SYSTEM OF ASSURANCE OF NET METERING ELIGIBILITY

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1. Purpose

The system of assurance of Net Metering eligibility ("System of Assurance") set forth herein provides prospective Host Customers with an assurance that they will be eligible to receive Net Metering Services under 220 CMR 18.00 when they interconnect their Facility. The Department is authorized to develop a System of Assurance, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 139(g).

2. Scope

This System of Assurance applies to: (1) Distribution Companies; (2) Host Customers of Facilities, except Exempt Facilities, and (3) Representatives. This process is mandatory for all Host Customers seeking to receive Net Metering Services except for Host Customers of Exempt Facilities.

Distribution Companies. Current Distribution Companies are:

Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil.

Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company each d/b/a National Grid.

NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy. NSTAR Electric Company now includes the former Western Massachusetts Electric Company.

Notify/Notification. Any notification provided hereunder shall be by electronic means unless otherwise specified.

Priority. The Administrator shall process any Submission on a first-come-first-served basis evidenced by a timestamp.

Submit/Submission. Any submission provided hereunder shall be to the Administrator and shall be by electronic means unless otherwise specified herein or directed by the Administrator.

3. Definitions

a. The following terms are defined as set forth in G.L. c. 164, §§ 138, 139A:

Agricultural Net Metering Facility

Anaerobic Digestion Net Metering Facility

Class I Net Metering Facility

Class II Net Metering Facility

Class III Net Metering Facility

Customer

Neighborhood Net Metering Facility

Net Metering

Renewable Energy

Small Hydroelectric Power Net Metering Facility

Solar Net Metering Facility

Wind Net Metering Facility

b. The following term is defined as set forth in G.L. c. 164, § 1:

Distribution Company

The following terms are defined or described as set forth in Standards for Interconnection of Distributed Generation, the Interconnection Tariff ("Tariff") in effect for each Distribution Company:

Approval to Install

Authorization to Interconnect

Interconnecting Customer

Interconnection Service Agreement ("ISA")

c. The following terms are defined as set forth in Sun Edison LLC, D.P.U. 15-182 (January 29, 2020):

Government Body includes a federal, state, local, municipal, or other governmental or quasi-governmental authority

Legal Challenge means an action, suit, litigation, or proceeding commenced, brought, conducted, or heard by or before any court or Government Body, relating to the permitting of a net metering facility that challenges the award of or material terms of a necessary permit.

d. Additional terms are defined as follows:

AC means alternating current.

Administrator means the qualified person or entity approved by the Department to oversee the process for assurance of Net Metering Services.

Application for a Cap Allocation ("ACA") means the prescribed form containing the information (and including supporting documentation and Certification) necessary to determine eligibility for a Cap Allocation or a position on the Waiting List for the GP pursuant to Section 4.

Business Day means a day that is not a Saturday, a Sunday, or a public holiday as observed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Computation of time shall begin with the first day following that on which the act that initiates such period of time occurs. The last day of the period so computed is to be included unless it is not a Business Day, in which event the period shall run until the end of the next following Business Day.

Cap Allocation means an assurance that a Host Customer will receive Net Metering Services upon a Host Customer's receipt of notice of Authorization to Interconnect in connection with the capacity sought in the ACA for the GP or the SHP, as applicable.

Certification means a written statement based on knowledge, information, and belief that the relevant claims are true.

Clerical Error means an inadvertent or unintentional erroneous transcription, assertion, or omission in an ACA. A Clerical Error is distinct from a false assertion as defined in Section 11. A Clerical Error excludes an error that has a material impact on an ACA's status or Cap Allocation.

DC means direct current.

Department means the Department of Public Utilities.

Effective Date means January 24, 2013, which is the date on which the Administrator first accepted ACAs and is the date on which this System of Assurance shall first apply.

Exempt Facility means a Class I Net Metering Facility that is not a Net Metering facility of a Municipality or Other Governmental Entity if:

(a) it is a Renewable Energy generating facility; and
(b) its Nameplate Rating is equal to or less than
    1. ten kW on a single-phase circuit; or
    2. 25 kW on a three-phase circuit.

Facility means a plant or equipment eligible to receive Net Metering Services as a Class I, II, or III Net Metering Facility, or a Small Hydroelectric Power Net Metering Facility.

General Net Metering Program ("GP") means the net metering program established pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 138, 139, and 140.

Good Standing means a Host Customer who is regarded as having complied with its explicit obligations under the System of Assurance for submissions, notifications, and payments of fees and is not in a status of loss of Cap Allocation or loss of a position on the Waiting List.

Legacy Capacity means the aggregate capacity of a Legacy Facility receiving Net Metering Services.

Legacy Facility means a Facility that is not an Exempt Facility and that was interconnected to a Distribution Company's distribution system and was included in the Distribution Company's net metering caps on or before April 24, 2013 and therefore was exempted from the System of Assurance.

Host Customer means a Customer with a Class I, II, or III Net Metering Facility, or a Small Hydroelectric Power Net Metering Facility that generates electricity on the Customer's side of the meter. Host Customer includes a prospective Host Customer.

kW means kilowatt.

Maximum Operating Conditions means the highest operational limits under which the Net Metering facility can function without experiencing damage, degradation, or failure.

Nameplate Rating means the rating of a Facility, in alternating current, that reflects Maximum Operating Conditions, and not Normal Operating Conditions.

Net Metering Facility Type ("Facility Type") specifies whether the Facility qualifies, or seeks to qualify, as a Public Facility under the Public Cap or as a private facility under the Private Cap in the GP.

Net Metering Facility Technology ("Facility Technology") means the technology utilized at the Facility to convert resources into electricity, and is one of the following:

(a) Anaerobic Digestion;
(b) Hydroelectric;
(c) Solar;
(d) Wind; or
(e) Other.

Net Metering Services means services provided by a Distribution Company to Customers and Host Customers necessary to permit Net Metering, including those related to interconnection, metering, and calculation and billing of Net Metering credits, as specified in the Distribution Company's tariff pursuant to 220 CMR 18.09(2), (3).

Normal Operating Conditions refers to when all of the following conditions are satisfied: (a) the equipment is properly installed; (b) the equipment is properly maintained; (c) the equipment is used in accordance with instructions included in the listing and labeling and in accordance with manufacturer's instructions; and (d) there is no evidence of impending failure.

Private Cap means the limit on Net Metering capacity of Facilities in the GP that are not covered by the Public Cap, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 139(f).

Public Cap means the limit on Net Metering capacity of Public Facilities in the GP, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 139(f).

Public Facility means a Class II or III Net Metering Facility in the GP: (1) that is owned or operated by a municipality or other governmental entity; or (2) of which the municipality or other governmental entity (a) is assigned 100 percent of the output; (b) is the Host Customer; and (c) if allocating Net Metering credits, allocates only to municipalities and other governmental entities.

Public Identification Number ("Public ID") means a number issued by the Department to a public entity in response to an application for municipality or other governmental entity pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 138, 139 and 220 CMR 18.02.

Quarterly Report means the report required under Section 6(B).

Representative means a person or entity designated by a Host Customer who is authorized to act for or represent the Host Customer in all matters in connection with the System of Assurance unless such authority is limited herein or reserved by the Host Customer with Notification to the Administrator. The Host Customer may designate the Representative in the ACA or later designate, replace, remove, or limit the Representative with Notification to the Administrator on the System of Assurance Website.

Reservation Period means the period for which a Host Customer is entitled to an assurance of Net Metering Services prior to a Facility's receipt of notice of authorization to interconnect to a Distribution Company's electric power system.

(a) Extended Reservation Period means the applicable period specified in Section 7(B).

(b) Initial Reservation Period means the applicable period specified in Section 7(A).

Small Hydro Cap means the limit on Net Metering capacity of a Facility participating in the SHP, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 139A.

Small Hydroelectric Net Metering Program ("SHP") refers to a distinct, technology-specific Net Metering program, which operates under a separate cap, for Small Hydroelectric Power Net Metering Facilities that seek to net meter and that generate Net Metering credits pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 139A.

Small Hydroelectric Program Application for a Cap Allocation ("SHP-ACA") means the prescribed form containing the information (and including the supporting documentation and Certification) necessary to determine eligibility for a Cap Allocation or position on the Waiting List for the Small Hydroelectric Program, pursuant to Section 4.

Special Public Facility means a Public Facility: (1) which is owned and operated by the municipality or other governmental entity; and (2) that is located on property that is owned or leased by the municipality or other governmental entity.

System of Assurance Website means the publicly accessible website located at http://www.MassACA.org.

Waiting List means a list of Host Customers that would receive a Cap Allocation if there were capacity under the applicable cap, and that may receive a Cap Allocation if capacity becomes available under the applicable cap.

4. Obtaining a Cap Allocation

(A) Transitional Period from Effective Date

If a Facility will interconnect within 90 days after the Effective Date, a Host Customer may be granted a Cap Allocation, provided that the Host Customer: (1) contacts the Administrator within ten Business Days of the Effective Date and identifies the capacity and the type of its Facility as well as whether it would qualify under the Public Cap or the Private Cap; and (2) receives notice of authorization to interconnect within 90 days after the Effective Date. Cap Allocations granted under this Section shall remain subject to the provisions of Sections 6 and 9. Alternatively, any Host Customer may Submit an ACA under the provisions of Sections 4(B), 4(C), or 4(D) to seek a Cap Allocation.

(B) Application for a Cap Allocation

Except as provided in Sections 4(A) and 4(D), to receive a Cap Allocation, only a Host Customer may Submit an ACA to the Administrator. A Representative may assist a Host Customer in the preparation of an ACA prior to its Submission. After Submission of an ACA, a Representative may act on behalf of and instead of the Host Customer consistent with the Host Customer's designation of the Representative. Where this System of Assurance provides for dealings between the Administrator and a Host Customer, the Administrator is authorized to deal with the Representative unless otherwise restricted herein or by the Host Customer. An ACA shall be Submitted to the Administrator only via electronic mail. The date that the Administrator receives an ACA shall be its "submission date." The ACA shall include, among other details, a Certification and supporting documentation to establish that the Host Customer has, with respect to the Facility:

(i) an executed ISA, as set forth in Section 4(J);

(ii) adequate site control (a sufficient interest in real estate or other contractual right to build the Facility at the location specified in the ISA);

(iii) except as provided in Sections 4(D) and 7(A)(ii), all necessary governmental permits and governmental approvals to construct the Facility with the exception of ministerial permits and approvals, such as a building permit, and notwithstanding any pending Legal Challenge(s) to one or more permits or approvals; and

(iv) an application fee, as set forth in Section 5(D).

After submission of an ACA, except as provided in Section 5(B), no additional documentation may be Submitted to correct a deficiency in the application, even if the documentation was executed prior to the Submission date of the ACA. A

Host Customer may not Submit more than one ACA for a Facility concurrently (e.g., Submission of an ACA for a Public Cap while there is a pending ACA for the same Facility under a Private Cap is prohibited), except where the Host Customer disputes the revocation of a Cap Allocation, or in response to a determination of an incomplete ACA, or where the Facility consists of multiple technologies.

(C) Cap Allocation under the Public Cap

In addition to the provisions of Section 4(B), a Host Customer who seeks a Cap Allocation under the Public Cap shall Submit a Certification and supporting documentation to establish that the Facility is a Public Facility. Evidence of public ownership or operation shall consist of proof that the appropriate authorization has been obtained (e.g., town meeting vote, approval from governing body) for proceeding with a publicly owned or operated Facility. Evidence of 100 percent assignment of output shall consist of a power purchase agreement or other comparable documentation. Evidence that the Host Customer is a governmental entity and will properly allocate Net Metering credits shall consist of the interconnection application and the executed ISA.

When registering for an account on the System of Assurance Website, Host Customers may provide their public ID number issued by the Department to the Administrator.

In reviewing an ACA, the Administrator may request that the Host Customer provide a copy of Schedule Z of the ISA for Public Facilities.

(D) Exception for Special Public Facilities

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 4(B)(iii), the Host Customer of a Special Public Facility need not have all governmental permits and approvals before Submitting an ACA, receiving a Cap Allocation, or receiving a position on the Waiting List. As provided in Section 7(A)(ii), the Host Customer of a Special Public Facility must Submit all governmental permits and governmental approvals to the Administrator within nine months of being granted a Cap Allocation.

Host Customers must Submit copies of all non-ministerial permits and approvals required for the construction of the facility no later than nine months after the date that the Administrator determines the ACA to be complete. To facilitate this requirement, the Administrator may require submission of these copies as part of a Quarterly Report.

(E) Loss of Cap Allocation or Position on the Waiting List

A Host Customer may lose a Cap Allocation or a position on the Waiting List for not meeting the requirements of the System of Assurance, including but not limited to, the following:

(i) failing to meet applicable deadlines;

(ii) making any changes identified in Section 8(C);

(iii) making false assertions as provided in Section 11;

(iv) failing to comply with the verification requirements of Section 9(B);

(v) submitting more than one ACA for the same facility and capacity that is not an expansion in one or more caps; or

(vi) failing to Submit a Quarterly Report.

If the Administrator intends to revoke a Cap Allocation or a position on the Waiting List, the Administrator shall Notify the Host Customer electronically. If the Host Customer does not respond to the Notification within 15 Business Days, the Administrator may revoke the Host Customer's Cap Allocation or position on the Waiting List.

(F) Small Hydro Cap

In addition to the provisions of Section 4(B), a Host Customer who seeks a Cap Allocation under the Small Hydro Cap shall Submit to the Administrator a Certification and supporting documentation to establish that the Facility is participating in the SHP. Evidence that the Host Customer will comply with requirements of G.L. c. 164, § 139A shall consist of the interconnection application and the executed ISA.

(G) Requesting Additional Capacity

A Host Customer may build a Facility in phases if the ISA remains valid. If an ISA is invalidated, the Administrator shall revoke the cap allocation.

A Host Customer Submitting an ACA for capacity to be added to a Legacy Facility shall request the total capacity of the Facility (i.e., the sum of the Legacy Capacity and the additional new capacity being added to the Facility).

A Host Customer in Good Standing Submitting an ACA for capacity to be added to an existing Facility with a Cap Allocation shall request only the additional capacity for the expanded portion of the Facility.

After reviewing the request for additional capacity, the Administrator shall Notify the Host Customer of available capacity and shall (1) amend the Cap Allocation provided for the Facility appropriately, and assess the fee for the additional capacity; or (2) provide Notification that sufficient capacity is not available.

The Reservation Fee chargeable to a Host Customer that successfully obtains a Cap Allocation for additional capacity is specified in Section 5 (E). The Administrator shall not provide a refund in the event of a decrease in the Facility capacity after the start of the Reservation Period.

(H) Incomplete ACAs

When the Administrator determines that an ACA is incomplete due to missing required documentation, the Administrator shall take immediate steps to Notify the Host Customer of the deficiencies in accordance with Section 5(C) and the Host Customer may Submit a conforming ACA to apply for a Cap Allocation.

An ACA shall be deemed incomplete and subject to the terms of Section 5(C) in the following circumstances:

(i) If a Host Customer Submits an ACA for either the Private Cap or the Public Cap under the incorrect Distribution Company (e.g., a public project in the territory of "National Grid" Submits an application to the public "National Grid – Nantucket" cap);

(ii) If a Host Customer Submits an ACA as an incorrect Facility Type (e.g., a "Private" project is Submitted as a "Public" project and it does not have a Public ID); or

(iii) If a Host Customer Submits an ACA to the incorrect net metering program (e.g., a Small Hydroelectric Power Net Metering Facility incorrectly applies to the GP instead of the SHP).

(I) Documentation

A Host Customer shall Submit copies of binding documents to meet the Certification and documentation requirements provided in Sections 4(B)(i) through 4(B)(iv); copies of non-binding documents will not satisfy these requirements.

(J) Executed ISA

For purposes of this System of Assurance, an executed ISA can be either one of the following exhibits to the Tariff: (a) Exhibit A, Attachment Simplified Process Interconnection Application and Service Agreement or (b) Exhibit G, Interconnection Service Agreement.

The amount of AC capacity that the Host Customer requests in an ACA must equal the capacity approved by the Distribution Company in the ISA Submitted as part of the ACA.

For solar photovoltaic Facilities, the DC capacity requested in the ACA may differ from that shown in the ISA. A difference between these two values does not necessarily result in a determination of an incomplete ACA under Section 4(H). The Administrator may seek clarification from the Host Customer as to the reason for the difference. The Host Customer shall confirm the as-built DC capacity of the photovoltaic Facilities when reporting the Authorization to Interconnect to the Administrator.

(K) Adequate Site Control

The Host Customer's self-certification of ownership in the site at which a Facility will be installed shall constitute sufficient documentation of adequate site control. The Administrator may request additional documentation per Section 9(B) to confirm adequate site control, as necessary.

To demonstrate adequate site control when not self-certifying ownership of the site at which a Facility will be installed, the Host Customer must submit copies of current and binding documentation demonstrating site control as part of the ACA.

(L) Non-Ministerial Permits and Approvals

All non-ministerial permits and approvals must be active and fully executed at the time of an ACA submission.

Failure to submit non-ministerial permits and approvals will result in a Host Customer not receiving a Cap Allocation. The Administrator may request the omitted documentation from the Host Customer to verify whether or not it was a necessary component of an ACA. Also, the Administrator may request from the Host Customer evidence of non-ministerial permits and approvals referenced in, but not submitted with, the ACA or evidence of conditions contained in a non-ministerial permit or approval.

5. Duties of the Administrator and Fees

(A) General Duties

The Administrator shall have such duties as the Department establishes. All Notifications, reports, and documents shall be Submitted in a form that the Administrator may prescribe.

(B) Monitoring and Reporting on Capacity

(i) The capacity of all Facilities shall be the Nameplate Rating, except that for a Solar Net Metering Facility that is not an Exempt Facility, the capacity shall be 80 percent of the Facility's DC rating at standard test conditions.

(ii) The Administrator shall provide ongoing estimates of capacity qualified under each Cap by Distribution Company and Facility Type via the System of Assurance Website. The Administrator will ensure that capacity is not counted twice (for example, the Administrator may need to subtract capacity from the Legacy Capacity if a Facility Submits an ACA and receives an authorization to interconnect).

(iii) The Administrator shall Notify the Department when it determines that a Distribution Company's allocated share of the Small Hydro Cap has been filled. The Administrator shall Notify the Department when it determines that all three of the shares allocated to the Distribution Companies have been filled and that there are 60 MW of Facilities interconnected in the SHP.

(iv) The Administrator shall track the aggregate net metering facility capacity for municipalities and other governmental entities and make this information available on the System of Assurance Website.

(C) Processing Applications for a Cap Allocation

The Administrator shall prioritize complete ACAs for processing on a first-come, first-served basis, according to their timestamp. If multiple ACAs are received at the same minute, the Administrator shall examine the seconds to determine Priority.

Within two Business Days of the Submission date of an ACA, the Administrator shall Notify the Host Customer that the ACA was received. Within 15 Business Days of the Submission date of an ACA, the Administrator shall Notify the Host Customer that the ACA is complete or incomplete.

The Administrator's Notification of a complete ACA shall state a grant of a Cap Allocation or a position on the Waiting List. The Administrator's Notification that an ACA is complete does not relieve the Host Customer of the obligations provided in Sections 6 and 9.

The Administrator's Notification to the Host Customer of an incomplete ACA shall identify the deficiencies. The Host Customer may Submit a conforming ACA to cure the deficiencies, which shall be deemed a new ACA.

The Administrator shall maintain a Waiting List that registers Host Customers that have applied for a Cap Allocation and have been denied a Cap Allocation solely because the Administrator has determined, pursuant to Section 5(B), that no additional capacity is available under the applicable cap.

The Administrator shall Notify the Host Customer as soon as practicable of the Host Customer's loss of its Cap Allocation or position on the Waiting List pursuant to Section 4(E).

During the review period, the Administrator shall direct clarifying and confirming questions regarding an ACA to the Host Customer and its Representative.

The 15 Business Day timeline for the Administrator to review an ACA pursuant to Section 5(C) is suspended while a request for clarification or confirmation directed to the Host Customer and its Representative(s) under Section 9(B) is outstanding. The review timeline shall resume once the request for clarification or confirmation has been responded to in full. The same suspension period and review resumption shall apply to any subsequent request for clarification or confirmation.

The Administrator may request additional documentation to confirm that the requirements set forth under Section 4 are met. The Administrator may request additional information not specifically required under Section 4(B), if reasonably necessary, to confirm the requirements set forth under Section 4(B) or to ensure that a Cap Allocation remains current.

Changes to an ACA during the review period are limited to Permissible Changes set forth in Section 8(B).

If a Host Customer does not respond to three consecutive requests for clarification or confirmation via e-mail over no fewer than 15 Business Days, the Administrator shall commence its review using only the documents and information provided in the ACA.

(D) Fee for Application for a Cap Allocation

A non-refundable application fee of $150 shall accompany an ACA. An ACA is incomplete without Submission of this application fee.

(E) Reservation Fee

Except as provided in Section 5(F), no more than 15 Business Days after receipt of Notice that an ACA is complete, the Host Customer shall Submit a non-refundable reservation fee based on the capacity of the Nameplate Rating. The reservation fee shall increase annually on the first of November according to the schedule below. If the Host Customer fails to Submit the full amount of a

reservation fee within 15 Business Days, the Host Customer will forfeit the Cap Allocation and any fees already Submitted. Reservation fees are calculated based on the entire Nameplate Rating of an expanded Legacy Facility or expanded facilities that, prior to the expansion, did not require a Cap Allocation because it was a Cap Exempt Facility.

Fee Type	11/01/2026	11/01/2027	11/01/2028	11/01/2029	11/01/2030
Reservation Fee ($/kW)	$4.15	$4.31	$4.47	$4.64	$4.82

Fee Type	11/01/2031	11/01/2032	11/01/2033	11/01/2034	11/01/2035
Reservation Fee ($/kW)	$5.00	$5.19	$5.39	$5.59	$5.80

(F) Waiting List

If there is insufficient capacity to accommodate a complete ACA, the Administrator shall add the Host Customer to the Waiting List for the applicable Cap. Priority on the Waiting List shall be based on the timestamp of a complete ACA. Unless otherwise provided herein, fees set forth in Section 5(E) are suspended while a Host Customer is on the Waiting List.

As Net Metering capacity becomes available (e.g., as a result of an increase to a Distribution Company's peak load, loss of a Cap Allocation, legislative changes, etc.), the Administrator shall offer it to Host Customers on the applicable Waiting List, in order of Priority. If the Net Metering capacity offered to a Host Customer on the Waiting List is equal to or more than the amount sought in an ACA, the Host Customer may accept the offer and shall Submit any fees required by Section 5(E). If the Host Customer does not accept the Cap Allocation offered or does not Submit all fees within 15 Business Days of the offer, the Administrator shall deem the ACA withdrawn, and shall offer the Net Metering capacity to the next Host Customer on the Waiting List.

If the amount of Net Metering capacity offered to a Host Customer is less than the amount sought in an ACA, the Host Customer has up to 15 Business Days to:

(i) accept the offer of a reduced Cap Allocation as provided in Section 8(B)(iv), and Submit any fees required by Section 5(E);

(ii) accept the offer, Submit any fees required by Section 5(E), hold the Cap Allocation, and remain on the Waiting List for additional Net Metering capacity; or

(iii) decline the offer and remain on the Waiting List, while the Net Metering capacity is offered to the next Host Customer on the Waiting List. Reservation periods established under Section 7 shall not begin until a Host Customer has accepted a partial Cap Allocation and left the Waiting List or received 100 percent of the Cap Allocation requested.

6. Reporting Requirements

(A) Distribution Company

On or before February 1 of each year, a Distribution Company shall file with the Department its highest historical peak load on its electric distribution system through the end of the prior calendar year. The Department shall work with the Administrator to update the caps in the GP accordingly, if necessary.

(B) Host Customer

A Host Customer with a Cap Allocation or a position on the Waiting List shall Submit a Quarterly Report of its Facility's status indicating either: (1) no change; or (2) changed, with a detailed description of the change(s). The Quarterly Report may be Submitted by the Host Customer at any time during a calendar quarter, provided that at least one Quarterly Report is submitted per quarter.

Quarterly Reports are not required after a Facility has received an authorization to interconnect. However, a Host Customer with a Facility on the Waiting List that receives notice of authorization to interconnect from the Distribution Company shall continue to Submit Quarterly Reports until either: (1) a Host Customer accepts an offered Cap Allocation and pays the reservation fee; or (2) the Host Customer withdraws the ACA. If changes are made to a Facility after it receives authorization to interconnect, the Host Customer(s) of the Facility shall Notify both the Administrator and the Distribution Company with a detailed description of the changes.

A failure to Submit a Quarterly Report for a Host Customer with a Cap Allocation may result in the loss of such Cap Allocation.

A Host Customer shall Notify the Administrator when its Facility is interconnected. A Host Customer shall not exceed its Cap Allocation without the written authorization of the Administrator and the Distribution Company to which the Facility is interconnected.

7. Reservation Periods

(A) Initial Reservation Period

(i) Standard Reservation Period

The Initial Reservation Period begins once the reservation fee set forth in Section 5(E) is paid to the Administrator. The Initial Reservation Period shall be:

Facility	Period in calendar days
Anaerobic Digestion Net Metering Facility	548
Small Hydroelectric Power Net Metering Facility	548
Wind Net Metering Facility	548
Solar Net Metering Facility	274
All Other Net Metering Facilities	274

(ii) Period for Special Public Facilities

For Special Public Facilities, provided that the Host Customer obtains all governmental permits and governmental approvals as provided in Sections 4(B) and 4(D) within nine months of the grant of a Cap Allocation, the Initial Reservation Period shall be:

Facility	Period in calendar days
Anaerobic Digestion Net Metering Facility	822
Small Hydroelectric Power Net Metering Facility	822
Wind Net Metering Facility	822
Solar Net Metering Facility	548
All Other Net Metering Facilities	548

(iii) Request for Extension

The following time periods shall apply to a request by a Host Customer that the Administrator grant an extension of a Reservation Period:

Extension	Time For Request
Extended Reservation Period for a fee (Section 7(B)(iii))	No later than 30 calendar days before end of (a) Initial Reservation Period, or (b) Extended Reservation Period for a Legal Challenge
Extended Reservation Period for Legal Challenge (Section 7(B)(ii))	Any time during any Reservation Period, initial or extended
Extended Reservation Period pending authorization to interconnect (Section 7(B)(iv))	Any time during any Reservation Period, initial or extended

Within 15 Business Days of receipt of a request for an extension from a Host Customer, the Administrator shall review the request and Notify the Host Customer of a grant or denial of the request for an extension. Within this 15 Business Day period, the Administrator may Notify the Host Customer that a longer period of time will be required specifying the additional length of time necessary to consider the extension request.

(B) Extended Reservation Periods

(i) Period of Extension

If an extension is granted by the Administrator as provided in Sections 7(B)(ii) or 7(B)(iii), an extended Reservation Period begins on the first day after the end of the Initial Reservation Period or any Extended Reservation Period, provided that the Host Customer has already submitted any applicable fees under this Section and has not previously sought the same extended Reservation Period for the Facility's Cap Allocation. At the end of the Initial Reservation Period and any Extended Reservation Period, the Reservation Period shall automatically expire without further Notification by the Administrator.

(ii) Extended Reservation Period for a Legal Challenge

Any Host Customer may seek an Extended Reservation Period of six months if the Host Customer Submits a Certification that a governmental permit or governmental approval for the Facility was subject to a Legal Challenge during the Initial Reservation Period or

extended Reservation Period, and the Legal Challenge remains pending. However, the extended Reservation Period for Legal Challenges terminates at the end of the Legal Challenge. Any and all other Reservation Period timelines are suspended during the extended Reservation Period for Legal Challenges. There is no fee for an extension under this provision.

In reviewing such request, the Administrator may require the Host Customer to provide a letter of attestation confirming the Legal Challenge raised. Initiating a proceeding with the Department does not qualify as a Legal Challenge. Host Customers that have qualified for an Extended Reservation Period for a Legal Challenge must update the Administrator of the status of the Legal Challenge in each Quarterly Report filed while the Legal Challenge is ongoing.

An extension based on a Legal Challenge will be granted only if: (1) the legal challenge involves a process beyond the Host Customer's control; and (2) the Legal Challenge makes it impossible to comply with all or a material part of permitting requirements. A Host Customer must comply with the following conditions for an extension for a Legal Challenge to continue: (1) a Host Customer's failure to actively defend against the Legal Challenge will result in the loss of the extension; and (2) a prolonged Legal Challenge may result in a revocation of the reservation period.

(iii) Extended Reservation Period for a Fee

A Host Customer with a Cap Allocation may apply for an additional Extended Reservation Period for a Fee that will automatically extend the Reservation Period for six months provided that such Host Customer has Submitted a reservation fee in accordance with Section 5(E) based on the capacity of the Nameplate Rating. A Host Customer may seek only one Extended Reservation Period for a Fee for a Facility's Cap Allocation.

A Host Customer must Submit to the Administrator a request for an Extended Reservation Period for a Fee no later than 30 calendar days prior to the end of the prior Reservation Period, including a reservation period lengthened through an extended Reservation Period for a Legal Challenge.

The Administrator shall hold the fee in escrow and refund it to the Host Customer within a reasonable time, without interest, provided that the Facility receives notice of Authorization to Interconnect within this six-month period. The Host Customer shall forfeit the fee if: (1) except as provided in Section 7(B)(iv), the Facility does not receive notice of Authorization to Interconnect within the six-month Extended Reservation

Period; or (2) the Host Customer fails to comply with the requirements of Section 9.

(iv) Extended Reservation Period Pending Authorization to Interconnect

When a Facility's interconnection depends only upon the Host Customer's receipt of notice of Authorization to Interconnect from the Distribution Company, the Reservation Period shall be extended automatically upon Submission of an application for extension to the Administrator until such notice is received or denied. Any fees associated with Section 7(B)(iii) shall not be forfeited solely as a result of seeking this extended Reservation Period pending authorization to interconnect.

In reviewing such request, the Administrator may require the Host Customer to provide a letter of attestation certifying that the Host Customer has met all of its obligations and has submitted all related documents set forth in the ISA. Also, the Administrator may confirm the status of the interconnection process with the Distribution Company.

8. Impact of Facility Changes

(A) Notification of Changes

In a timely manner, a Host Customer shall Notify the Administrator and the Distribution Company of all project changes, including a change in Host Customer and related contact information.

(B) Permissible Changes

The following changes shall not invalidate an ACA, a Cap Allocation, or a position on the Waiting List provided that the change does not (a) affect a Facility's status or position within its relevant cap (e.g., remain within the National Grid Nantucket Private Cap in the GP or remain within the Eversource portion of the Small Hydro Cap in the SHP); and (b) require a new ISA. Where any permissible change does not require a new ISA but requires an amended ISA, the fully executed amended ISA must accompany the Notification of changes.

(i) A change of Host Customer and related contact information. Where there has been a change in Host Customer, both the Host Customer with the Cap Allocation and the new Host Customer shall notify the Administrator of such a change and revise the ACA accordingly.

(ii) A change to the Facility ownership and related contact information. The Host Customer shall notify the Administrator of such a change and revise the ACA accordingly.

(iii) A change in a Facility's equipment (e.g., manufacturer, brand, etc.) that does not require a new ISA as determined by the Distribution Company.

(iv) A reduction in the amount of capacity requested in an ACA. Based on notice from a Host Customer of a reduced amount of Net Metering capacity requested, the Administrator shall revise the amount of aggregate capacity available to other Host Customers. A Host Customer shall provide this notice through a Quarterly Report.

(v) An increase in the amount of capacity included in an ACA as long as there is available capacity under the applicable cap and no other Host Customer with higher Priority is on the applicable Waiting List. A Host Customer who requests an increased Cap Allocation shall Submit the same Certifications required in Section 4 and shall include the request in a Quarterly Report.

(vi) A qualified change in ACA designation from a Public Facility to a Special Public Facility and vice versa. The Host Customer shall make this requested change in a Quarterly Report.

(C) Prohibited Changes

The following changes shall invalidate an ACA, a Cap Allocation, and a position on the Waiting List. If the Host Customer makes any such change, the ACA shall be deemed to have been withdrawn by the Host Customer and the Host Customer shall Submit a new ACA under the provisions of Section 4:

(i) Changes to a Facility that require a Cap Allocation under a different cap (e.g., Public to Private Cap or vice-versa; GP to SHP or vice versa).

(ii) Changes to the Facility Technology (e.g., a Solar Net Metering Facility seeks to become a Wind Net Metering Facility).

(iii) Change to a Facility from a non-agricultural facility to an Agricultural Net Metering Facility or vice-versa.

(iv) Relocation of the Facility to a non-contiguous property.

9. Information Disclosure, Verification, and Host Customer Reporting

(A) Information Disclosure

(i) Unless the Host Customer requests and demonstrates that protective treatment is warranted, the Administrator shall make available on a publicly accessible website copies of an ACA and all supporting documentation Submitted by a Host Customer except for: (1) an executed ISA; and (2) a demonstration of adequate site control. If any documents related to either of the exceptions are otherwise publicly available, the Host Customer shall Notify the Administrator, and the Administrator shall make copies of such documents available on the System of Assurance Website.

(ii) As a matter of standard practice, the Administrator provides file names for all documents Submitted as part of an ACA on the System of Assurance Website. Upon written request, the Administrator shall make available to a requestor copies of documents that do not contain confidential information Submitted with an ACA or Quarterly Report to a requestor. If a Host Customer Submits a document with confidential information, the Host Customer shall Submit a redacted version of the document so that the Administrator may provide a copy to a requestor upon written request.

(iii) The Administrator will use reasonable efforts to maintain the confidentiality of documents that contain proprietary or confidential business information. The Administrator will make available documents that are publicly available through governmental offices or through other sources.

(B) Verification

(i) The Host Customer agrees to provide, at any time and without cause, copies of any documents deemed by the Administrator as reasonably necessary to confirm or clarify the facts related to a Certification or to investigate any allegation of fraud or misrepresentation in an ACA or in any other document Submitted to the Administrator. The Host Customer shall provide the Administrator with any requested documents within 15 Business Days of receipt of a written request by the Administrator.

(ii) The Administrator shall retain copies of all documents Submitted in connection with an ACA for three years from the date an ACA is Submitted.

10. Dispute Resolution

(A) Informal Resolution

(i) Within 15 Business Days of Notification of a decision by the Administrator, a Host Customer aggrieved by the Administrator's action under the provisions of this System of Assurance may Submit a written request to the Administrator to resolve the dispute. The Administrator shall respond in writing to the request within 15 Business Days of receipt. Thereafter, the Administrator and the Host Customer shall make a good faith attempt to resolve the dispute informally before the Host Customer commences arbitration as provided in this Section.

(ii) If a dispute is not resolved informally within 30 Business Days of a request for informal resolution or if a Host Customer remains aggrieved by the Administrator's decision, a Host Customer may initiate arbitration, as provided in Section 10(B).

(B) Arbitration

(i) The Arbitrator

The Administrator has secured the services of the Massachusetts Dispute Resolution Services, located at 27 Congress Street, Suite 401, in Salem, Massachusetts 01970 to serve as the arbitrator for the System of Assurance. The Administrator may select a different entity to provide arbitration services, upon Notification to the Host Customer prior to the end of the informal resolution process. The requesting Host Customer shall pay the arbitrator's fees and costs.

(ii) The Timeline

a. Within 15 Business Days of the end of the informal resolution period set forth in Section 10(A), a Host Customer may initiate arbitration by submitting a written Notice to the arbitrator, with a copy to the Administrator at the same time, stating a summary of the dispute.

b. No later than five Business Days after the Host Customer's initiation of arbitration, the Administrator may make a written response to the arbitrator, with a copy to the Host Customer at the same time that provides additional information in reply to the Host Customer's summary of the dispute.

c. Within 30 calendar days of the Notice to initiate arbitration, the Host Customer shall schedule a preliminary conference with the arbitrator.

d. The arbitrator shall establish the procedures for the arbitration.

e. Within 15 Business Days following the outcome of arbitration, the Host Customer or Administrator aggrieved by the arbitrator's decision may petition the Department for an adjudicatory proceeding under G.L. c. 30A. If no such petition is filed, the dispute resolution process provided hereunder shall be closed.

f. Unless otherwise ordered by the arbitrator or the Department, pending the outcome of the dispute resolution process, a Host Customer shall not lose an ACA Submission date, Cap Allocation, or position on the Waiting List.

11. False Assertions

As provided in Section 4(E), if the Administrator or the Department determines that a Host Customer has made one or more false assertions in fulfilling the requirements of the System of Assurance, in addition to any applicable penalties pursuant to G.L. c. 268, § 6 and other applicable remedies, the Administrator or Department may revoke the Host Customer's Cap Allocation or its placement on the Waiting List.

12. Miscellaneous

The Department may permit an exception from any provision of the System of Assurance for good cause.

The Department intends that this System of Assurance establishes the rules and standards governing the process for eligibility for Net Metering Services. When referring to or relying on the System of Assurance, parties are advised that additional information concerning the System of Assurance is contained in the following Department Orders:

1. Net Metering and Interconnection of Distributed Generation, D.P.U. 11-11-A (May 12, 2012);

2. Net Metering and Interconnection of Distributed Generation, D.P.U. 11-11-D (October 25, 2012);

3. Sun Edison LLC, D.P.U. 15-182 (January 29, 2020);

4. Revisions to the System of Assurance of Net Metering Eligibility, D.P.U. 15-32 (July 22, 2020) and D.P.U. 15-32-A (November 25, 2020);

5. Order Implementing the Statutory Exceptions to the Single Parcel Rule, D.P.U. 23-20-A (2024); and

6. Net Metering Rulemaking, D.P.U. 23-140-A (2024).