



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 21-43

May 26, 2021

Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil for approval of its 2020 Interconnection Timeline Enforcement Mechanism Report.

On April 1, 2021, Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil (“Company”) filed with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) its annual Timeline Enforcement Mechanism (“TEM”) Report (“Report”) pursuant to the Department’s Order in Timeline Enforcement Mechanism, D.P.U. 11-75-F (2014) and the Company’s Standards for Interconnection of Distributed Generation, M.D.P.U. No. 269 (“Interconnection Tariff”). The Report consists of the Company’s TEM calculation, a list of interconnection applications eligible to be included in its TEM calculation, and a list of projects excluded from the TEM calculation. The Report also contains the Company’s informational filing of supplemental data as directed by the Department for pre-application reports, group studies, construction time frames, holds, and other time frames. The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 21-43.

In D.P.U. 11-75-F, the Department directed each Distribution Company to report annually its compliance in meeting interconnection timeframes to execute an early or final Interconnection Service Agreement (“ISA”), measured from January 1 through December 31 (“Reporting Year”), for the following interconnection tracks: (1) Simplified Process, (2) Expedited Process, and (3) Standard Process. D.P.U. 11-75-F at 4. The TEM provides a way to measure each Distribution Company’s performance in meeting interconnection timelines and requires each Distribution Company to report its aggregate performance in meeting interconnection time frames; penalties or offsets based on the annual reporting; a deadband and cap to limit the penalties incurred and offsets earned; and a method for calculating penalties and offsets. D.P.U. 11-75-F at 2. Compliance with the interconnection timeframes for each track is determined by comparing (1) the aggregate average time measured in business days necessary to execute an early or final ISA (the Aggregate Necessary Tariff Time Frames), with (2) the total aggregate number of business days allowed by its Interconnection Tariff to execute an early or final ISA for the Reporting Year (the Aggregate Allowed Tariff Time Frames). The resulting value is then multiplied by the

weighting given to each interconnection track: 20 percent for the Simplified Process, 40 percent for the Expedited process, and 40 percent for the Standard Process. D.P.U. 11-75-F at 4. Penalties or offsets are earned when performance by a Distribution Company's performance deviates by more than five percent from the Aggregate Allowed Tariff Time Frames. D.P.U. 11-75-F at 4.

The Company states that it has met the interconnection timeframes as required by the Interconnection Tariff and as a result has not incurred any penalties. The Company calculates that it has earned the maximum eligible amount of offsets, \$8,196, which represents double the amount of interconnection application fees collected by the Company during the Reporting Year, to be applied against any penalties incurred in the following Reporting Year.

Any person interested in commenting or intervening on this matter may submit written comments or petition for leave to intervene no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, June 30, 2021**. 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 due to the state of emergency and ongoing limitations related to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03, including a description of the manner in which the petitioner is substantially and specifically affected by this proceeding. Receipt by the Department, not mailing, constitutes filing and determines whether a petition has been timely filed. A late-filed petition 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 documents must be submitted to the Department in .pdf format by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and andrew.w.strumfels@mass.gov. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 21-43); (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 "21-43") at: <https://eeasonline.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 attorney, Patrick Taylor, Esq., taylorp@unitil.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 the state of emergency. The filing and all subsequent related documents, pleadings and/or filings submitted to the Department and/or issues 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 or intervene 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 counsel, Patrick Taylor, Esq., at taylorp@unitil.com. For further information regarding this notice, please contact Andrew Strumfels, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at andrew.w.strumfels@mass.gov.

