



**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

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October 24, 2019

President Mark Kempic
Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts
4 Technology Drive, Suite 250
Westborough, MA 01581

RE: Chairman's Thirteenth Set of Orders under G.L. c. 25, § 4B

Dear President Kempic,

In my Twelfth Set of Orders, I required that, by October 18, 2019, Bay State Gas d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts ("Columbia Gas") shall complete quality control work on abandoned services where the insertion technique was used as part of the Merrimack Valley restoration. I mandated these quality control efforts to ensure that the work Columbia Gas performed on these abandoned services is in compliance with Massachusetts and federal law. Columbia Gas has met this deadline.

Also in response to my Twelfth Set of Orders, Columbia Gas submitted to the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") a detailed work plan on how it will address the estimated 2,200 locations, at which an inside meter set was moved outside the property as part of the abandoned service work completed during the Merrimack Valley restoration.

To ensure continued oversight of ongoing restoration and recovery efforts, and under the powers granted to me by Governor Baker under section 4B of chapter 25 of the General Laws, I hereby issue the following orders to Columbia Gas, which I deem necessary to assure public safety and welfare through the priority restoration or continuing availability of gas service.

- Until further notice, Columbia Gas shall conduct leak surveillance that ensures public safety in all of the areas where the abandoned services are located and the company shall provide the Department with the results of this surveillance on a daily basis. Columbia Gas shall ensure that any work on or near abandoned

services is conducted in consultation with municipalities and Dig Safe to ensure public safety.

- By November 15, 2019, Columbia Gas shall complete the detailed work plan that it submitted to the Department on October 7, 2019, which describes how the company will address the estimated 2,200 locations, at which an inside meter set was moved outside the property as part of the abandoned service work completed during the Merrimack Valley restoration.
- By December 2, 2019, Columbia Gas shall submit to the Department a report that shows any patterns, trends, or correlations among the noncompliant work related to the abandonment of service lines, gate boxes, and curb boxes during the Merrimack Valley restoration. The report shall provide any relevant data related to the noncompliant work (e.g., crew that completed the work, date the work was completed) and shall explain how Columbia Gas has used that data to identify patterns, trends, or correlations. If, at any time, Columbia Gas identifies new noncompliance issues, it shall notify the Department immediately.

If Columbia Gas of Massachusetts fails to carry out any of these orders, it may be assessed penalties up to \$1,000,000 per violation.

If you have any questions, please contact Pipeline Safety Division Director Rick Enright at 617-305-3703 or Richard.Enright@mass.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Matthew Nelson

Matthew Nelson
Chairman