



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING, PUBLIC HEARING, PROCEDURAL CONFERENCE, AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 21-76

July 16, 2021

Petition of NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for Approval of Deferral of Major Storm Threshold Amounts for 2020 Storms.

On June 25, 2021, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy ("Company") filed with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") a petition for approval to defer to the Company's storm fund the major storm threshold amount associated with six calendar year 2020 storm events, or \$7.2 million, for consideration in a future storm cost recovery proceeding. The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 21-76.

In the Company's last base distribution rate case, the Department established the mechanics of the Company's storm fund. A storm fund-eligible event must meet a \$1.2 million incremental operation and maintenance (O&M) cost threshold and any costs that fall below \$1.2 million are not eligible for recovery through the storm fund. NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, D.P.U. 17-05, at 548-549 (2017). Any single storm event with incremental O&M costs that exceeds \$30 million is excluded from recovery through the storm fund. D.P.U. 17-05, at 554. Additionally, the Company collects \$3.6 million annually through base distribution rates to recover a representative level of incremental O&M storm costs (based on a representative level of three storm fund eligible events per year and applying the \$1.2 million cost-per-storm threshold). D.P.U. 17-05, at 550.

In its petition, the Company states that it experienced ten major storm events in 2020 and incurred an estimated \$66.3 million in total storm response costs, inclusive of \$12 million in storm threshold amounts. According to the Company, the number of 2020 storm fund-eligible events was extraordinary and exceed the representative level of three storm events recovered in base rates. The Company further states that each of the ten storm events exceed the \$1.2 million cost-per-storm threshold. The Company requests deferral to the storm fund of the storm thresholds associated with six storm events, or \$7.2 million. The Company states that it is not requesting deferral of the seven storm fund-eligible thresholds not included in base distribution rates because the number of storm fund-eligible events is intended to be representative and expected to vary.

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Holyoke City Clerk's
Holyoke, MA

and determines whether a petition has been timely filed. A petition filed late may be disallowed as untimely, unless good cause is shown for waiver under 220 CMR 1.01(4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 CMR 1.03(1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10. All responses to petitions to intervene must be filed by the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the second business day after the petition to intervene was filed.

All documents must be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov, and Tina.Chin@mass.gov. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 21-76); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic file name should identify the document but should not exceed 50 characters in length. Importantly, all large files submitted must be broken down into electronic files that do not exceed 20 MB. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "21-76") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>. In addition, one copy of all written comments and petitions to intervene should be emailed to the Company's attorneys, Brendan P. Vaughan, Esq. (bvaughan@keeganwerlin.com) and Kerry A. Mahoney, Esq. (kmahoney@keeganwerlin.com).

At this time, a paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Company's offices or the Department due to certain ongoing safety measures and precautions relating to in-person events as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The filing and all subsequent related documents, pleadings and/or filings submitted to the Department and/or issued by the Department will be available on the Department's website as referenced above as soon as is practicable. To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission, as detailed above, is sufficient. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov.

For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's attorneys, identified above. For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Department of Public Utilities Hearing Officer Tina W. Chin (Tina.Chin@mass.gov).