



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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

D.P.U. 15-122

March 8, 2016

Petition of NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, each doing business as Eversource Energy, for Approval by the Department of Public Utilities of their Grid Modernization Plan.

On August 19, 2015, NSTAR Electric Company and Western Massachusetts Electric Company, each doing business as Eversource Energy (together, the "Companies"), filed with the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") a petition for approval of their Grid Modernization Plan. The Companies filed their Grid Modernization Plan pursuant to Modernization of the Electric Grid, D.P.U. 12-76-B (2014); D.P.U. 12-76-C (2014). The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 15-122.

In D.P.U. 12-76-B, the Department required each electric distribution company to submit a ten-year Grid Modernization Plan outlining how the company proposes to make measureable progress towards four objectives: (1) reducing the effects of outages; (2) optimizing demand, which includes reducing system and customer costs; (3) integrating distributed resources; and (4) improving workforce and asset management. The Department established three additional requirements to be included in the Grid Modernization Plan: (1) a marketing, education, and outreach plan with a component that is common to all companies, as well as a company-specific component; (2) a research, development, and deployment plan; and (3) proposed infrastructure and performance metrics to measure progress in achieving grid modernization objectives, including common statewide and also company-specific metrics. The Grid Modernization Plan must also include a five-year short-term capital investment plan, which includes a proposed approach to achieving advanced metering functionality within five years of the Department's approval of the Grid Modernization Plan.

As part of their Grid Modernization Plan, the Companies propose an estimated \$430.7 million in short-term investments in areas including advanced analytics, real-time grid-wide situational awareness, advanced distribution automation, grid resiliency, distributed energy resources integration, communications, and cyber security. Consistent with D.P.U. 12-76-C, the Companies included in their proposed Grid Modernization Plan a comprehensive business case analysis to illustrate how the Companies' proposed short-term investments will achieve measurable progress towards the Department's four grid modernization objectives and an evaluation of the costs and benefits, both quantified and unquantified, of its Grid Modernization Plan.

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