



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 21-53

June 11, 2021

Geothermal Demonstration Project Implementation Plan submitted by NSTAR Gas Company doing business as Eversource Energy.

On October 20, 2020, the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) approved a geothermal energy demonstration project proposed by NSTAR Gas Company doing business as Eversource Energy (“Company”) in its most recent base distribution rate proceeding. NSTAR Gas Company, D.P.U. 19-120, at 155-156 (2020). The Department directed the Company to submit an implementation plan for the Department’s review prior to enrolling participants in the demonstration project that addressed the following information:

(1) standard terms of service; (2) a detailed description of whether and how the Company plans to modify the geothermal demonstration project or the evaluation plan to include existing gas customers and address the potential assessment of scalability to existing gas customers; and (3) an updated project budget and customer bill impacts after the site selection has been finalized.

On May 2, 2021, the Company submitted an implementation plan for its geothermal demonstration project for the Department’s review and approval. The Company’s filing includes standard terms of service, a site assessment and license agreement, and information on stakeholder outreach and coordination, procurement of consultants, project timing, and potential sites. The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (“Attorney General”) filed a notice to intervene in this matter pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(a). The Department has docketed the Company’s implementation plan as D.P.U. 21-53.

Any person interested in commenting on the Company’s implementation plan may submit written comments to the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Friday, July 9th, 2021**. Any of the parties granted intervenor status in D.P.U. 19-120 that wish to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding may do so by filing an appearance of counsel by **Friday June 25, 2021**. Any other person that desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding shall file a petition for leave to intervene no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Friday June 25, 2021**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. Receipt by the Department, not mailing, constitutes filing and determines whether a petition has been timely filed. A petition filed late may be disallowed as untimely, unless good cause is shown

for waiver under 220 CMR 1.01(4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 CMR 1.03(1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10.

At this time, all filings will be submitted only in electronic format in recognition of the difficulty that parties and the Department may have filing and receiving original copies. On March 10, 2020, Governor Baker issued a state of emergency related to COVID-19 for the entire Commonwealth. Ordinarily, all parties would follow Sections B.1 and B.4 of the Department's Standard Ground Rules (D.P.U. 15-184-A, App. 1 (March 4, 2020)); however, until further notice, parties must retain the original paper version and the Department will later determine when the paper version must be filed with the Department Secretary.

All documents should also be submitted to the Department in **PDF format** by e-mail attachment to [dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov) and [kevin.crane@mass.gov](mailto:kevin.crane@mass.gov). The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 21-53); (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. In addition, one copy of all written comments should be emailed to the Company's attorney, Danielle C. Winter, Esq. at [dwinter@keeganwerlin.com](mailto:dwinter@keeganwerlin.com). To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission, as detailed above, is sufficient.

The Company's filing and all related documentation submitted to or issued by the Department will be available on the Department's website as soon as is practicable at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber> (enter "21-53"). A paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Company's offices or the Department's office due to the state of emergency. To request materials in accessible formats (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA Coordinator at [DPUADACoordinator@state.ma.us](mailto:DPUADACoordinator@state.ma.us).

For further information regarding the Company's filing please contact the Company's counsel, Danielle C. Winter, Esq. at [dwinter@keeganwerlin.com](mailto:dwinter@keeganwerlin.com). For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Kevin Crane, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at [kevin.crane@mass.gov](mailto:kevin.crane@mass.gov).