



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF FILING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 20-40

June 26, 2020

Petition of the Cape Light Compact JPE for Approval to Implement a Strategic Electrification and Energy Optimization Offering and Associated Budget.

On May 15, 2020, the towns of Aquinnah, Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Chatham, Chilmark, Dennis, Eastham, Edgartown, Falmouth, Harwich, Mashpee, Oak Bluffs, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Tisbury, Truro, Wellfleet, West Tisbury, and Yarmouth, and Dukes County, acting together as the Cape Light Compact JPE (“Compact”), filed with the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) a petition for approval to implement a strategic electrification and energy optimization offering (known as the Cape and Vineyard Electrification Offering or “CVEO”) and associated budget as part of its current 2019-2021 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan that was approved by the Department in Cape Light Compact JPE, D.P.U. 18-116 (2019). Through the CVEO, the Compact proposes to enable 250 low- and moderate-income residential customers to convert their oil, propane, or electric resistance heat to cold climate heat pumps; install solar photo-voltaic systems to support electrification of their heating systems; and install battery storage for demand response and resiliency. To implement the CVEO, the Compact proposes a budget of \$10,354,148 for 2020 and 2021. The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 20-40.

The Compact proposes to collect the costs of the CVEO from all residential customers in its service area through its energy efficiency reconciliation factors. On June 23, 2020 the Department disallowed without prejudice the Compact’s proposal to begin collecting these costs effective July 1, 2020, as premature. Cape Light Compact JPE, D.P.U. 20-40 (June 23, 2020).

If the Department approves the Compact’s request as proposed, in 2021 the average residential (R-1) customer using 516 kWh of electricity per month will experience an average monthly bill increase of approximately \$1.90 or 1.56 percent, the average low-income residential (R-2) customer using 488 kWh of electricity per month will experience a monthly bill increase of approximately \$0.72 or 1.06 percent, and the average space heating (R-3) customer using 740 kWh per month will experience a monthly bill increase of approximately \$2.73 or 1.66 percent.

The Department will accept written comments on the Compact’s petition. Any person interested in commenting on this matter may submit written comments no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Monday, August 10, 2020**.

In addition, any person who desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding must file a written petition for leave to intervene with the Department not later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Monday, July 27, 2020**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 CMR 1.03. Receipt by the Department, not mailing, constitutes filing and determines whether a petition has been timely filed. A petition filed late 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.

On March 10, 2020, Governor Baker issued a State of Emergency related to COVID-19 for the entire Commonwealth. Ordinarily, all parties would follow Sections B.1 and B.4 of the Department's Standard Ground Rules regarding the filing of documents (D.P.U. 15-184-A, App. 1 (March 4, 2020)); however, 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. To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit written comments in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission, as detailed below, is sufficient. Until further notice, parties must retain the original paper version of all other filings and the Department will later determine when the paper version must be filed with the Department Secretary.

All written comments or petitions to intervene must be submitted to the Department in portable document format (PDF) by email attachment to peter.ray@mass.gov and sarah.smegal@mass.gov, and to the Compact's attorneys at jbernstein@bck.com and aeidelman@bck.com. The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 20-40); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; (3) a brief descriptive title of the document; and (4) the name, title, email address, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Importantly, all large files submitted must be broken down into electronic files that do not exceed 20 MB.

The Compact's filing and all related documents submitted to the Department or issued by the Department will be available on the Department's website as soon as is practicable at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber> (enter "20-40"). A paper copy of the filing will not be available for public viewing at the Compact's offices or the Department due to the State of Emergency. To request materials in accessible formats (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format) for people with disabilities, contact the Department's ADA coordinator at DPUADACoordinator@state.ma.us.

Any person desiring further information regarding the Compact's filing or a paper copy of the filing should contact counsel for the Compact, Jeffrey M. Bernstein and Audrey A. Eidelman of BCK Law, at jbernstein@bck.com and aeidelman@bck.com, or (617) 244-9500. For further information regarding this notice, please contact Sarah Smegal, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at sarah.smegal@mass.gov.