



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION, TECHNICAL CONFERENCE, AND SOLITATION OF COMMENTS

D.P.U. 14-118

October 16, 2014

Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities Regarding the Feasibility, Impacts and Benefits of Allowing Electric Distribution Company Customers to Net Meter Electricity Generated by Small Hydroelectric Facilities Pursuant to Chapter 251, Section 8 of the Acts of 2014, An Act Relative to Credit for Thermal Energy Generated with Renewable Fuels.

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On August 6, 2014, Governor Patrick signed into law An Act Relative to Credit for Thermal Energy Generated with Renewable Fuels, Chapter 251 of the Acts of 2014 (“Act”). The Act directs the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) to study the feasibility, impacts and benefits of allowing electric distribution company customers to net meter electricity generated by small hydroelectric facilities.<sup>1</sup> St. 2014, c. 251, § 8. The Act directs the Department to develop a report based on this analysis, and to submit the report to the legislature by July 1, 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> The full text of Section Eight states: The department of public utilities, in consultation with the Bay State Hydropower Association, shall study the feasibility, impacts and benefits of allowing electric distribution company customers to net meter electricity generated by small hydroelectric facilities. After completing its analysis, the department shall develop a report for net metering by such hydroelectric facilities or any subset thereof. The department shall submit a copy of its report and a draft of legislation to implement its recommendations not later than July 1, 2015, to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate who shall forward a copy of the report to the joint committee on telecommunications, utilities and energy.

On October 16, 2014, the Department voted to open an investigation consistent with the requirements of the Act. The Department docketed this investigation as D.P.U. 14-118. In its Order opening the investigation, the Department gave notice of a technical conference to be held at the Department's offices, One South Station, Boston Massachusetts, on **Friday, November 7, 2014, at 10:00 am**. In addition, the Department requested written comments from interested stakeholder in this matter. Written comments must be submitted no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Friday, December 5, 2014**. All written comments should be addressed to: Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. Receipt by the Department, not mailing, constitutes filing. In addition to paper filings with the Department, all documents must 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, [mike.wallerstein@state.ma.us](mailto:mike.wallerstein@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. 14-118); (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>.

A copy of the Department's Order is available for public viewing at the Department's offices, One South Station, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, Massachusetts, during business hours, and on the Department's website, <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>. Any person desiring further information regarding this notice should contact Mike Wallerstein, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at (617) 305-3500.