

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

D.P.U. 09-26 March 16, 2009

Report of the Department of Public Utilities regarding the impact of the existing basic service adjustment mechanism on the competitive retail electricity market pursuant to Section 102 of the Green Communities Act, Chapter 169 of the Acts of 2008.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

Section 102 of An Act Relative to Green Communities, Chapter 169 of the Acts of 2008 ("Section 102"), directs the Department of Public Utilities ("Department"), in consultation with the Department of Energy Resources, to hold a public hearing to examine the impact of the existing basic service adjustment mechanism on the competitive retail electricity market. The basic service adjustment mechanism recovers or returns to ratepayers the difference between the costs from suppliers to provide basic service -- including costs not included in the bid prices but directly paid by the electric distribution company -- and the revenues billed for basic service. Pursuant to Section 102, the public hearing will include an examination of all costs that are recovered from ratepayers through the basic service adjustment mechanism, as well as any recommended changes to ensure that appropriate price signals are sent to the marketplace in order for customers to make informed decisions about their energy consumption based on price. The Department must file a report of its findings, including any legislative or regulatory recommendations, with the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy, and with the clerks of the Senate and the House of Representatives, no later than June 1, 2009.

The public hearing will take place on **Wednesday, April 8, 2009**, at 10:00 a.m. at the Department's offices, One South Station, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. Any person interested in commenting on this matter may do so at the public hearing and/or may submit written comments to the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, April 1, 2009**. Any person interested in submitting reply comments may file them with the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, April 22, 2009**. Comments may not exceed 20 pages in length and must be accompanied by an executive summary.

In addition, the Department has requested that the electric distribution companies provide written responses to several questions not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.)

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on **Wednesday**, **April 1**, **2009**. These questions are available for review on the Department's website – http://www.mass.gov/dpu.

One original and five (5) copies of all comments or documents should be filed with Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 2nd Floor, 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 and the hearing officer [laurie.e.weisman@state.ma.us]; or (2) on a 3.5" disk or CD-ROM. The text of the e-mail, disk label, or CD-ROM must specify: (1) the docket number (D.P.U. 09-26); (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://www.mass.gov/dpu.

Any person desiring further information regarding this notice may contact Laurie Ellen Weisman, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110, (617) 305-3721.