



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

D.P.U. 22-100

December 5, 2022

Investigation of the Department of Public Utilities, on its own motion, instituting a rulemaking pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 2, and 220 CMR 2.00, to amend 220 CMR 100.00, Massachusetts Gas Distribution Code, and 220 CMR 101.00, Massachusetts Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Code.

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On December 5, 2022, the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) issued an Order instituting a rulemaking proceeding, pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 2, and 220 CMR 2.00, to amend 220 CMR 100.00, “Massachusetts Gas Distribution Code” and 220 CMR 101.00, “Massachusetts Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Code.” The Department has docketed this matter as D.P.U. 22-100.

The Department proposes changes to comply with Chapter 8 of the Acts of 2021, An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy, as well as changes to enhance public safety. Specifically, the Department proposes to add new provisions to promote safety and ensure regulatory compliance, including requirements to address the following: oversight of contractors performing gas work; maintaining accurate maps and records; prevention of over-pressurization; operator qualification; reporting requirements; and maintaining construction quality assurance plans. Additionally, the Department proposes changes to clarify certain provisions, ensure consistency, correct minor errors, update references, and delete outdated, duplicative, or unnecessary information. The Department will consider other relevant changes to the regulation to promote safety and ensure regulatory compliance.

**Because of certain ongoing restrictions and safety measures relating to in-person events, the Department will conduct a virtual public hearing to receive comments on the rulemaking.** The Department will conduct the hearing using Zoom videoconferencing on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Attendees can join by entering the link, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82393154528>, from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. For audio-only access to the hearings, attendees can dial in at 1 (646) 558-8656 (not toll free) and then enter ID# 82393154528. If you anticipate providing comments during the public hearing, please send an email by January 25, 2023 to [Patrick.A.Leeman@mass.gov](mailto:Patrick.A.Leeman@mass.gov) with

your name, email address, and mailing address, or leave a voicemail message by January 25, 2023, at 857-283-9399 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address.

Any person interested in commenting may also submit written comments to the Department no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2023. Written reply comments must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2023. Written comments and reply comments shall be limited to a maximum of ten one-sided, double-spaced, typewritten pages.

At this time, all filings will be submitted only in electronic format. Parties must retain the original paper version, and the Department will later determine when the paper version must be filed with the Department Secretary.

All documents must be submitted to the Department in **.pdf format** by e-mail attachment to [dpu.efiling@mass.gov](mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov) and [Patrick.A.Leeman@mass.gov](mailto:Patrick.A.Leeman@mass.gov). The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.P.U. 22-100); (2) the name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. The electronic file name should identify the document but should not exceed 50 characters in length. Importantly, all large files submitted must be broken down into electronic files that do not exceed 20 MB. All documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's website through our online File Room as soon as practicable (enter "22-100") at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber>.

All documents, pleadings, or filings submitted to or issued by the Department will be available on the Department's website as referenced above as soon as practicable. To the extent a person or entity wishes to submit comments 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 [DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov](mailto:DPUADACoordinator@mass.gov). For further information regarding this notice, please contact Patrick Leeman, Hearing Officer, Department of Public Utilities, at [Patrick.A.Leeman@mass.gov](mailto:Patrick.A.Leeman@mass.gov).

By Order of the Department,

/s/

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Mark D. Marini, Secretary