



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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September 26, 2018

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

President Mark Smith  
Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas  
Company), d/b/a Liberty Utilities  
155 North Main Street  
Fall River, MA 02722

President Karen Zink  
Berkshire Gas Company  
115 Cheshire Road  
Pittsfield, MA 01202

President Marcy Reed  
Boston Gas Company & Colonial Gas Company,  
each d/b/a National Grid  
40 Sylvan Road  
Waltham, MA 02451

President James Wojcik  
Blackstone Gas Company  
61 Main Street  
Blackstone, MA 01504

President Robert Schoenberger  
Unitil Corporation,  
d/b/a Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company  
285 John Fitch Highway  
Fitchburg, MA 01420

President William Akley  
NSTAR Gas Company,  
d/b/a Eversource Energy  
247 Station Drive  
Westwood, MA 02090

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

Dear All,

Pursuant to section 4B of chapter 25 of the General Laws, Governor Baker has granted me the authority to take such action as I consider necessary to assure public safety and welfare through the priority restoration or continuing availability of gas, electric and water utility services. This letter is addressed to the investor-owned gas distribution companies (collectively, the "Gas Companies") regulated by the Department of Public Utilities (the "Department").

To assure public safety and the continuing availability of gas, I am directing the Department to procure and contract with a third-party evaluator (the "Evaluator") to conduct an independent statewide examination of the safety of the Commonwealth's gas distribution system. This examination will complement, but will not duplicate, the investigation of the National Transportation Safety Board, which focuses on the gas incident on September 13, 2018 in the Merrimack Valley and its potential causes.

The Evaluator will examine the following areas: (1) the physical integrity and safety of the Commonwealth's gas distribution system; and (2) the operation and maintenance policies and practices of the Gas Companies and municipal gas companies, with respect to the Commonwealth's gas distribution system, including recommendations for improvements. The Evaluator will issue a report that will include, but not be limited to, potential opportunities for improvement in each of these areas.

Under the powers granted to me by Governor Baker, I issue the following orders:

- The Gas Companies shall pay for the independent examination described above based on a pro rata share to be determined;
- The Gas Companies shall promptly and fully respond to any requests for information from the Evaluator.

Sincerely,



Angela M. O'Connor  
Chairman