



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PROCEDURAL CONFERENCE

D.P.U. 17-162

January 22, 2018

Petition of Western Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for approval of its annual Storm Recovery Adjustment Factor pursuant to its Storm Recovery Reserve Cost Adjustment tariff.

On October 31, 2017, Western Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy ("WMECo" or "Company") filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") for approval of its Storm Recovery Adjustment Factor ("SRAF"). This filing was made pursuant to Western Massachusetts Electric Company, D.P.U. 10-70 (2011), and the Company's Storm Recovery Reserve Cost Adjustment ("SRRCA") tariff M.D.P.U. No. 1054B. The Department has docketed this petition as D.P.U. 17-162.

The Company proposes to recover \$6,866,787 through the SRAF, which consists of the unrecovered balance of deferred storm-related costs approved for recovery by the Department, as well as the unrecovered balance of deferred storm-related costs approved for recovery by the Department subject to ongoing investigation. See D.P.U. 10-70; Western Massachusetts Electric Company, D.P.U. 13-135 (2016); Western Massachusetts Electric Company, D.P.U. 15-149. WMECo also proposes to recover \$411,377, including carrying charges, for storm costs associated with a February 25, 2017 tornado.

On December 20, 2017, the Department approved, subject to further review and reconciliation, the following SRAFs, effective January 1, 2018. Western Massachusetts Electric Company, D.P.U. 17-162 (2017).

| Rate Class | Proposed SRAF (\$/kilowatt hour) |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| R-1/R-2 | 0.00299 |
| R-3/R-4 | 0.00279 |
| 23/24/ G-0/T-0 | 0.00226 |
| G-2/T-4 | 0.00163 |
| T 2 | 0.00105 |
| T-5 | 0.00065 |
| S-1/S-2 | 0.00269 |

The Company's proposed rate adjustment for a typical residential (R-1) customer using 600 kilowatt hours per month on average would result in a monthly bill increase of \$0.13 or 0.1 percent, holding all other charges constant. In this phase of the proceeding, the Department will investigate whether the SRAFs currently in effect include only those costs that are storm-related, incremental to the Company, exceed the established threshold, and were reasonably and prudently incurred.

The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("Attorney General") has filed a notice to intervene in this matter pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(a). Further, pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), the Attorney General has filed a notice of retention of experts and consultants to assist in her investigation of the Company's filing, and has requested Department approval to spend up to \$150,000 in this regard. Pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), the costs incurred by the Attorney General relative to her retention of experts and consultants may be recovered in the Company's rates. Any person who desires to comment on the Attorney General's notice of intent to retain experts and consultants in this matter may submit written comments to the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, February 21, 2018**.

The Department will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the Company's petition on **Wednesday, February 28, 2018** at 2:00 p.m. at the Department's offices, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110. The public hearing will be immediately followed by a procedural conference. Any person interested in commenting on this matter may appear at the public hearing or submit written comments to the Department no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, February 28, 2018**.

Any person interested in participating in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding must file a written petition for leave to intervene no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, February 21, 2018**. A petition 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 is timely filed. A late-filed petition may be disallowed as untimely, unless good cause is shown for a waiver under 220 CMR 1.01(4). Pursuant to 220 CMR 1.03(1), a petition must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10 to be allowed.

One original and one (1) copy of all written comments, petitions to intervene, and comments on the Attorney General's notice of retention of experts and consultants must be filed with Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the dates noted above. In addition, one copy of all written comments and petitions to intervene should be sent to the Company's attorney, Steven Frias, Esq., Keegan Werlin LLP, 265 Franklin Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110-3113.

All documents should also be submitted to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@state.ma.us and sarah.herbert@state.ma.us; or (2) on a CD-ROM. The text of the e-mail or CD-ROM must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 17-162); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website: <http://web1.env.state.ma.us/DPU/FileRoom/dockets/bynumber>(enter "17-162").

A copy of the Company's petition and the Attorney General's notice of retention of experts and consultants are available for public viewing during regular business hours at WMECo's offices at One Federal Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01105; and at the Department, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. Any person desiring further information regarding the Company's filing should contact its counsel, Steven Frias, Esq., at (617) 951-1400. For further information regarding this notice, please contact Sarah Herbert, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at (617) 305-3500.

To request materials in accessible formats (braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA Coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@state.ma.us or (617) 305-3642. Reasonable accommodations at public or evidentiary hearings for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need, including as much detail as you can. Also include a way the Department can contact you if we need more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible. Last minute requests will be accepted, but may not be able to be accommodated. Contact the Department's ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@state.ma.us or 617-305-3642.