

CHARLES D. BAKER GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

KATHLEEN A. THEOHARIDES SECRETARY OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

> ONE SOUTH STATION BOSTON, MA 02110 (617) 305-3500

MATTHEW H. NELSON CHAIRMAN

ROBERT E. HAYDEN COMMISSIONER

CECILE M. FRASER COMMISSIONER

April 6, 2021

All Investor-Owned Gas Distribution Companies Regulated by the Department of Public Utilities (<u>Exhibit A</u>)

All Investor-Owned Electric Distribution Companies Regulated by the Department of Public Utilities (<u>Exhibit B</u>)

All Investor-Owned Water Distribution Companies Regulated by the Department of Public Utilities (Exhibit C)

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

Dear All,

Pursuant to section 4B of chapter 25 of the General Laws, the Commonwealth Utilities Commission ("Commission") hereby ratifies Chairman Matthew Nelson's Eighth Set of Orders issued on February 26, 2021 (attached as Exhibit D). Pursuant to section 4B and the authority Governor Baker granted the Chairman thereunder, the Chairman's Eighth Set of Orders contained the following directives to the investor-owned gas distribution companies, the investor-owned electric distribution companies, and the investor-owned water distribution companies (collectively, the "Companies") regulated by the Department of Public Utilities (the "Department"):

(1) until July 1, 2021, or they receive further communication under section 4B of chapter 25 of the General Laws, whichever comes first, the Companies shall not shut off

gas, electric, or water service to any of their residential customers for failure to pay a bill or any portion of a bill the Companies issued to a customer; and

(2) until July 1, 2021, or you receive further communication under section 4B of chapter 25 of the General Laws, whichever comes first, all communications to residential customers that discuss the shut off of gas, electric, or water service for failure to pay a bill or any portion of a bill the Companies issued to a customer shall state that residential shutoffs for nonpayment shall not occur until or after July 1, 2021 and list all payment and repayment programs and debt-forgiveness options available to residential customers; and

(3) at least five business days before they are sent to any residential customers, the Companies shall email the Department the model or template for all communications to residential customers referenced in the preceding paragraph.<sup>1</sup>

Under this ratification, the Chairman's Eighth Set of Orders shall be effective until and including June 30, 2021. In response to current and ongoing effects of COVID-19, the Commission takes this action to assure public safety and welfare through the priority restoration and continuing availability of gas, electric, and water utility services. In our action today, the Commission recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause an unprecedented public health emergency and substantial economic disruption, and that access to vital utility services remains critical. Accordingly, under this ratification, the Commission finds that extension of the moratorium on shut offs until July 1, 2021 is appropriate.

If any of the Companies fails to carry out the Chairman's Eighth Set of Orders through and including June 30, 2021, it may be assessed penalties as provided for in section 4B of chapter 25 of the General Laws.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Specifically, the model or template shall be emailed to Joseph Truschelli (joseph.m.truschelli@mass.gov) and Shane Early (shane.early@mass.gov).

### Ratification of the Chairman's Eighth Set of Orders

By Order of the Commission,

N 7 Matthew H. Nelson, Chairman

Robert E. Hayden, Commissioner

<u>Cecile M. Frazer</u> Cecile M. Fraser, Commissioner

# Exhibit A

(Investor-Owned Gas Distribution Companies)

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

President Franklyn Reynolds The Berkshire Gas Company 115 Cheshire Road Pittsfield, MA 01202

President William Akley NSTAR Gas Company d/b/a Eversource Energy 247 Station Drive Westwood, MA 02090 President Peter Eichler Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty Utilities 36 5th Street Fall River, MA 02722-0911

Interim President Terry Sobolewski Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid 40 Sylvan Road Waltham, MA 02451

President Thomas Meissner Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil 6 Liberty Lane West Hampton, NH 03842

## Exhibit B

(Investor-Owned Electric Distribution Companies)

President Thomas Meissner Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil 6 Liberty Lane West Hampton, NH 03842 Interim President Terry Sobolewski Massachusetts Electric Company, & Nantucket Electric Company, each d/b/a National Grid 40 Sylvan Road Waltham, MA 02451

President Craig Hallstrom NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy 247 Station Drive Westwood, MA 02090

### **Exhibit C** (Investor-Owned Water Distribution Companies)

Agawam Springs Water Company 158 Tihonet Road Wareham, MA 02751

Aquaria Water Company 170 Aquaria Drive P.O. Box 1000 North Dighton, MA 02764

Ashmere Water Supply P.O. Box 843 Hinsdale, MA 02135-0834

Century Mill, Inc. 63 Atlantic Avenue Boston, MA 02110

East Northfield Water Company P.O. Box 152 Northfield, MA 01360

Housatonic Water Company 80 Maple Avenue – Suite #1 Great Barrington, MA 01230

Kings Grant Water Company 839 Newport Avenue Attleboro, MA 02703

Monterey Water Company P.O. Box 65 Monterey, MA 01245

Pinehills Water Company 33 Summerhouse Drive Plymouth, MA 02360 Andrews Farm Water Company c/o Mark J. Favaloro, Esq. Favaloro Law 159 Haven Street, Suite 1 Reading, MA 01867

Aquarion Water Company of MA 900 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

Butterworth Water Company 340 Main Street – Suite #707 Worcester, MA 01608

Colonial Water Company 27 Northwest Drive Plainville, CT 06062

Granville Centre Water Company c/o John Stevenson 29 Locust Drive Bedford, NY 10506

Hutchinson Water Company c/o Matthew Hutchinson P.O. Box 446 Grafton, MA 01519

Milford Water Company 66 Dilla Street Milford, MA 01757

Mountain Water Systems 27 Northwest Drive Plainville, CT 06062

Whitinsville Water Company 44 Lake Street Whitinsville, MA 01588

## Exhibit D

(Chairman's Eighth Set of Orders issued under G.L. c. 25, § 4B)



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

CHARLES D. BAKER GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

KATHLEEN A THEOHARIDES SECRETARY OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS ONE SOUTH STATION BOSTON, MA 02110 (617) 305-3500 MATTHEW H. NELSON CHAIR

ROBERT E. HAYDEN COMMISSIONER

CECILE M. FRASER COMMISSIONER

February 26, 2021

All Investor-Owned Gas Distribution Companies Regulated by the Department of Public Utilities (<u>Exhibit A</u>)

All Investor-Owned Electric Distribution Companies Regulated by the Department of Public Utilities (<u>Exhibit B</u>)

All Investor-Owned Water Distribution Companies Regulated by the Department of Public Utilities (<u>Exhibit C</u>)

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

Dear All,

On March 10, 2020, Governor Baker declared a state of emergency in response to the Coronavirus ("COVID-19"). Additionally, on March 24, 2020, 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.

In response to this public-safety issue and consistent with my previous letters, I address this Eighth Set of Orders to the investor-owned gas distribution companies, the investor-owned electric distribution companies, and the investor-owned water distribution companies (collectively, the "Companies") regulated by the Department of Public Utilities (the "Department"). In this Order, I issue the following directives that I deem necessary to assure public safety and welfare through the priority restoration and continuing availability of gas, electric, and water service during the state of emergency related to COVID-19:



#### Chairman's Eighth Set of Orders

- Until July 1, 2021, or you receive further communication under section 4B of chapter 25 of the General Laws, whichever comes first, the Companies shall not shut off gas, electric, or water service to any of their residential customers for failure to pay a bill or any portion of a bill the Companies issued to a customer.
- Until July 1, 2021, or you receive further communication under section 4B of chapter 25 of the General Laws, whichever comes first, all communications to residential customers that discuss the shut off of gas, electric, or water service for failure to pay a bill or any portion of a bill the Companies issued to a customer shall (1) state that residential shutoffs for nonpayment shall not occur until or after July 1, 2021 and (2) list all payment and repayment programs and debt-forgiveness options available to residential customers.
- At least five business days before they are sent to any residential customers, the Companies shall email the Department the model or template for all communications to residential customers referenced in the preceding paragraph. Specifically, the model or template shall be emailed to Joseph Truschelli (joseph.m.truschelli@mass.gov) and Shane Early (shane.early@mass.gov).

Any of the Companies that fail to carry out any of these directives may be assessed penalties as provided for in section 4B of chapter 25 of the General Laws.

Sincerely,

/s/ Matthew H. Nelson

Matthew H. Nelson Chairman

## **Exhibit** A

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FAX: (617) 345-9101 www.mass.gov/dpu

## Exhibit B

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