



34.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

June 6, 1996

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Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities upon
its own motion commencing a Notice of Inquiry/Rulemaking,
pursuant to 220 C.M.R. §§ 2.00 et seq., establishing
the procedures to be followed in electric industry restructuring
by electric companies subject to G.L. c. 164.

D.P.U. 96-100

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The electric industry across the country is changing; it is being restructured. On May 1, 1996 the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities encouraged this restructuring by issuing proposed rules for electric companies in Massachusetts in D.P.U. 96-100 which will affect all electric customers.

The goal of restructuring is to reduce costs to all consumers over time by giving consumers the option to choose among competing generators of electricity. Right now, you receive your electricity as a packaged or "bundled" service; that is, generation, transmission, and distribution are all provided by your local electric company. After restructuring, you will be given the choice to receive "unbundled" service by choosing your generator of electricity, while transmission and distribution are still provided by your local electric company.

The Department will hold evening public hearings on the proposed rules at the locations listed below. At these hearings the Department will provide information on restructuring and an opportunity for your comments and questions.

There are many questions about the restructuring of the electric industry which are under consideration in this case, and which you may want to raise or address, including:

- Will my bill go down? Could it go up?
- Will I be able to understand my bill?
- Will the generating companies be regulated? Can they shut off my service?
- Who will read my meter?
- Will the protections, including shut-off protections, still apply?

- Will low-income rates be available?
- How will environmental concerns be addressed?
- How else can I let the DPU know what I think?

The locations of the public hearings are:

Boston **Wednesday July 10, 1996 7:00 P.M.**
Gardner Auditorium
State House
Boston, Massachusetts

Pittsfield **Tuesday July 16, 1996, 7:00 P.M.**
Berkshire Community College
Koussevitzky Center, Room 111
West Street
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Fitchburg **Thursday July 18, 1996, 7:00 P.M.**
Fitchburg Public Library Auditorium
610 Main Street
Fitchburg, Massachusetts

Plymouth **Monday July 29, 1996 7:00 P.M.**
Plymouth Public Library
132 South Street
Plymouth, Massachusetts

Salem **Tuesday July 30, 1996, 7:00 P.M.**
Town Hall
City Council Chamber
93 Washington Street
Salem, Massachusetts

If you wish to receive a copy of the proposed rules (D.P.U. 96-100, May 1 Order), which is approximately 100 pages, including the proposed rules and a nine-page summary, it can be obtained from the DPU by calling the Consumer Division at 1-800-392-6066 or (617) 727-3531. The proposed rules are also available through the DPU web site. Many libraries throughout Massachusetts have access to the world wide web. The address is:

<http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/dpu/>

You may also come in and read the document in Room 1210 at the DPU offices between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at 100 Cambridge Street, 12th floor, in Boston.

In addition, you may send your written comments to the DPU on or before August 2, 1996. Address your comments to:

Mary Cottrell, Secretary
RE: DPU 96-100
Department of Public Utilities
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02202

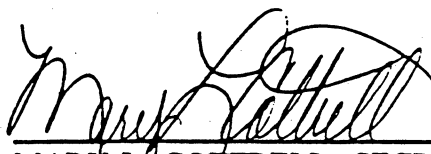
The DPU plans to issue final regulations on September 20, 1996. We are committed to restructuring the electric industry in a way that benefits all consumers. We encourage your participation and look forward to hearing from you.

The Department has also established a Consumer Education Advisory Task Force which is coordinated by Claudine Langlois, Director of the Consumer Division of the Department, in order to provide for public education and input during restructuring. Anyone interested in participating in the Consumer Education Advisory Task Force should contact Ms. Langlois at (617) 727-3531/3532.

Any person desiring further information regarding this notice, should contact:

Thomas E. Bessette, Hearing Officer
Alicia C. Matthews, Hearing Officer
Department of Public Utilities
100 Cambridge Street Room 1210
Boston, Massachusetts 02202
(617) 727-3500

By Order of the Department


MARY L. COTTRELL, SECRETARY

Consent Communication #34

S-361

Communication was received from the
Department of Public Utilities,
transmitting a notice of public
hearings on the restructuring of
the electric industry.

In City Council June 24, 1996

*Referred to the City
Manager*