



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF FILING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND PROCEDURAL CONFERENCE

D.P.U. 16-148

September 7, 2016

Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, for approval by the Department of Public Utilities, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 1A(f), to purchase, own, and operate a solar generation facility and, further, for approval of its Solar Cost Adjustment tariff, M.D.P.U. No. 299, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94.

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On August 19, 2016, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (“Company”), filed with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) a request for approval of its program to construct, own, and operate facilities that would generate up to 1.3 megawatts of electricity from solar energy at Sawyer Passway, a brownfield site located in Fitchburg, Massachusetts (“Solar Program”). The Company filed its Solar Program pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 1(A)(f), as amended by St. 2016, c. 75, §§ 1 and 2.

The Company seeks: (1) pre-approval of a range of estimates for capital and ongoing annual costs associated with its Solar Program, including property taxes, operation and maintenance, grounds-keeping, oversight and analysis, and other costs associated with the ownership and operation of the Solar Program; and (2) approval of its Solar Cost Adjustment tariff to allow for the recovery of the Company’s proposed investment in its Solar Program and the its ongoing costs. The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 16-148.

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). Further, pursuant to G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), the Attorney General filed a notice of intent to retain experts and consultants to assist 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 may submit written comments to the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, September 28, 2016**.

The Department will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the Company’s petition on **Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Department’s offices, One South Station, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. A procedural conference will take place immediately following the public hearing to establish a schedule for the evidentiary phase of this case. Any person who desires to comment may do so at the time and place noted above or

submit written comments to the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, October 5, 2016**.

Any person who desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding must file a written petition for leave to intervene with the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, September 28, 2016**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 C.M.R. § 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 C.M.R. § 1.01(4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 C.M.R. § 1.03(1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10. An original and two (2) copies of all written comments or petitions to intervene must be filed with Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on the dates noted above. One copy of all written comments or petitions to intervene should also be sent to the Company's attorney, Paul K. Connolly, Esq., Pierce Atwood LLP, 100 Summer Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110.

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](mailto:dpu.efiling@state.ma.us) and the hearing officer, Sarah Smegal, at [sarah.smegal@state.ma.us](mailto:sarah.smegal@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. 16-148); (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.

A copy of the Company's petition and accompanying exhibits are on file at the Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 for public viewing during business hours, and on the Department's website at: <http://web1.env.state.ma.us/DPU/FileRoom/dockets/bynumber> (enter "16-148"). For further information regarding the Company's petition, please contact counsel for the Company, Paul K. Connolly, Esq., Pierce Atwood LLP, 100 Summer Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, (617) 488-8126. For further information regarding this notice, please contact Sarah Smegal, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, (617) 305-3500.