



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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

D.P.U. 20-16

February 19, 2020

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.

On February 10, 2020, NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource” or “Company”) filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) seeking approval of two long-term contracts to purchase Offshore Wind Energy Generation, pursuant to Section 83C of An Act Relative to Green Communities, St. 2008, c. 169, (“Section 83C”) and the Department’s regulations at 220 CMR 23.00. Section 83C was added to An Act Relative to Green Communities by An Act To Promote Energy Diversity, St. 2016, c. 188, § 12. Under each of the proposed contracts between Eversource and Mayflower Wind, Eversource would acquire its pro rata share of Offshore Wind Energy Generation and associated Renewable Energy Credits produced by an aggregate 804 megawatts (“MW”) nameplate capacity offshore wind electric generation facility. In addition to seeking approval of the proposed long-term contracts, Eversource seeks approval to recover annual remuneration of 2.75 percent of the annual payments under the long-term contracts, through its renewable contract adjustment tariff.

Section 83C requires the three electric distribution companies to jointly and competitively solicit proposals for Offshore Wind Energy Generation, and, if the proposals received are reasonable, to enter into cost-effective long-term contracts for offshore wind energy generation equal to 1,600 MW of aggregate nameplate capacity through a staggered procurement schedule. St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; 220 CMR 23.00. Offshore Wind Energy Generation means offshore electric generating resources derived from wind that: (1) are Class I renewable energy generating sources, as defined in section 11F of chapter 25A of the General Laws; (2) have a commercial operations date on or after January 1, 2018, that has been verified by the Department of Energy Resources; and (3) operate in a designated wind energy area for which an initial federal lease was issued on a competitive basis after January 1, 2012. St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; 220 CMR 23.00. All proposed long-term contracts are subject to the review and approval of the Department prior to becoming effective, and as

part of its review and approval process for any proposed long-term contracts, the Department must take into consideration recommendations from the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (“Attorney General”), which must be submitted to the Department within 45 days following the filing of contracts with the Department. St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; 220 CMR 23.00. Section 83C provides that the Department shall consider both the potential costs and benefits of such contracts and shall approve a contract only upon a finding that it is a cost-effective mechanism for procuring reliable renewable energy on a long-term basis. St. 2016, c. 188, § 12; 220 CMR 23.00.

In accordance with Section 83C, the electric distribution companies and the Department of Energy Resources (“DOER”) jointly developed a request for proposals (“RFP”) for the second solicitation of Offshore Wind Energy Generation. On May 17, 2019, the Department approved the method of soliciting and executing long-term contracts, as well as the timetable, contained in the RFP. Offshore Wind RFP, D.P.U. 19-45 (2019). On May 23, 2019, the electric distribution companies, together with the DOER, jointly issued the RFP, as revised on August 7, 2019. Eversource states that the long-term contracts are a cost-effective mechanism for procuring reliable renewable energy on a long-term basis.

According to the Company, if its petition is approved, the bill of an average Eversource residential customer (R-1 rate class) using 516 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month in the Company’s Eastern Massachusetts territory would decrease by \$0.25, or 0.2 percent, and in the Company’s Western Massachusetts territory would decrease by \$0.18 or 0.1 percent. Bill impacts for commercial and industrial customers will vary. These customers should contact the Company for specific bill information.

On February 13, 2020, the Attorney General filed a notice of intervention on behalf of the Company’s ratepayers in this case.

The Department will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the Company’s filing on **Monday, March 9, 2020** at 2:00 p.m. at the Department’s offices, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts. Persons interested in commenting on the Company’s filing may do so at the public hearing or may file written comments by the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Monday, March 9, 2020**. The public hearing will be followed by a procedural conference.

Persons interested in participating in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding must file a written petition for leave to intervene with the Department no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Monday, March 9, 2020**. A petition filed late may be disallowed as untimely, unless good cause is shown for waiver under 220 CMR 1.01(4). Receipt by the Department, not mailing, constitutes filing and determines whether a petition has been timely filed. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. To be allowed, a petition under 220 CMR 1.03(1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10.

The original of all documents must be filed with Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110. One (1) copy of all documents filed with the Department must also be sent to: (1) Danielle Winter, Esq. and Matthew Campbell, Keegan Werlin LLP, 99 High Street, 29th Floor, Boston, MA 02110; and (2) Shannon Beale, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Ratepayer Advocacy, One Ashburton Place, Boston, Massachusetts 02108.

All documents must also be submitted to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and the Hearing Officer, alice.davey@mass.gov or (2) on a CD-ROM or USB. The text of the e-mail, or CD-ROM must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 20-16); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. 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 20-16").

A copy of the Company's filing is available for inspection during regular business hours at the Company's offices at 247 Station Avenue, Westwood, Massachusetts 02090, and on the Company's website: www.eversource.com. Copies are also available for inspection during regular business hours at the Department's offices, One South Station – 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, and on the Department's website.

Reasonable accommodations at public or evidentiary hearings for people with disabilities are available upon request. Contact the Department's ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov or (617) 305-3642. 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. In addition, 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 or (617) 305-3642.

For further information regarding the Company's filing, please contact the Company's counsel, Danielle Winter or Matthew Campbell, at (617) 951-1400. For further information regarding this notice, please contact the Department Hearing Officer assigned to this case, Alice Davey, at (617) 305-3500.