

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **State Representative Grant Announces Public Hearings Scheduled for National Grid's Request for a General Increase in Electric Rates**

Representative Mary Grant (D-Beverly) is informing both residential and commercial/industrial customers of National Grid's recent filing which contained a request for a general increase in electric rates. "The Department of Public Utilities has announced public hearings on the proposals and the Office of Ratepayer Advocacy in the Office of Attorney General Martha Coakley has provided the following information to us," said Rep. Grant. National Grid has requested a \$111.3 million distribution rate increase, which equates to a 17.5% increase in distribution revenues. The assumed return on equity of 11.6% is above what the department generally allows. There are also new cost trackers that shift more risks onto the ratepayers and a request to recover \$30 million in one year to cover costs of restoring service after the December 2008 ice storm. A typical residential customer (R-1) who uses 500 kilowatt hours per month would see an increase of \$4.25 per month or 5.5%. The impact on commercial and industrial customers would vary according to usage, and could be as high as 5.7%. It was also noted that inclining block rates are being proposed for the first time and those customers with high usage would see larger increases.

More information regarding the petition of National Grid, D.P.U. 09-39 can be found online or questions can be directed to counsel for the company at 603-230-4400. If you wish to provide comments at a public hearing, the one planned for our area will be held on **July 9, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. at the Andover Town House, 20 Main Street in Andover**. Written comments may be filed no later than close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Thursday, July 16, 2009 and sent to Department of Public Utilities, One South Station, Boston, MA, 02110 (send original and 8 copies to the attention of Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary). One copy must also be sent to National Grid's counsel, Steven V. Camerino, McLane, Graf, Raulerson & Middleton, 11 South Main Street, Suite 500, Concord, New Hampshire, 03301. See more details on Attorney General Coakley's website, (top center of the home page) at [www.mass.gov/ag](http://www.mass.gov/ag).