



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

**CHARLES D. BAKER**  
GOVERNOR

**KARYN E. POLITO**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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SECRETARY OF ENERGY  
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**ANGELA M. O'CONNOR**  
CHAIRMAN

**ROBERT E. HAYDEN**  
COMMISSIONER

**CECILE M. FRASER**  
COMMISSIONER

January 14, 2019

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  
36 5th Street  
Fall River, MA 02722-0911

President Franklyn Reynolds  
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 Thomas Meissner  
Unitil  
6 Liberty Lane West  
Hampton, NH 03842

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

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

Dear All,

This follows up on Chairman Angela O'Connor's letter of November 30, 2018, in which she issued her Fifth Set of Orders pursuant to section 4B of chapter 25 of the General Laws and the authority granted to her by Governor Baker thereunder. That letter, which is attached, ordered investor-owned gas distribution companies (the "Gas Companies") regulated by the Department of Public Utilities (the "Department") to pay for and cooperate with an independent statewide examination of the safety of the Commonwealth's gas distribution system being conducted by a third-party evaluator.

To assure public safety and the continuing availability of gas, the Department has signed a contract with Dynamic Risk, effective November 14, 2018, to conduct this independent statewide examination. The examination will assess (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. Dynamic Risk 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 Chairman O'Connor by Governor Baker and pursuant to section 4B of chapter 25 of the General Laws, the Department's Commission hereby ratifies the Chairman's Fifth Set of Orders. Under this ratification, the Chairman's Fifth Set of Orders shall be effective until and including December 31, 2019.

If any of the Gas Companies fail to carry out the Chairman's Fifth Set of Orders during this time period, it will be assessed penalties up to \$1,000,000 per violation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Angela M. O'Connor

Angela M. O'Connor  
Chairman

/s/ Robert E. Hayden

Robert E. Hayden  
Commissioner

/s/ Cecile M. Fraser

Cecile M. Fraser  
Commissioner

cc:

Brian Roy  
Acting Gas Superintendent  
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.

Richard Labossiere  
Manager of Engineering & Planning  
Middleborough Gas & Electric Dept.

Peter Dion  
General Manager  
Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Dept.

Anthony Contrino  
General Manager  
Westfield Gas & Electric Light Dept.