



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of
Energy and Environmental Affairs

State of Energy in Massachusetts

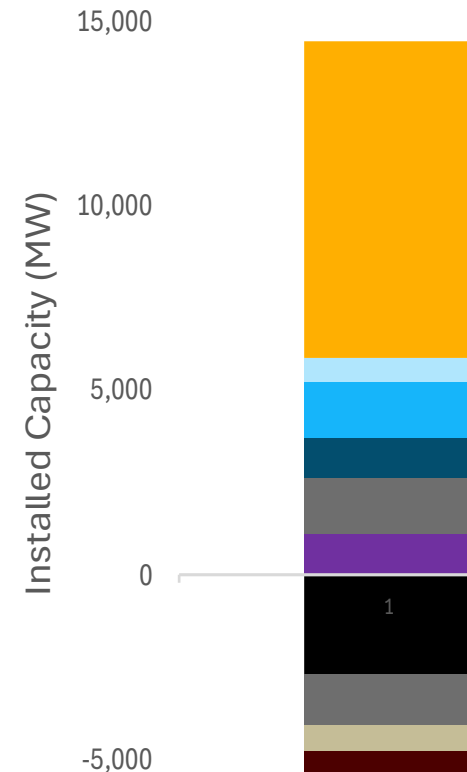
October 20, 2026





Progress on Energy Generation and Storage Deployment

- Since the beginning of 2023, Massachusetts has seen the construction and interconnection of:
 - NECEC transmission line delivering up to 1,200 MW of hydro from Canada
 - The completion of the 806 MW Vineyard Wind project
 - Over 1,000 MW of new distributed solar deployed in-state
 - Over 1,200 MWh of new energy storage deployed in-state
- New electric generation capacity provides 28% of Massachusetts' current annual electric generation needs
- Massachusetts has also been involved in the following projects, which are underway throughout the region:
 - Completion of construction of 704 MW Revolution Wind Project
 - Contract approval of project RARE (Algonquin Gas Pipeline expansion)
 - Selection of up to 800 MW of onshore wind in Northern Maine, with associated transmission
 - Selection of multiple fully permitted offshore wind farms
 - Selection of several hundred MW of utility scale solar projects



Since 2015, New England has built 14+ GW:

8.6 GW of Solar

1.1 GW of Hydro from Quebec

2.2 GW of Wind

1.5 GW of Natural Gas

1.1 GW of Energy Storage

.. and retired 5+ GW:

-2.7 GW of Coal

-1.4 GW of Gas

-0.7 GW of Nuclear

-0.6 GW of Oil



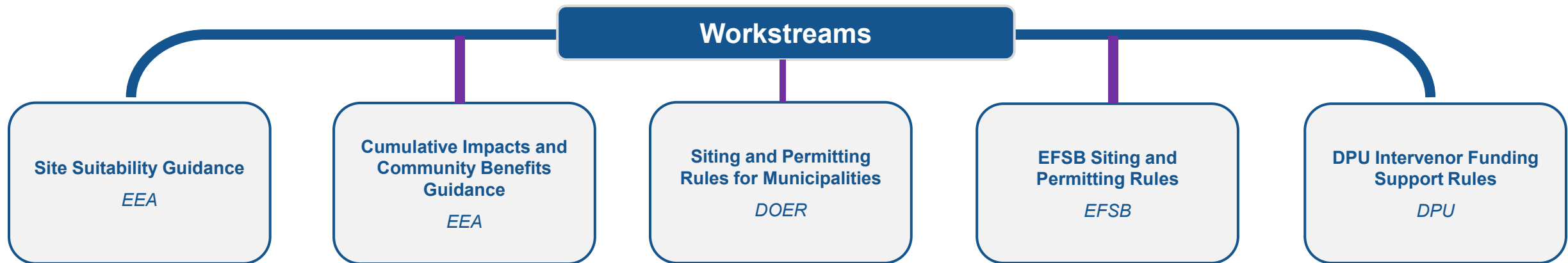
Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting

- Commission was established by [Executive Order 620](#)
- Required to advise the Governor on:
 1. **accelerating the responsible deployment of clean energy infrastructure through siting and permitting reform** in a manner consistent with applicable legal requirements and the Clean Energy and Climate Plan;
 2. **facilitating community input** into the siting and permitting of clean energy infrastructure; and
 3. **ensuring that the benefits of the clean energy transition are shared equitably** among all residents of the Commonwealth.
- Two public listening sessions held and over 1,500 public comments received.
- Recommendations sent to Governor Healey on March 29, 2024.
- The Commission's recommendations were largely passed into law through *An Act promoting a clean energy grid, advancing equity, and protecting ratepayers* (2024 Climate Act), signed by Governor Healey in November 2024.



Roles and Responsibilities

- There are five workstreams that stem from the bill that are being administered by three different agencies: EEA, DPU, and DOER.
- All three agencies coordinated very closely with each other and other state agencies that have significant energy permitting roles have also been consulted as proposals are being developed.
- Majority of required regulations were promulgated by March 1, 2026
- EFSB reforms went into effect on July 1, 2026, and DOER rules went into effect on October 1, 2026
- More information on process is available at www.mass.gov/energypermitting



Consolidated State Permitting

- All state, regional, and local permits for Large Clean Energy Infrastructure Facilities combined into **one consolidated permit** issued by the EFSB.
- All state and local agencies that would otherwise have a permitting role are able to **automatically intervene and participate** by issuing statements of recommended permit conditions.
- All projects must submit cumulative impact analysis as part of application to Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB).
- Permit decision must be issued in **less than 15 months** from determination of application completeness.
- EFSB decisions can be appealed directly to the Supreme Judicial Court.



- Applies to generation facilities >25 MW, storage facilities >100 MWh, offshore wind related infrastructure, and large new transmission projects

Consolidated Local Permitting

- Local governments (municipalities and regional commissions such as the Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard Commissions) **retain all permitting powers for projects not subject to review by the EFSB.**
- Local governments **may continue to run separate approval processes** concurrently (e.g., wetlands, zoning, etc.), but are required to **issue a single permit** that includes individual approvals for clean energy infrastructure.
- Permit decision must be issued in **within 12 months.**
- Local governments can refer permitting review directly to the EFSB if they do not have sufficient resources.
- Permit applications can also be reviewed by EFSB following a local government's final decision if a review is requested by parties that can demonstrate they are substantially and specifically impacted by the decision, then further appealed directly to the Supreme Judicial Court.
- Department of Energy Resources (DOER) is responsible for **creating a standard municipal permit application and a uniform set of baseline health, safety, and environmental standards** to be used by local decision makers when permitting clean energy infrastructure.



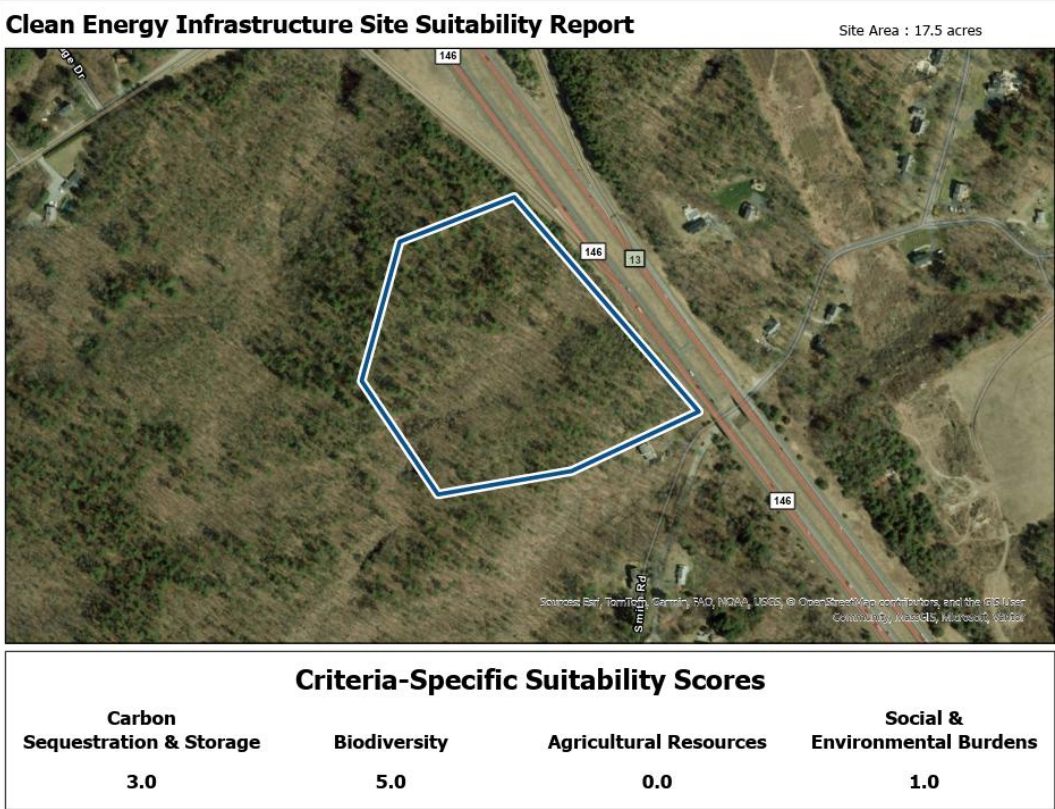
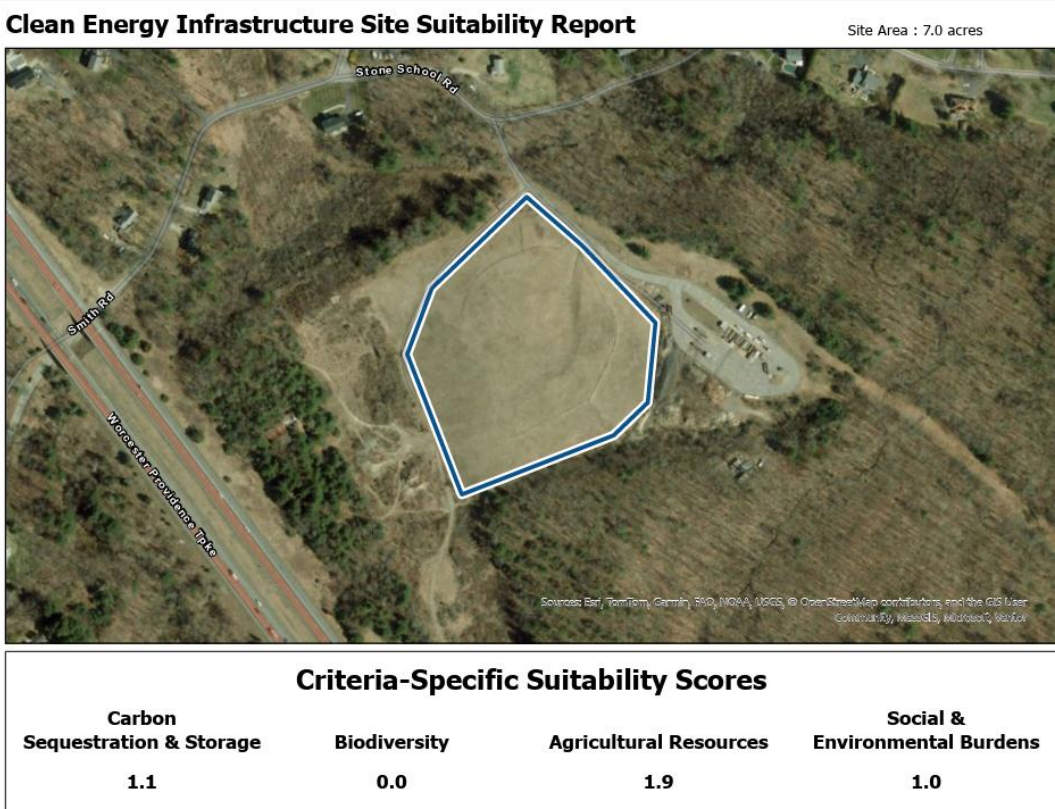
- Applies to generation facilities <25 MW, storage facilities <100 MWh, and non-EFSB jurisdictional transmission and distribution projects

Site Suitability Assessments



- As required by the Act, EEA developed guidance including a methodology for determining the suitability of sites for applicable energy infrastructure and recommendations for using the methodology in the review of applications for consolidated permits by the EFSB and local governments.
- Clean Energy Infrastructure Facilities applying to the EFSB or municipalities for consolidated permits will be required to complete the Site Suitability Assessment, with limited exceptions.
- Applicants must use the scoring framework to estimate their project's scores before submitting their permit application. This allows the methodology to work as a pre-filing screening tool that discourages developers from submitting applications for sites with poor scores.
- These scores will be taken into consideration by permitting authorities and impact the types and level of minimization or mitigation measures needed to be issued a permit.

Site Suitability Assessments - Continued

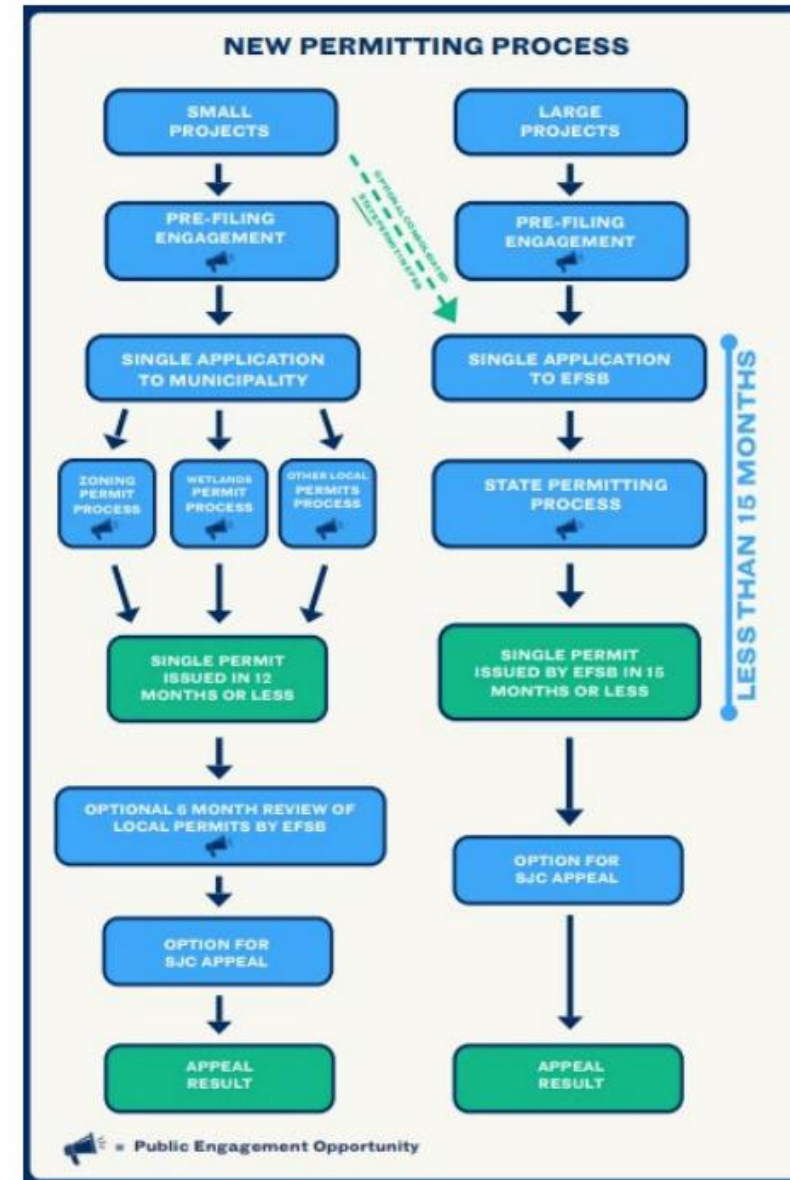
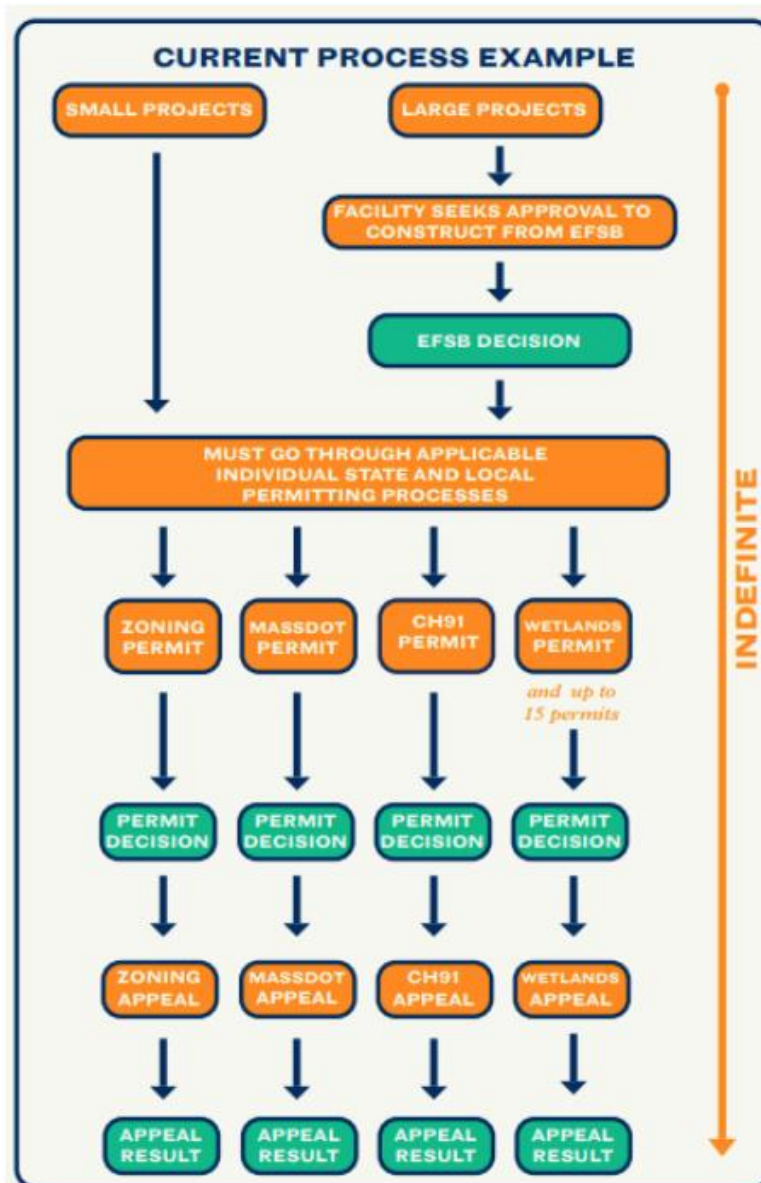




More Meaningful & Just Community Engagement

- Formal establishment of the Office of Environmental Justice and Equity in statute, with a specific mandate to develop guidance regarding community benefits agreement and cumulative impact analyses.
- First-ever mandatory community engagement requirements, including documentation of efforts to involve community organizations and demonstration of efforts to develop community benefit agreements.
- New Division of Public Participation at DPU to assist communities and project applicants with engagement and process questions in DPU and EFSB proceedings.
- New Division of Siting and Permitting at DOER to assist communities and project applicants with engagement and process questions in local permitting.
- Intervenor financial support is available to under-resourced organizations that wish to participate in an EFSB proceeding and are granted intervenor status. Municipalities with a population of 7,500 or less are automatically eligible for financial support.

Process Reforms



EFSB Decisions



- EFSB working to clear out backlog of 13 pending large infrastructure project proposals
- Targeting decisions on all active pending proposals to be issued by this winter
- Many proposals are related to DPU approved Capital Investment Project (CIP) upgrades necessary to connect hundreds of MW of new solar and storage projects

Project Name, Docket, Owner, and Type	Status	CIP Related (Y/N)
Acushnet-Fall River , EFSB 21-04 Eversource/NGrid: Transmission	Issued: 4/22	No
Holyoke Gas & Electric , EFSB 22-07 LNG Storage	Issued: 4/24	No
A1/B2 (Sterling to Warwick) , EFSB 23-02 NGrid: Transmission	Issued: 6/2	Yes
Tewksbury BESS , EFSB 25-08 Battery Storage	Issued: 6/25	No
Oakham BESS , EFSB 25-07 Battery Storage	Issued: 6/30	No
Crystal Spring , EFSB 25-03 Eversource: Transmission	Issued: 7/29	Yes
Palmer/Ware , EFSB 24-02 NGrid: Transmission	Issued: 8/28	No
Weymouth-Hingham , EFSB 24-01 Hingham MLP: Transmission Line/substation	Issued: 10/5	No
Plymouth/Wareham , EFSB 25-02 Eversource: Substation expansion	Target Decision: 10/28	Yes
Fisher Road Substation , EFSB 25-06 Eversource: Substation expansion	Target Decision: TBD	Yes
Blandford Substation Expansion , EFSB 25-09 Eversource: Substation expansion	Target Decision: TBD	Yes
Central to Western Mass (Millbury to Buckland) , EFSB 25-01 NGrid: Transmission	Target Decision: TBD	No
Falmouth Tap , EFSB 25-11 Eversource: Tap Station Replacement	Target Decision: TBD	No



Provisional System Planning Program

- In November 2021, DPU issued an order directing electric utilities to submit capital investment project (CIP) proposals
- CIPs were to be designed to proactively upgrade certain parts of the electric grid to accommodate more distributed generation and battery storage
- Established timelines, cost limits, and permitted cost sharing between interconnecting facilities and customers
- To date, DPU has approved 9 CIPs that will enable over 1,400 MW of additional capacity to be interconnected
- DPU is reviewing 5 additional CIPs that could enable another nearly 300 MW

Status	Docket No.	Project name	Company	Total Future DG Enabled (MW)
Approved	22-47	Marion-Fairhaven	Eversource	151
Approved	22-52	Plainfield-Blandford	Eversource	41
Approved	22-53	Dartmouth-Westport	Eversource	71
Approved	22-54	Plymouth	Eversource	402
Approved	22-55	Cape	Eversource	345
Approved	22-170	Monson-Palmer-Longmeadow - East	National Grid	85
Approved	23-06	Gardner-Winchendon	National Grid	61
Approved	23-09	Barre-Athol	National Grid	82
Approved	23-12	Spencer-Rutland	National Grid	113
Submitted	25-31	Monson Palmer Longmeadow - Northwest	National Grid	40
Submitted	25-30	Southwick-Granville	Eversource	44
Submitted	25-81	New Bedford	Eversource	72
Submitted	25-82	Dalton-Hinsdale	Eversource	41
Submitted	25-83	Gill-Montague	Eversource	75
Total				1,707



Electric Sector Modernization Plans

- Chapter 179 of the Acts of 2022 established a requirement for electric utilities to submit Electric Sector Modernization Plans (ESMPs) to the DPU every 5 years
- It also established the Grid Modernization Advisory Council (GMAC), which is chaired by the Commissioner of DOER or her designee
- In August 2024, the DPU approved the electric utilities' first ESMPs, with a total statewide spending cap of \$730.5 million through 2029
- DPU also established the requirement for a Long-term System Planning Process (LTSP) to replace the Provisional System Planning Process for distributed energy resources
- The LTSP is intended to be a statewide proactive planning process focused on upgrades that are needed to continue deploying distributed energy resources
- An order on the electric companies' proposals for the LTSP is expected in the coming months



Section 83E Energy Storage Procurements

- Chapter 239 of the Acts of 2024 requires the electric distribution companies, in coordination with the Department of Energy Resources, to procure approximately 5,000 MW of energy storage capacity by 2030:
 - for mid-duration (equal to or greater than 4 hours up to 10 hours);
 - long-duration (greater than 10 hours and less than or equal to 24 hours); and
 - multi-day (greater than 24 hours) energy storage resources
- Round 1 procurement resulted in the selection of 1,268 MW / 5,072 MWh of transmission connected mid-duration storage:
 - Trimount ESS – Everett, MA (700 MW / 2,800 MWh)
 - Energizar – Chelsea, MA (250 MW / 1,000 MWh)
 - Salt Cod – Somerset, MA (168 MW / 672 MWh)
 - River Mill Storage – Tyngsborough, MA (150 MW / 600 MWh)
- Round 2 procurement just received 8 additional bids for transmission connected batteries and 27 bids for distribution connected batteries
- Project selection for Round 2 expected in late February

Executive Order 654





Governor Healey's Energy Affordability Legislation

- Expanded Clean Energy Procurement Authority
- Gas Company Ownership of Geothermal / Clean Thermal Energy
- Comprehensive Utility Planning Reform
- Data Center Requirements
- Nuclear Referendum Repeal
- Flexible Interconnection
- Non-utility Investment Financing
- Smart Solar Permitting Program