cost-of-service pricing, the Rates Division reviews the costs incurred by utility companies during an 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, cost of debt, and rate 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 and working capital) make up the company's cost of service or the revenue requirement upon which rate structures must be designed to recover. Establishing base 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 recover that cost. In setting rates, the Department balances its goals for utility rate structure by taking into consideration multiple factors such as economic efficiency, continuity, fairness, earnings stability, and simplicity.

For water companies, the traditional review of rate cases through adjudicatory proceedings is not always cost effective because the administrative costs of preparing and litigating a rate case for a small water company can equal or exceed the rate relief sought. To streamline the regulatory process, the Department has created a Settlement Intervention Staff, 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 crossover issues are involved, such as in water conservation and adequacy of service, Rates Division staff work with staff at the MassDEP to ensure that the provisions of the agencies' respective duties are implemented in a harmonious manner.

Review of Annual Performance-Based Ratemaking Adjustments

In addition to reviewing changes to base rates, the Rates Division is responsible for reviewing proposed annual PBR adjustments. PBR refers to the use of incentives and adjustments to rates based on a formula as a means of setting utility rates – in contrast to traditional rate-of-return rate making, which is based on a company's cost of service. The PBR allows these companies to adjust their base distribution rates annually through the application of a revenue-cap formula that accounts for, among other factors, economy-wide inflation minus a productivity offset, and events beyond each company's control that have a significant impact on its revenue requirement (i.e., exogenous events). In 2021, the Rates Division was responsible for ensuring that the annual PBR adjustment filings from NSTAR Electric, Massachusetts Electric/Nantucket Electric, and NSTAR Gas were in compliance with directives approved in each company's last base rate proceedings. Additionally, in 2021 the Department approved a PBR mechanism for Boston Gas (National Grid).

Review of Electric Utility Annual Reconciliation Filings

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. Transition factors for Massachusetts Electric/Nantucket Electric and NSTAR Electric are currently credits to ratepayers.

Review of Requests to Change Reconciling Rates

In addition to reviewing changes to base rates, the Rates Division is responsible for reviewing proposed rate changes to items for which the companies are allowed to collect their actual costs (i.e., where dollar-for-dollar recovery is intended). These items include Attorney General consultant costs, the pension and post-retirement

benefit adjustment factors (“PAFs”), and the Residential Assistance Adjustment Factors (“RAAFs”).²⁴ 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 the companies’ last base rate cases, pursuant to the revenue decoupling plan approved by the Department. RDM adjustments are filed annually for the electric distribution companies and semi-annually for the gas companies.

Further, for Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light’s Electric Division, the Department approved a Capital Expenditure, or Cap-Ex Mechanism that allows the company to recover the revenue requirement associated with a pre-determined amount of its annual capital investment incurred since its prior rate case.

Gas System Enhancement Plans (“GSEPs”)

In 2014, legislation was passed allowing gas 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, the gas companies filed GSEPs for review and approval by the Department.

Rates staff played a primary role in the review of the 2020 GSEPs. The 2020 GSEPs covered the 2021 construction year and were approved by the Department, with modifications, in April 2021. The GSEP reconciliation filings were made in May of 2021 and approved in October of 2021. Subsequent GSEP filings, which cover the 2022 construction year, were filed in October of 2021, and are under review by the Rates Division staff.

Review of Financing Requests

The Rates Division is also responsible for the review of financing petitions. Financing petitions include the issuance of debt or equity securities, as well as investment of funds or guaranteeing 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 2021, the Rates Division evaluated and approved four financing petitions involving a total of \$3,825,170,000.

Mergers and Acquisitions

Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 96, the Rates Division reviews all intrastate merger and acquisition proposals that are filed with the Department to determine if they are in the ratepayers’ best interests. 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;

²⁴ 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.

- Any anticipated disruption in service; and
- Other factors that may negatively affect customer service.

Coordination of Annual Assessments

Pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 18, electric and gas companies that do business in Massachusetts are subject to an annual assessment on a percentage of their intrastate revenues. The Rates Division is responsible for gathering the revenue figures for the electric and gas utilities and assisting the Legal Division in preparing the annual assessment Orders.

Review of Utility Accounting Matters

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

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 2021, the Rates Division continues its review of requests for cost recovery through the storm fund mechanisms of twenty storm-fund eligible events, and three exogenous storm cost events. In 2021, NSTAR Electric requested review of cost recovery for eight storm fund eligible storms.

Oversight of Municipal Utilities

The Department's role in regulating municipal light plants is limited in comparison to the jurisdiction exercised over investor-owned utilities. Municipal light 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 three 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.

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 2021, the Rates Division evaluated and approved four requests for increases in municipal depreciation rates. As of the end of 2021, one request for an increase in municipal depreciation rates was still pending.

Review of Customer Complaints

The Rates Division assists the Department’s Consumer Division in the review of rate and billing disputes by residential customers and water quality complaints. In addition, because billing disputes by commercial and industrial customers are not generally handled by the Consumer Division, the Rates Division has at times provided informal assistance in resolving these billing disputes, primarily through review and interpretation of the applicable tariffs. The Rates Division staff periodically meets with Consumer Division staff to inform them of changes that result from the Department’s directives in base distribution rate cases.

Public Information

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

2021 Rates Division Major Activities

During 2021, the Rates Division participated in more than 100 docketed matters, including rate cases, merger/acquisition filings, a water company valuation, Cap-Ex filings, financing requests, grid modernization factor filings and/or investigations, GSEPs, GRECs, pension and PBOP adjustment factor filings, annual performance-based ratemaking adjustment filings, revenue decoupling adjustment factor filings, SMART program filings, utility-owned solar program related filings, storm fund or storm cost recovery filings, annual electric true-ups reconciliation filings, vegetation management/resiliency tree work filings, municipal depreciation requests, and several other uncategorized filings such as the Department’s investigation 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, D.P.U. 20-91.

TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY DIVISION

Overview

On August 5, 2016, Massachusetts created a statewide regulatory framework for Transportation Network Companies (“TNCs”) – also known as rideshare companies – when Governor Baker signed into law House Bill 4570, An Act Regulating Transportation Network Companies (“Legislation”). The Legislation 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, the TNC Division has pioneered advanced background check initiatives while screening nearly 300,000 drivers, continued its leadership in TNC ride data reporting, disbursed approximately \$54.1 million to cities and towns to address the impact of transportation network services, and worked collaboratively with transportation industry representatives to improve transportation network services.

Background Checks

In January 2017, the TNC Division began running background checks on rideshare drivers and this effort has continued throughout 2021. Prior to becoming a rideshare 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. Second, the TNC Division performs a comprehensive Massachusetts-based background check, obtaining criminal offender record information (“CORI”), Warrant Management System information, Sex Offender Registry Information, and Registry of Motor Vehicles’ driving history. Approved drivers are issued a Background Check Clearance Certificate (“Clearance Certificate”), which enables them to provide rideshare services.

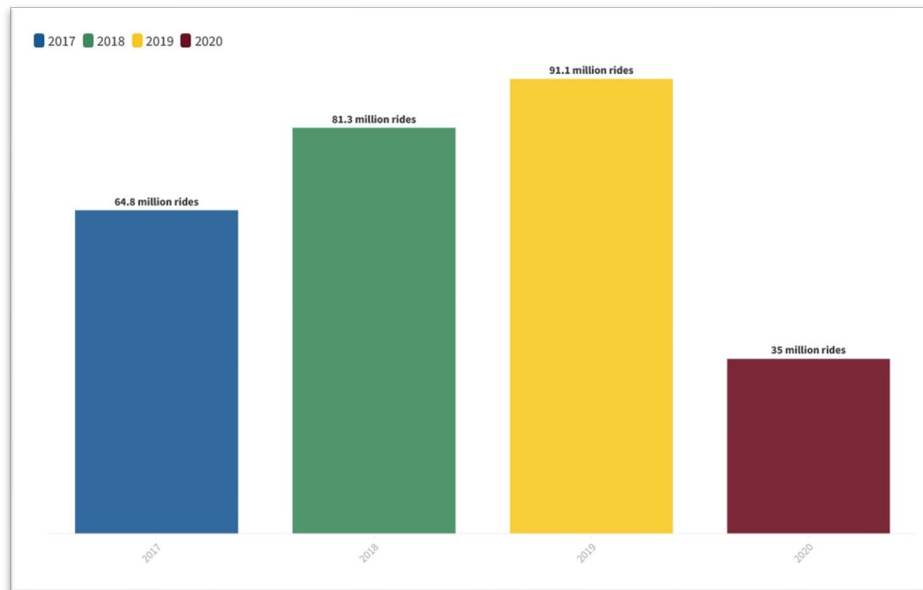
Additionally, since 2019, the TNC Division is the only non-criminal justice agency to integrate with the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services to continuously monitor each approved driver’s CORI. This enables the TNC Division to receive alerts on new offenses and take appropriate action immediately. If a driver violates the TNC Division standards, their Clearance Certificate is temporarily suspended or permanently revoked. Such drivers may appeal a denial, suspension, or revocation.

TNC Driver Background Check Clearance Certificates January 2017-December 2021 ²⁵	
Approved Applications	255,929
Denied Applications	42,429
Revoked Clearance Certificates	20,038

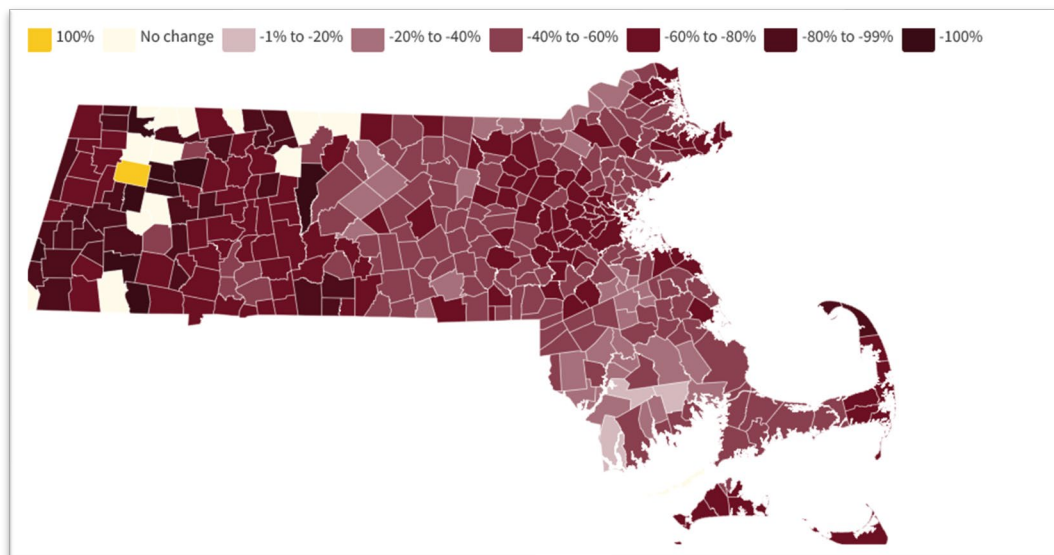
²⁵ These numbers are de-duplicated so, if a person applies to drive from more than one TNC, that person is only counted once.

Ride Data

Each year, the TNC Division receives aggregated ride data from the permitted TNCs – currently Uber, Lyft, and Via – and creates an interactive website to display the impact of rideshare on cities and towns. As a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, rideshare companies provided approximately 62% fewer rides in 2020 in Massachusetts than in 2019. The graph below provides yearly totals of rides since 2017, when the TNC Division began collecting that information:



Rideshare decreases happened across nearly the entire state, with the biggest impacts seen in the Greater Boston area, the Cape and Islands, and smaller towns in western Massachusetts. The map below represents the percentages of decreases in rideshare usage throughout Massachusetts from 2020 as compared to 2019:



Additionally, the TNC Division developed an “in house” ride data website in 2021. For the three prior years, the TNC Division collaborated with the Executive Office of Technology Services & Security to publish the website (<https://tnc.sites.digital.mass.gov/>). Their partnership was instrumental in the TNC Division’s ability to

create a self-sustaining ride data website model and reduce operational costs of developing and maintaining the ride data websites.

Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Trust Fund

On February 1st of each year, rideshare companies submit \$0.20 for each ride that started within Massachusetts. Due to the decrease in rides because of the COVID19 pandemic, the Commonwealth received substantially less in per-ride assessment funds in 2021 than in years prior:

TNC Per-Ride Assessments		
Year	Total Rides	Per-Ride Assessment Total
2020	35 million	\$7 million
2019	91.1 million	\$18.2 million
2018	81.3 million	\$16 million
2017	64.8 million	\$12.9 million

The funds received from the per-ride assessment are disbursed ($\frac{1}{2}$) to the municipality in which the ride originated, ($\frac{1}{4}$) to the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency, and ($\frac{1}{4}$) to the Commonwealth Transportation Fund. Annually, cities and towns must report to the TNC Division on their use of the funds, which are in turn published to the TNC Division's website.²⁶

²⁶ <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/2020-rideshare-data-report>

TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT DIVISION

Overview

The Transportation Oversight Division (“Transportation Division” or “Division”) has two major areas of responsibility and serves both consumer protection and critical public safety functions. First, it regulates the rates and safety practices of common carriers used to transport passengers and property including trucks, railways, buses, household moving companies, towing companies, and hazardous waste companies. The Transportation Division licenses all Massachusetts-based intrastate motor bus companies. The Division investigates consumer complaints regarding a driving violation or an accident involving a Department-licensed common carrier.

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 2021, the Transportation Division generated approximately \$128,000 in revenues which were deposited into the General Fund.

Second, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts designated the DPU to serve as the State Safety Oversight Agency (“SSOA”) for the rail fixed guideway public transportation system. The Transportation Division performs all associated work. Pursuant to federal regulations (49 CFR §674) a state with a rail fixed guideway public transportation system has primary responsibility for overseeing the safety of the system and must establish a SSOA. In Massachusetts, the only rail fixed guideway public transportation system is the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (“MBTA”).

Notable this year was the SSOA’s participation in the National Transportation Safety Board (“NTSB”) investigation into the collision of two MBTA Green Line trains on July 31. Consistent with usual procedure, the SSOA immediately deployed staff to the scene on the evening of the accident. The following day, the SSOA attended the NTSB’s opening meeting and assigned four staff to assist full-time in whatever capacity was needed. Throughout the investigation, three Public Utilities Engineers and one Compliance Officer participated in site visits, interviews, and meetings for three investigation areas:

1. Crash Worthiness;
2. Operations and Human Performances; and
3. Engineering/Mechanical.

Other SSOA staff worked off-site on matters related to the accident. SSOA Staff were available to the NTSB throughout the investigation. The NTSB issued a preliminary investigation report in September 2021.

Motor Bus Certificates

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 motor bus 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 motor bus certificate on-road driver evaluation exams. The motor bus certificate is valid until a driver turns 70 years of age. After turning 70 years of age, drivers must provide updated Department of Transportation medical certificates to renew their certificate every six months.

Motor Bus Certificates Issued (New and Renewals)	
14 Passenger Restricted Renewals	276
14 Passenger Restricted Road Tests	109
Total Certificates Issued	385

Destination-Specific Bus Company Compliance Inspections

Under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Massachusetts State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Team, the Transportation Division's bus inspectors perform Joint Passenger Carrier Compliance Inspections ("Compliance Inspection Program") to check passenger-for-hire vehicles, motor coaches and drivers for safety and regulatory compliance. The random inspections are conducted at multiple locations throughout the Commonwealth at sites with a high frequency of subject vehicles. Locations include South Station, Logan Airport, Fan Pier, and Faneuil Hall. The Compliance Inspection Program generated citations totaling \$735.

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 inspection locations and times are designed to prevent passenger disruption wherever possible. The compliance schedule includes two passenger-carrier compliance checks per month at various locations such as Logan Airport, Boston's Seaport District, and the South Station Bus Terminal. The Compliance Inspection Program is funded through the 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. In August 2021, Massachusetts was recognized by FMCSA for the greatest reduction in motor vehicle fatalities for a medium-size state. The Compliance Inspection Program directly increases the safety of commercial vehicles and drivers operating on the Commonwealth's roadways.

Destination Inspections with State Police	
Total Vehicle Inspections	260
Total Violations	140
Total Vehicles Placed Out of Service	32
Total Drivers Placed Out of Service	10
Total Citation Fines Issued	\$735.00

Transportation Division field staff also conduct what the FMCSA calls a "Safety Assessment" ("SA"). 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 SA is an outreach and education tool that the Department provides to carriers to help them identify and resolve deficiencies without a fine or penalty.

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

The Division is responsible for oversight of 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. As of November 30, 2021, the Transportation Division performed 3,078 bus safety inspections.

Bus Safety Inspections (as of November 30, 2021)	
Bus, Duck, Limo Inspections	2,243

Transit Bus Inspections	835
Vehicles Placed Out of Service	127
Compliance Reviews	30
Total Bus Safety Inspections	3,078

Licensing of Certain Common Carriers

Pursuant to 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 2021, the Transportation Oversight Division conducted licensing hearings.

Licensing Hearings in 2021	
Bus Companies	27
Tow Companies	11
Household Movers	20
Total Licensing Hearings	57

Vehicle Decals and Permits

Vehicle specific decals and permits (for trucks and buses) are required by law to denote a licensed common carrier. In 2021, the Transportation Oversight Division issued decals and permits, collecting over \$106,850 in revenues that were deposited into the Commonwealth’s General Fund.

Tow Companies

In 2021, the Transportation Division conducted 91 audits of randomly-selected tow companies to monitor compliance with the Department’s towing regulations and rates published at 220 CMR §272. The audits identified 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 2021, seven 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 Transportation Division investigated 20 consumer tow complaints resulting in \$970.86 refunded to consumers.

Safety Oversight of the Rail Transit Authority

Federal regulations, 49 CFR §674, lay out the SSOA’s responsibility for overseeing the safety of rail fixed guideway public transportation systems, performing field 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 432 field activities (i.e., Risk Monitoring Activities) in the year 2021 (as of November 30).

Rail Oversight/Risk Monitoring Activities (as of November 30, 2021)	
Reviews	166
Field Observations	160
Interviews	33
Inspections	8
Event Investigations Initiated and Being Tracked	65
Total Rail Oversight Activities	432

Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan

Federal regulations require rail fixed guideway public transportation systems, such as the MBTA, to have a Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (“PTSAP”) that includes the processes and procedures to effectively manage safety risks. The PTSAP must include a plan for implementing a Safety Management System (“SMS”). The SSOA must review and verify the compliance of the PTSAP with federal requirements. On June 25, 2021, the Department received the MBTA’s PTASP, entitled “2021 MBTA Transit Safety Plan”. The Department completed its review and approved the PTASP on July 22, 2021. The Department continuously monitors the implementation of the PTSAP through regular meetings with the MBTA.

Audit of the SSOA Program

The Federal Transit Administration (“FTA”) audits each SSOA at least once every three years. In 2019, the FTA conducted its triennial audit of SSOA and issued the final audit report on December 8, 2020. Throughout 2021, the Division implemented organizational changes necessary to respond to the FTA audit findings. At the close of 2021, the Division has responded formally to each of the findings and the FTA has closed several findings.

Triennial Audit of the MBTA

Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 674, the SSOA is required to conduct an external audit of the MBTA’s implementation of its Safety Plan at least once every three years. The most recent triennial audit was conducted by a third-party contractor on behalf of the Department. The contractor conducted various interviews with the MBTA personnel responsible for key safety programs and functions. Historically, most audit activities were conducted on-site and in-person. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, most activities for this Audit were conducted virtually via video meetings in August through November 2020. On November 3, 2021, the Department issued the final report to the MBTA summarizing five findings. The MBTA will address the findings by submitting a Corrective Action Plan for each to the SSOA within 60 days of the issuance of the report.

Transportation Division Orders

D.P.U. 21-31, Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own motion to consider whether CSX Transportation, Inc. is in violation of G.L. c. 160, § 151 (March 9, 2021). The Department is reviewing comments and determining next steps.

D.P.U. 20-TD-01, Petition of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to the Department of Public Utilities, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 160, §98, for an exemption from Minimum Bridge Clearance Requirements in connection with the planned development of buildings on Massachusetts Turnpike Air Rights Parcel 7, Phase II (March 16, 2021). The Department granted MassDOT’s request for an exemption.

APPENDIX 1: 2021 SITING BOARD DECISIONS AND SITING DIVISION'S DEPARTMENT ORDERS

- NSTAR Electric Company, EFSB 14-04A/D.P.U. 14-153A/14-154A
- NSTAR Electric Company, EFSB 19-03/D.P.U. 19-15
- New England Power Company, EFSB 19-04/D.P.U. 19-77/19-78
- Northeast Energy Center LLC, EFSB 18-04/D.P.U. 18-96
- Energy Facilities Siting Board, EFSB 21-01
- Vineyard Wind 1 LLC, D.P.U. 21-01
- Mayflower Wind, EFSB 21-03/D.P.U. 21-142/21-143 (Referral and Consolidation Order)

APPENDIX 2: DEPARTMENT ORDERS ISSUED IN 2021

Docket #	Caption	Order Date
20-72	Inquiry by the Department of Public Utilities on Its Own Motion into Statewide Towing Association Inc.'s Petition for Changes to Towing Rates, Charges and Operations in Massachusetts.	1/6/2021
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.	1/12/2021
11-54	Petition of the Attorney General of the Commonwealth to the Department of Public Utilities, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 93, requesting a review of the price of gas provided by New England Gas Company related to environmental response costs.	1/20/2021
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.	1/20/2021
20-GC-10	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Newton-Wellesley Hospital, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	1/22/2021
20-GC-11	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and McLean Hospital, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	1/22/2021
20-41	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil, to the Department of Public Utilities for approval of its annual reconciliation filing for recovery of costs through its Solar Cost Adjustment tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 328.	1/25/2021
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.	1/27/2021

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.	1/27/2021
19-ERP-01	Petition of Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts for approval of its 2019 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	1/28/2021
19-ERP-02	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its 2019 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	1/28/2021
19-ERP-03	Petition of Blackstone Gas Company for approval of its 2019 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	1/28/2021
19-ERP-04	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2019 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	1/28/2021
19-ERP-05	Petition of Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of its 2019 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	1/28/2021
19-ERP-06	Petition of Liberty Utilities for approval of its 2019 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	1/28/2021
19-ERP-07	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2019 annual gas Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	1/28/2021
20-GAF-P1	Petition of Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts 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.	1/28/2021
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.	1/28/2021
20-74	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of Supplemental Budgets for its 2018 to 2021 Grid Modernization Plan, its Five-Year Battery Energy Storage Demonstration Program, and its Five-Year Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Program.	2/4/2021
21-13	Petition of Allco Renewable Energy Limited and Allco Finance Limited for an Adjudicatory Hearing and Emergency Injunctive Relief Regarding Interconnection Disputes with Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid.	2/4/2021

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.	2/10/2021
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.	2/11/2021
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.	2/11/2021
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.	2/12/2021
21-04	Investigation of the Department of Public Utilities, on its own motion, instituting a rulemaking pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 148; G.L. c. 30A, § 2; and 220 CMR 2.00, to establish requirements for Use of Professional Engineers for Gas Utility Work, 220 CMR 105.00.	2/18/2021
21-BSF-B1	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy's Basic Service Filing for Western Massachusetts Electric Company.	2/19/2021
20-118	Petition of Ameresco, Inc. for an Exception to the Net Metering Regulations pursuant to 220 CMR 18.00, and to the “Single Parcel” Rule, pursuant to Net Metering and Interconnection of Distributed Generation, D.P.U. 11-11-C (2012).	2/19/2021
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.	2/22/2021
21-07	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, to the Department of Public Utilities for approval of its annual reconciliation filing for recovery of costs through its Solar Cost Adjustment Provision Tariff.	2/22/2021
20-60	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, requesting approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Capital Investment Report for Calendar Year 2019 and CapEx Factors for effect March 1, 2021.	2/25/2021
19-81	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, requesting approval of its Capital Investment Report for calendar year 2018 and CapEx Factors for effect March 1, 2020.	2/25/2021
20-68	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for review and approval of its Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan for effect October 1, 2020.	2/25/2021

20-140	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.	2/25/2021
19-87	Petition of Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company each d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to M.D.P.U. No. 3.11, for Approval of Calendar Year 2018 Gas Business Enablement Program Costs and Gas Business Enablement Factors.	2/25/2021
21-BSF-C1	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy's Basic Service Filing.	2/25/2021
19-127	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. 67C and NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, D.P.U. 16-105 (2016).	2/25/2021
21-01	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval of their 2020 electric reconciliation filing effective March 1, 2021, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	2/26/2021
21-02	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid, for approval of its annual Pension/PBOP Adjustment Factors for effect March 1, 2021.	2/26/2021
21-06	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, 2021.	2/26/2021
20-SQ-10	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2019 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).	2/26/2021
20-SQ-11	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2019 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).	2/26/2021
20-SQ-12	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2019 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).	2/26/2021
20-SQ-13	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2019 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).	2/26/2021
20-SQ-14	Department of Public Utilities review of the 2019 Service Quality Reports of the Electric Distribution Companies filed pursuant to Order Adopting Revised	2/26/2021

	Service Quality Standards, D.P.U. 12-120-D (2015) and D.P.U. 12-120-D, Attachment A (2015).	
18-60	Referral to the Department of Public Utilities by the Supreme Judicial Court of the Town of Milford's Petition to Determine the Amount of Compensation to be Paid for the Purchase of the Corporate Property and All Rights and Privileges of the Milford Water Company, pursuant to St. 1881, c. 77, § 9, and G.L. c. 165, § 5.	2/26/2021
20-137	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a firm transportation agreement with Algonquin Gas Transmission Company, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	3/1/2021
21-BSF-B1	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy's Basic Service Filing for Western Massachusetts Electric Company.	3/4/2021
21-BSF-C1	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy's Basic Service Filing.	3/4/2021
21-31	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own motion to consider whether CSX Transportation, Inc. is in Violation of G.L. c. 160, § 151.	3/9/2021
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.	3/9/2021
20-145	Joint Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of Revised Model Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Program Provision.	3/17/2021
21-09	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of an agreement with Neptune LNG, LLC, for the permanent release of a firm transportation agreement on Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC, and firm city gate peaking agreements with Constellation LNG, LLC, and Direct Energy Business Marketing, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	3/18/2021
21-BSF-D1	Basic Service Filing of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid	3/19/2021
20-144	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval to extend existing gas-resource contracts with Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	3/29/2021
21-ASMT-01	General Assessment of the Department of Public Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 18, for fiscal year 2021.	3/30/2021
21-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 2021.	3/30/2021
21-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 2021.	3/30/2021
21-ASMT-04	Steam Distribution Company Assessment of the Department of Public Utilities pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 18A, for Fiscal Year 2021.	3/30/2021

21-04	Investigation of the Department of Public Utilities, on its own motion, instituting a rulemaking pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 2, G.L. c. 164, § 148, and 220 CMR 2.00, to promulgate 220 CMR 105.00: Use of Professional Engineers for Gas Utility Work.	3/31/2021
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.	3/31/2021
20-146	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for authorization and approval: (1) to issue long term debt securities in an amount not to exceed \$1,600,000,000, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 14; and (2) for an exemption from the competitive solicitation and advertising requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15, as well as an exemption from the par value requirement of G.L. c. 164, § 15A.	3/31/2021
19-GC-17	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 Wellesley College, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	3/31/2021
19-GC-46	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of the Second Amendment to a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Wellesley College, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	3/31/2021
21-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.	3/31/2021
20-GAF-P4	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2020/21 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2020.	3/31/2021
20-141	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for Approval of Revisions to Money Pool Agreement.	3/31/2021
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).	4/2/2021
20-139	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company, for review and approval of its five-year Forecast and Supply Plan for the period 2020/21 through 2024/25.	4/6/2021
n/a	Letter Order ratifying the Chair's Eighth Set of Orders under G.L. c. 25, § 4B	4/6/2021
21-10	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 69I, for Review and Approval of its Long-Range Forecast and Resource Plan for the five-year period 2020-2025.	4/7/2021
21-BSF-A2	Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil Basic Service Filing.	4/7/2021

20-SQ-11	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Massachusetts Electric 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).	4/8/2021
20-SQ-12	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Nantucket Electric 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).	4/8/2021
19-51	Petition of the Town of Abington for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134	4/9/2021
20-98	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' proposed Basic Service Adjustment Provision, M.D.P.U. No. 1456, to reflect revisions associated with the Massachusetts Clean Peak Energy Portfolio Standard regulations in 225 CMR 21.00.	4/12/2021
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.	4/13/2021
21-14	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy, for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2021 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021.	4/14/2021
21-15	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2021 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021.	4/14/2021
21-19	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2021 Off-Peak Period, for effect May 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021.	4/14/2021
21-20	Petition of Boston Gas Company and the former Colonial Gas Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval of their Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2021 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021.	4/14/2021
21-21	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 2021 Off-Peak Period, for effect May 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021.	4/14/2021
21-22	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil, for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2021 Off-Peak Period, May 1, 2021, through October 31, 2021.	4/14/2021

21-02	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, 2021.	4/14/2021
21-51	Petition of Liberty Sales and Distribution, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 75A, for approval of the Assured Automation Emergency Shut-Off Valve.	4/14/2021
21-38	Investigation of the Department of Public Utilities, on its own motion, instituting a rulemaking pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 2, and 220 CMR 2.00, to amend 220 CMR 20.00, Steam Distribution Companies.	4/15/2021
21-50	Notice of Inquiry by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into procedures for enhancing public awareness of and participation in its proceedings.	4/16/2021
21-50	Notice of Inquiry by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into procedures for enhancing public awareness of and participation in its proceedings. SPANISH	4/16/2021
21-50	Notice of Inquiry by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into procedures for enhancing public awareness of and participation in its proceedings. PORTUGUESE	4/16/2021
19-85	Petition of the Town of Leicester for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	4/16/2021
20-98	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's proposed Basic Service Adjustment Provision, M.D.P.U. No. 1456, to reflect revisions associated with the Massachusetts Clean Peak Energy Portfolio Standard regulations in 225 CMR 21.00.	4/21/2021
21-28	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for Approval of their 2021 Energy Efficiency Reconciling Factors, for effect May 1, 2021.	4/26/2021
20-51	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 nine qualifying weather events that occurred between September 2017 and December 2018.	4/26/2021
21-34	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, 2021.	4/27/2021
21-GAF-O1	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2021, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/29/2021
21-GAF-O2	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2021, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/29/2021

21-GAF-O3	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corporation (Blackstone Service Area) for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2021, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/29/2021
21-GAF-O4	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, 2021, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/29/2021
21-GAF-O5	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2021, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/29/2021
21-GAF-O6	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corporation d/b/a Liberty Utilities for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2021, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/29/2021
21-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, 2021, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	4/29/2021
20-GSEP-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.	4/29/2001
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, for rates effective May 1, 2021.	4/29/2021
20-GSEP-03	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of its 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2021.	4/29/2021
20-GSEP-04	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for Approval of its 2021 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2021.	4/29/2021
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.	4/29/2021
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.	4/29/2021
21-25	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 Attleboro, Massachusetts, pursuant to Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, D.P.U. 16-104 (2016), and the Company's Solar Cost Adjustment Provision tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 1455.	4/30/2021

21-33	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for Approval of its 2021 Smart Grid Pilot Program Rate Adjustment and Reconciliation Filing.	4/30/2021
21-32	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Program Factors for effect May 1, 2021.	4/30/2021
21-GC-02	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Wellesley College, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	4/30/2021
21-POR-01	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid pursuant to the Company's Tariffs M.D.P.U. Nos. 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, 2021, under the Company's Purchase of Receivables Program.	4/30/2021
21-POR-02	Petition of 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, 2021, under the Company's Purchase of Receivables Program.	4/30/2021
19-52	Petition of the Town of Stoughton for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Municipal Aggregation Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134	4/30/2021
20-150	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Updating its Energy Efficiency Guidelines.	5/3/2021
21-18	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for authorization to terminate its Home Energy Reports offering within its Residential Behavior energy efficiency core initiative.	5/4/2021
21-40	Joint Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, and the Department of Energy Resources for approval of a proposed timetable and method for the solicitation and execution of long-term contracts for 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, and § 21 of the Act to Advance Clean Energy, Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2018.	5/5/2021
21-BSF-B2	Basic Service Filing of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy.	5/11/2021
21-GC-03	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Northeast Hospital Corporation, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	5/13/2021

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).	5/19/2021
21-44	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.	5/19/2021
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).	5/19/2021
21-BSF-C2	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, Basic Service Filing.	5/20/2021
21-GC-04	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Simmons University, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	5/21/2021
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	5/21/2021
20-145	Joint Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of Revised Model Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Program Provision.	5/21/2021
20-69	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into the Modernization of the Electric Grid – Phase Two.	5/21/2021
21-45	In the matter of various excavators concerning compliance with the Dig Safe Law, G.L. c. 82, §§ 40-40E.	5/24/2021
21-GC-05	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Chelsea Sandwich, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	5/24/2021
20-148	Petition of Middleborough Gas and Electric Department for approval by the Department of Public Utilities to continue to use a rate of depreciation of five percent for the calendar years 2020 and 2021.	5/25/2021
21-23	Petition of Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant to the Department of Public Utilities for approval to use a rate of depreciation of five percent for the calendar years 2020 and 2021.	5/25/2021
21-16	Request of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy 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.	5/26/2021

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.	5/27/2021
21-41	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil, for Approval of its 2021 Energy Efficiency Reconciling Factors, for effect June 1, 2021.	5/27/2021
21-52	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Program Factors for effect June 1, 2021.	5/27/2021
20-63	Petition of Electric Distribution Companies to Revise the Standards for Interconnection of Distributed Generation Tariff pursuant to Department Inquiry, D.P.U. 19-55.	5/28/2021
20-SQ-11	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Massachusetts Electric 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).	5/28/2021
20-SQ-12	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities into Nantucket Electric 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).	5/28/2021
21-01	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval of their 2020 electric reconciliation filing effective March 1, 2021, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	6/2/2021
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).	6/3/2021
20-72	Inquiry by the Department of Public Utilities on Its Own Motion into Statewide Towing Association Inc.'s Petition for Changes to Towing Rates, Charges and Operations in Massachusetts.	6/4/2021
20-60	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, requesting approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Capital Investment Report for Calendar Year 2019 and CapEx Factors for effect March 1, 2021.	6/8/2021
21-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 2020 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	6/8/2021

21-GREC-02	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for Approval of the Reconciliation of its 2020 Gas System Enhancement Plan and Review and Approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	6/8/2021
21-GREC-03	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for Approval of the Reconciliation of its 2020 Gas System Enhancement Plan and Review and Approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	6/8/2021
21-GREC-04	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for Approval of the Reconciliation of its 2020 Gas System Enhancement Plan and Review and Approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	6/8/2021
21-GREC-05	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for Approval of the Reconciliation of its 2020 Gas System Enhancement Plan and Review and Approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	6/8/2021
21-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 2020 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factor.	6/8/2021
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.	6/9/2021
20-58	Inquiry of the Department of Public Utilities into Establishing Policies and Practices for Electric and Gas Companies Regarding Customer Assistance and Ratemaking in Connection with the State of Emergency Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic.	6/14/2021
n/a	Continuation of Modified Filing Requirements	6/15/2021
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.	6/15/2021
21-BSF-D2	Basic Service filing of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for the period August 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021.	6/22/2021
21-GC-07	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.	6/22/2021
21-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	6/22/2021

	Industries – Northeast Region, Inc., pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	
21-BSF-D2	Basic Service filing of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for the period August 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021.	6/22/2021
21-58	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Program Factors for effect July 1, 2021.	6/23/2021
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.	6/23/2021
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.	6/23/2021
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.	6/23/2021
20-94	Petition of Main South Community Development Corporation 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).	6/24/2021
n/a	Report to legislature Concerning Self-Generation on sales of electricity and recovery of transition costs by electric distribution companies	6/25/2021
21-67	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, 2021.	6/28/2021
21-67	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, 2021.	6/28/2021
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.	6/29/2021
21-49	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, for Approval of its 2021 Energy Efficiency Reconciling Factors, for effect July 1, 2021.	6/30/2021
20-58	Inquiry of the Department of Public Utilities into Establishing Policies and Practices for Electric and Gas Companies Regarding Customer Assistance and	6/30/2021

	Ratemaking Measures in Connection to the State of Emergency Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).	
21-17	Petition of Ameresco, 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).	7/1/2021
21-GC-06	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.	7/1/2021
21-GC-09	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Trustees of Boston College, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	7/1/2021
21-GC-10	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Baker Commodities, Inc., pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	7/1/2021
21-GC-11	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Trustees of Boston University, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	7/6/2021
21-GC-12	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Rousselot Peabody, Inc., pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	7/6/2021
20-149	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts for approval of long-term gas service agreement with Hopkinton LNG Corporation, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 94A and 94B.	7/12/2021
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.	7/16/2021
21-60	Petition of National Grid USA pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 96(c) for a waiver of jurisdiction of the Department of Public Utilities regarding the sale of The Narragansett Electric Company.	7/16/2021
21-BSF-D2	Basic Service filing of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for the period August 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021.	7/26/2021
21-57	Petition of Harbor Electric Energy Company for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Capacity and Support Charge True-Up Adjustment for 2020.	7/27/2021
21-GC-13	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Vicinity Energy Boston, Inc., pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	7/29/2021

21-GC-14	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Vicinity Energy Boston, Inc., pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	7/29/2021
21-GC-15	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Lorusso Materials Corp., pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	7/29/2021
21-GAF-O1	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2021, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	7/29/2021
21-GAF-O4	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, 2021, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	7/29/2021
21-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, 2021, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	7/29/2021
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 a General Increase in Base Distribution Rates for Gas Service and a Performance Based Ratemaking Mechanism	7/30/2021
21-60	Petition of National Grid USA pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 96(c) for a waiver of jurisdiction of the Department of Public Utilities regarding the sale of The Narragansett Electric Company.	8/3/2021
20-92	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for review and approval of its five-year Forecast and Supply Plan for the period 2020/2021 through 2024/2025.	8/4/2021
21-29	Petition of Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company for authorization and approval to issue revenue bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness in an amount not to exceed \$170,000,000 pursuant to St. 1975, c. 775, §§ 5(p), 9, 11, and 17.	8/12/2021
21-GC-16	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Aggregate Industries - Northeast Region, Inc., for service to a facility in Weymouth, Massachusetts, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	8/13/2021
21-09	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of an agreement with Neptune LNG, LLC, for the permanent release of a firm transportation agreement on Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC, and firm city-gate peaking agreements with Constellation LNG, LLC, and Direct Energy Business Marketing, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	8/16/2021
21-16	Request of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for an Adjudicatory Proceeding pursuant to Section 9.3 of the Standards For	8/20/2021

	Interconnection of Distributed Generation, M.D.P.U. No. 55, of NSTAR Electric Company.	
21-BSF-B3	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy Basic Service Rates Filing (Western Massachusetts).	8/23/2021
18-54	Commission Memorandum	8/25/2021
20-02	Commission Memorandum	8/25/2021
21-BSF-B3	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy Basic Service Rates Filing (Western Massachusetts)	8/26/2021
21-BSF-C3	NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, Basic Service Rates.	8/26/2021
19-75	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities, on its own motion and pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 56, 58, and 63, into the propriety of transfers of fund balances by the Danvers Electric Division to the Town of Danvers.	8/30/2021
21-GAF-O2	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2021, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	8/30/2021
21-GAF-O3	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. (Blackstone Service Area) d/b/a Liberty for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2021, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	8/30/2021
21-GAF-O5	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2021, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	8/30/2021
21-GC-18	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and MATEP, LLC, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	9/1/2021
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.	9/2/2021
18-111	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21 for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2019 through 2021.	9/2/2021
18-112	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil, 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.	9/2/2021
18-113	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21 for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2019 through 2021.	9/2/2021
18-114	Petition of Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company, each d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21 for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2019 through 2021.	9/2/2021

18-115	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21 for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2019 through 2021.	9/2/2021
18-117	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil, 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.	9/2/2021
18-118	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21 for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2019 through 2021.	9/2/2021
18-119	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21 for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2019 through 2021.	9/2/2021
21-GC-17	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and The First Church of Christ, Scientist, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	9/2/2021
21-90	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its Phase II Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program and Electric Vehicle Demand Charge Alternative Proposal.	9/2/2021
21-91	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval of its Phase III Electric Vehicle Market Development Program and Electric Vehicle Demand Charge Alternative Proposal.	9/2/2021
21-92	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program, Electric Vehicle Demand Charge Alternative Proposal, and Residential Electric Vehicle Time of Use Rate Proposal.	9/2/2021
21-80	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Plan for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	9/3/2021
21-81	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Plan for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	9/3/2021
21-82	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 for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	9/3/2021
21-80	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Plan for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	9/3/2021
21-81	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Grid Modernization Plan for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	9/3/2021

21-82	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 for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	9/3/2021
21-74	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, 2021	9/8/2021
21-59	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for authorization and approval: (1) to issue first mortgage bonds from time to time, on or before December 31, 2023, of one or more issues, in an aggregate principal amount of up to \$725,000,000, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 14; and (2) for an exemption from the advertising requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15.	9/10/2021
20-63	Petitions of Electric Distribution Companies to Revise Standards for Interconnection of Distributed Generation Tariff pursuant to Department Inquiry, D.P.U. 19-55.	9/15/2021
20-63	Petitions of Electric Distribution Companies to Revise Standards for Interconnection of Distributed Generation Tariff pursuant to Department Inquiry, D.P.U. 19-55.	9/15/2021
20-63	Petitions of Electric Distribution Companies to Revise Standards for Interconnection of Distributed Generation Tariff pursuant to Department Inquiry, D.P.U. 19-55.	9/15/2021
21-74	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for review and approval of its Performance-Based Ratemaking Plan for effect October 1, 2021.	9/20/2021
21-04	Investigation of the Department of Public Utilities, on its own motion, instituting a rulemaking pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 148; G.L. c. 30A, § 2; and 220 CMR 2.00, to establish requirements for Use of Professional Engineers for Gas Utility Work, 220 CMR 105.00.	9/21/2021
21-BSF-D3	Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid's Basic Service filing for the periods November 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022 for the residential and commercial customer groups and November 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022 for the industrial customer group.	9/22/2021
21-GAF-O1	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2021, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	9/30/2021
21-GAF-O3	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. (Blackstone Service Area) d/b/a Liberty for approval of its off-peak gas adjustment factor filing effective May 1, 2021, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	9/30/2021

21-GAF-O4	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, 2021, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	9/30/2021
21-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, 2021, pursuant to 220 CMR 6.00.	9/30/2021
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.	9/30/2021
21-ERP-08	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2021 annual electric Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	10/8/2021
21-ERP-09	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of its 2021 annual electric Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	10/8/2021
21-ERP-10	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2021 annual electric Emergency Response Plan filed pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 85B and 220 CMR 19.04(1).	10/8/2021
21-GC-19	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of the Third Amendment to a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between The Berkshire Gas Company and Crane & Company, Inc., pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	10/12/2021
21-GC-20	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Norwood Hospital, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	10/12/2021
21-GC-21	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and South Shore Hospital, Inc., pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	10/12/2021
21-BSF-A4	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of Basic Service rates for December 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022, for its small and medium customer groups.	10/12/2021
21-113	Massachusetts Clean Energy Center Request for Fiscal Year 2022 Funding Pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 19(d).	10/13/2021
21-88	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for review and approval of an Asset Management Agreement with Direct Energy Business Marketing, LLC, for effect November 1, 2021 through October 31, 2023, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94A.	10/13/2021
21-111	Annual Report of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for a Geothermal Demonstration Project Approved in D.P.U. 19-120.	10/14/2021
n/a	Winter Energy Supply Costs	10/15/2021

18-125	Petition by NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for review and determination of the eligibility for recovery of storm-related preparation and response costs associated with storm events in 2017 to 2018.	10/19/2021
21-104	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 Solar Phase III generation facilities located in Northborough and Worcester, 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. 1458.	10/20/2021
21-104	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 Solar Phase III generation facilities located in Northborough and Worcester, 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. 1458.	10/20/2021
21-104	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 Solar Phase III generation facilities located in Northborough and Worcester, 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. 1458.	10/20/2021
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.	10/20/2021
18-76	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.	10/21/2021
18-77	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.	10/21/2021
18-78	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.	10/21/2021
21-78	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of a mid-term modification of its 2019-2021 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan.	10/21/2021

21-GC-22	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Northeastern University, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	10/21/2021
21-GC-23	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.	10/21/2021
18-15	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities, on its Own Motion, into the Effect of the Reduction in Federal Income Tax Rates on the Rates Charged by Electric, Gas, and Water Companies.	10/22/2021
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.	10/22/2021
21-BSF-A4	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of Basic Service rates for December 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022, for its small and medium customer groups.	10/22/2021
21-56	Petition of Hopkinton LNG Corporation d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of the demand charge, effective November 1, 2021, developed pursuant to the gas service agreement between NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy and Hopkinton LNG Corporation.	10/25/2021
20-130	Petition by NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of its Annual Storm Cost Recovery Adjustment Factors	10/26/2021
21-86	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2021 Peak Period, November 1, 2021, through April 30, 2022.	10/26/2021
21-87	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2021 Peak Period, November 1, 2021, through April 30, 2022.	10/26/2021
21-89	Petition of Boston Gas Company and the former Colonial Gas Company, each d/b/a National Grid for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2021 Peak Period, November 1, 2021, through April 30, 2022.	10/26/2021
21-95	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2021 Peak Period, November 1, 2021, through April 30, 2022.	10/26/2021
21-96	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 2021 Peak Period, November 1, 2021, through April 30, 2022.	10/26/2021
21-99	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2021 Peak Period, November 1, 2021, through April 30, 2022.	10/26/2021

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.	10/26/2021
20-148	Petition of Middleborough Gas and Electric Department for approval by the Department of Public Utilities to continue to use a rate of depreciation of five percent for the calendar years 2020 and 2021.	10/27/2021
21-39	Petition of Wakefield Municipal Gas and Light Department for approval by the Department of Public Utilities to continue to use a rate of depreciation of five percent for the calendar year 2021.	10/27/2021
21-101	Petition of Marblehead Municipal Light Department for authorization and approval to increase its depreciation rate to five percent for the calendar year 2021.	10/27/2021
21-GAF-P1	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2021/22 local distribution adjustment factor and peak gas adjustment factor filings, for effect November 1, 2021.	10/27/2021
21-GAF-P2	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00, 6.11 for approval of its 2021/22 local distribution adjustment factor and peak gas adjustment factor filings, for effect November 1, 2021.	10/27/2021
21-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, 6.11 for approval of its 2021/22 local distribution adjustment factor and peak gas adjustment factor filings, for effect November 1, 2021.	10/27/2021
21-GAF-P5	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00, 6.11 for approval of its 2021/22 local distribution adjustment factor and peak gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2021.	10/27/2021
21-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, 6.11 for approval of its 2021/22 local distribution adjustment factor and peak gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2021.	10/27/2021
21-GAF-P8	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.00, 6.11 for approval of its 2021/22 local distribution adjustment factor and peak gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2021.	10/27/2021
21-BSF-A4	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of Basic Service rates for December 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022, for its small and medium customer groups.	10/27/2021
21-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 2020 Gas	10/28/2021

	System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	
21-GREC-02	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for review and approval of the reconciliation of its 2020 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/28/2021
21-GREC-03	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145 for review and approval of the reconciliation of its 2020 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/28/2021
21-GREC-04	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for Approval of the Reconciliation of its 2020 Gas System Enhancement Plan and Review and Approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/28/2021
21-GREC-05	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for Review and Approval of the Reconciliation of its 2020 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for Review and Approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/28/2021
21-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 2020 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	10/28/2021
21-112	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for a base distribution rate revenue adjustment pursuant the settlement approved in Eversource Energy/Bay State Gas Company, D.P.U. 20-59/19-140/19-141 (2020).	10/28/2021
21-89	Petition of Boston Gas Company and the former Colonial Gas Company, each d/b/a National Grid for approval of its Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for the 2021 Peak Period, November 1, 2021, through April 30, 2022.	10/28/2021
21-107	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's 2021 performance-based ratemaking adjustment for effect November 1, 2021.	10/29/2021
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.	10/29/2021
21-54	Joint Petition of Aquarion Company, Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts, New England Service Company, Mountain Water Systems, Inc., and Colonial Water Company for approval by the Department of Public Utilities, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 96 and G.L. 165, § 2, of a change of control and mergers.	10/29/2021

21-GREC-05	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for Review and Approval of the Reconciliation of its 2020 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for Review and Approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	11/1/2021
21-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 2020 Gas System Enhancement Plan and for review and approval of its Gas System Enhancement Reconciliation Adjustment Factors.	11/1/2021
21-84	Petition of Boston 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.	11/2/2021
21-GC-24	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and Salem State University, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	11/3/2021
21-GC-25	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between National Grid and The Children's Hospital Corporation, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	11/3/2021
21-16	Request of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy 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.	11/3/2021
20-40	Petition of the towns of Aquinnah, Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Chilmark, Dennis, Eastham, Edgartown, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Oak Bluffs, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Tisbury, Truro, Wellfleet, West Tisbury, and Yarmouth, and Dukes County, acting together as the Cape Light Compact JPE, for Approval to Implement a Strategic Electrification and Energy Optimization Offering and Associated Budget.	11/5/2021
18-15	Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities, on its own Motion, into the Effect of the Reduction in Federal Income Tax Rates on the Rates Charged by Electric, Gas, and Water Companies.	11/10/2021
21-23	Petition of Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant for authorization and approval to increase its depreciation rate to five percent for the calendar years 2020 and 2021.	11/17/2021
21-109	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy Regarding the Comprehensive Safety Assessment & Implementation Plan	11/17/2021
20-139	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company 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 2020/21 through 2024/25	11/17/2021
21-BSF-B4	Basic Service Filing of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy	11/17/2021

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.	11/17/2021
21-110	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, 2021.	11/19/2021
21-107	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy, for review and approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's 2021 performance-based ratemaking adjustment for effect November 1, 2021.	11/22/2021
21-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, 2021, under the Company's Purchase of Receivables Program.	11/23/2021
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	11/24/2021
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.	11/24/2021
21-GAF-P5	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2021/22 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2021.	11/24/2021
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.	11/24/2021
21-BSF-C4	Basic Service Filing for NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy.	11/24/2021
21-68	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 \$1.5 billion, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 14; (2) for an exemption from the competitive solicitation and advertising requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15; and (3) for an exemption from the par value requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 15A.	11/24/2021
21-120	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	11/29/2021
21-121	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	11/29/2021

21-122	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil (Gas Division), pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	11/29/2021
21-123	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp., d/b/a Liberty Utilities, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	11/29/2021
21-124	Petition of Boston Gas Company, d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	11/29/2021
21-125	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	11/29/2021
21-126	Petition of the towns of Aquinnah, Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Chilmark, Dennis, Eastham, Edgartown, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Oak Bluffs, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Tisbury, Truro, Wellfleet, West Tisbury, and Yarmouth, and Dukes County, acting together as the Cape Light Compact JPE, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	11/29/2021
21-127	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, d/b/a Unitil (Electric Division), pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	11/29/2021
21-128	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	11/29/2021
21-129	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy, pursuant to G.L. c. 25, § 21, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan for 2022 through 2024.	11/29/2021
21-110	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, 2021.	11/29/2021
21-54	Joint Petition of Aquarion Company, Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts, New England Service Company, Mountain Water Systems, Inc., and Colonial Water Company for approval by the Department of Public Utilities, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 96 and G.L. 165, § 2, of change of control and mergers.	11/30/2021
21-GC-26	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for approval of a Firm Transportation Service Agreement between Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid and Aggregate Industries – Northeast Region, Inc., pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94 and 220 CMR 5.03.	12/1/2021

21-02	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, 2021.	12/2/2021
21-60	Petition of National Grid USA pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 96(c) for a waiver of jurisdiction of the Department of Public Utilities regarding the sale of The Narragansett Electric Company.	12/3/2021
21-GSEP-01	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for Approval of its 2022 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2022.	12/7/2021
21-GSEP-02	Petition of The Berkshire Gas Company for Approval of its 2022 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2022.	12/7/2021
21-GSEP-03	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid Company for Approval of its 2022 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2022.	12/7/2021
21-GSEP-04	Petition of Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty for Approval of its 2022 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2022.	12/7/2021
21-GSEP-05	Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of its 2022 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2022.	12/7/2021
21-GSEP-06	Petition of NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of its 2022 Gas System Enhancement Plan, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 145, for rates effective May 1, 2022.	12/7/2021
19-76	Joint Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities and the Department of Telecommunications and Cable, on their own motions, instituting a rulemaking pursuant to Executive Order No. 562 to Reduce Unnecessary Regulatory Burden, G.L. c. 30A, § 2, 220 CMR 2.00, and 207 CMR 2.00, to amend 220 CMR 45.00.	12/7/2021
21-79	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 2020 and Capital Cost Adjustment Factors for effect January 1, 2022.	12/8/2021
21-147	Petition of Harbor Electric Energy Company for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's proposed final tariff addendum, relating to the Company's provision of electric distribution service to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority.	12/14/2021
21-94	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its annual electric division pension adjustment factor reconciliation filing for effect January 1, 2022.	12/15/2021

21-24	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of a Geothermal District Energy Demonstration Program.	12/15/2021
21-BSF-D4	Basic Service Filing of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid for the period February 1, 2022 through April 30, 2022 for Industrial Customers.	12/20/2021
20-29	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for review by the Department of Public Utilities of its annual storm reserve adjustment factor filing pursuant to its storm reserve adjustment mechanism tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 65C.	12/21/2021
20-78	Petition of Boston Gas Company and former Colonial Gas Company each 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.	12/21/2021
21-75	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid, for Approval of Deferral of Major Storm Threshold Amounts for Calendar Year 2020.	12/22/2021
21-76	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of Deferral of Major Storm Threshold Amounts for 2020 Storms.	12/22/2021
21-106	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Fourth Annual Performance Based Ratemaking Adjustment, for effect January 1, 2022.	12/22/2021
21-140	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its annual Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors (electric division) for effect January 1, 2022.	12/22/2021
21-137	Petition of Harbor Electric Energy Company for approval of its 2021 Capacity and Support Charge, for effect January 1, 2022.	12/22/2021
21-132	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, 2022.	12/23/2021
21-133	Petition by NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of its Annual Storm Cost Recovery Adjustment Factors for effect January 1, 2022.	12/27/2021
21-GAF-P4	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2021/22 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2021.	12/28/2021
21-GAF-P5	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid pursuant to G.L. c. 164 and 220 CMR 6.04, 6.11 for approval of its 2021/22 peak local distribution adjustment factor and gas adjustment factor filings, effective November 1, 2021.	12/28/2021

21-119	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 2022 Energy Efficiency Reconciling Factors, for effect January 1, 2022.	12/29/2021
21-135	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.	12/29/2021
21-136	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).	12/29/2021
21-130	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its annual Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factors for effect January 1, 2022.	12/29/2021
21-80	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its Grid Modernization Plan for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	12/30/2021
21-81	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid for approval of its Grid Modernization Plan for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	12/30/2021
21-82	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its Grid Modernization Plan for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	12/30/2021
21-80	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its Grid Modernization Plan for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	12/30/2021
21-81	Petition of Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid for approval of its Grid Modernization Plan for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	12/30/2021
21-82	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its Grid Modernization Plan for calendar years 2022 to 2025.	12/30/2021
20-145-B	Joint Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of Revised Model Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Program Provision.	12/30/2021
21-115	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, 2022.	12/30/2021
21-134	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for review and approval of its Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target Factor Filing for rates to be effective January 1, 2022.	12/30/2021

21-141	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, 2022.	12/30/2021
21-108	Petition by NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of the Company's 2021 Resiliency Tree Work Program Annual Compliance Filing.	12/30/2021
20-140	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.	12/30/2021
21-138	Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2021 electric reconciliation filing effective January 1, 2022, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	12/30/2021
21-131	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2021 electric reconciliation filing effective January 1, 2022, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	12/30/2021
20-19	Petition of the Town of Cohasset for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	12/30/2021
20-20	Petition of the Town of Marshfield for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	12/30/2021
20-21	Petition of the Town of Scituate for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	12/30/2021
20-22	Petition of the Town of Rochester for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	12/30/2021
20-23	Petition of the Town of Uxbridge for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	12/30/2021
20-24	Petition of the Town of Westwood for approval by the Department of Public Utilities of a municipal aggregation plan pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 134.	12/30/2021
21-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.	12/30/2021
21-131	Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its 2021 electric reconciliation filing effective January 1, 2022, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 1A(a) through 1H and 220 CMR 11.03(4)(e).	12/31/2021
21-24	Petition of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid for Approval of a Geothermal District Energy Demonstration Program.	12/31/2021