



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 11-75

September 28, 2011

Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Distributed Generation Interconnection.

On August 18, 2011, the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (“DOER”) filed a petition (“Petition”) with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) to address the interconnection of distributed generation in Massachusetts. DOER’s petition was accompanied by the Massachusetts Distributed Generation Interconnection Report (“DG Report”) prepared by KEMA, Inc. on behalf of DOER and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center. The DG Report identifies various issues associated with the current distributed generation interconnection standards and application procedure (DG Report at viii).

On September 28, 2011, the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) issued an Order opening an investigation into the interconnection of distributed generation. Investigation into Distributed Generation, D.P.U. 11-75 (September 28, 2011). The investigation will review current standards and procedures by which distributed generation projects are interconnected to the electric distribution system in Massachusetts and how such features should be enhanced to facilitate the growth of distributed generation in the Commonwealth. The Department docketed this matter as D.P.U. 11-75.

The Department intends to engage all interested persons in a broadly represented stakeholder process to address the issues presented in the DG Report. The Department seeks comment on the appropriate scope of this proceeding, including distributed generation interconnection issues that should be addressed, including, but not limited to, those contained in the DG Report and the DOER Petition. In addition, the Department seeks comment on what procedural mechanisms are best suited to investigate such issues.

A copy of the Department’s Order, DOER’s petition, and the DG Report is available for inspection during regular business hours at the Department’s offices, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 and the Department’s website, <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>.

Interested persons may file comments on the issues and questions discussed in the Order. The Department anticipates that a number of persons will be interested in this proceeding. Therefore, the Department encourages interested persons to present consensus positions and submit comments jointly, when possible. Initial written comments must be filed no later than the close of business (5:00 P.M.) on **October 28, 2011**. Reply comments must be filed no later than the close of business on **November 14, 2011**.

Comments may not exceed 40 pages in length. All comments must be accompanied by an executive summary. One original and two copies of all comments should be filed with Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station – 5th 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 [benjamin.spruill@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 of the proceeding (D.P.U. 11-75); (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 Benjamin N. Spruill, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, telephone, 617-305-3735.