



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF INQUIRY AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 25-200

April 3, 2025

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Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on Its Own Motion into Gas and Electric Delivery Charges and Bill Redesign.

On December 15, 2025, the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") voted to open an investigation to conduct a comprehensive review of gas and electric delivery rates and charges with the aims of containing customer costs, reducing utility bill volatility, and increasing utility bill transparency and accessibility. The Department's investigation was docketed as D.P.U. 25-200. This investigation will explore ways to contain energy costs that fall under the Department's jurisdiction. As part of the investigation, the Department will evaluate all current delivery charges to consider what improvements can be made. The Department established the following objectives for the investigation:

1. identify electric and gas reconciling mechanisms that can be eliminated or included in base distribution rates going forward, with a goal to contain costs, reduce bill volatility, limit administrative burden, and reduce barriers to stakeholder participation in Department proceedings;
2. determine whether certain electric and gas reconciling mechanism costs should be collected from customers through fixed charges rather than volumetric charges, with a goal of more cost-reflective rates and to reduce bill volatility;
3. determine whether certain electric reconciling mechanisms should be included in the electric distribution companies' annual retail rate filings for review and approval rather than filed in separate dockets at different times of the year, with a goal of reducing administrative burden and cost and promoting greater transparency;
4. determine how the value of net metering credits and the associated bill impacts to electric customers in Massachusetts compare to similar programs in other jurisdictions and whether the value of the net metering credit should be adjusted, with a goal to reduce costs associated with net metering; and
5. determine the feasibility of creating a maximum threshold for the amount that charges assessed to customers may change from one month to another.

In its Order, the Department directed the electric distribution companies and gas local distribution companies (collectively, "Distribution Companies") to each submit a report with the Department containing information necessary for this investigation ("Report"). In addition, the Department invited all interested persons to participate in this proceeding and sought written comments from the Distribution Companies and other interested stakeholders on the questions in the Order by April 14, 2026.

On February 13, 2026, each Distribution Company filed a Report with the Department. The Reports are posted on the Department's website through our online [File Room](#) (enter "25-200" on the line for "Docket No.").

The Department invites members of the public to submit written comments on the questions contained in the Order and their experience with gas and electric delivery rates, by **5:00 p.m. on April 30, 2026**. All documents should be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by email attachment to [dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov) and [DPU25200.Investigation@mass.gov](mailto:DPU25200.Investigation@mass.gov). The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 25-200); (2) the name of the person or entity submitting the filing; and (3) indicate that the document is a written comment.

All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online [File Room](#) as soon as practicable (enter "25-200" on the line for "Docket No."). Please note that in the interest of transparency, any comments will be posted to our website as received and without redacting personal information, such as addresses, telephone numbers, or email addresses. As such, consider the extent of information you wish to share when submitting comments. The Department strongly encourages public comments to be submitted by email. If, however, a member of the public is unable to send written comments by email, a paper copy may be sent to Mark D. Marini, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts, 02110.

All documents submitted to the Department or issued by the Department will be available on the Department's website as referenced above as soon as is practicable. To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments or intervene in accordance with this Notice, electronic submission, as detailed above, is sufficient. To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), contact the Department's ADA coordinator at [eeadiversity@mass.gov](mailto:eeadiversity@mass.gov) or (617) 626-1282.

For further information regarding this Notice, please contact Stephanie Mealey, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at [DPU25200.investigation@mass.gov](mailto:DPU25200.investigation@mass.gov).

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