

## 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

March 13, 2020

James Judge President Eversource 247 Station Drive Westwood, MA 02090

Dear President Judge,

As you know, the regulations of the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") prohibit electric and gas companies from shutting off service from November 15 through March 15 ("Moratorium") under certain circumstances, 220 C.M.R. 25.03(1). On March 11, 2020, The Governor of Commonwealth declared a state of emergency in response to the Coronavirus ("COVID-19"). The Department now requests the extension of the Moratorium for all residential ratepayers until the state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is lifted or you receive further communication from the Department, whichever comes first.

Extending the termination date of the Moratorium will enable a consistent message among utilities and ratepayer advocates that proper risk management protocols have been taken to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That message should include the importance of making payments during the moratorium months and avoiding the accumulation of large arrearages.

Therefore, Eversource should refrain from initiating the termination process on any residential customer until this request is rescinded or the state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is lifted, whichever comes first. More specifically, I request that second requests for payment pursuant to 220 C.M.R. § 25.02(3)(b) not issue until notified by the Department that the emergency declaration has been lifted.

The Department also expects that, given the state of emergency in the Commonwealth, that the Company takes all reasonable steps for payment accommodations before any shutoffs to commercial and industrial customers for non-payment.

I appreciate your cooperation in extending the Moratorium. Thank you in advance for your anticipated continuing cooperation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Consumer Division Acting Director, Joseph M. Truschelli, at (617) 939-6113.

Sincerely,

Matthew H. Nelson Chair

CC:

Cecile Fraser, Commissioner Robert Hayden, Commissioner Joseph Truschelli, Acting Director, Consumer Division



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March 13, 2020

Marcy Reed President National Grid 40 Sylvan Road Waltham, MA 02451

Dear President Reed,

As you know, the regulations of the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") prohibit electric and gas companies from shutting off service from November 15 through March 15 ("Moratorium") under certain circumstances, 220 C.M.R. 25.03(1). On March 11, 2020, The Governor of Commonwealth declared a state of emergency in response to the Coronavirus ("COVID-19"). The Department now requests the extension of the Moratorium for all residential ratepayers until the state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is lifted or you receive further communication from the Department, whichever comes first.

Extending the termination date of the Moratorium will enable a consistent message among utilities and ratepayer advocates that proper risk management protocols have been taken to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. That message should include the importance of making payments during the moratorium months and avoiding the accumulation of large arrearages.

Therefore, National Grid should refrain from initiating the termination process on any residential customer until this request is rescinded or the state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is lifted, whichever comes first. More specifically, I request that second requests for payment pursuant to 220 C.M.R. § 25.02(3)(b) not issue until notified by the Department that the emergency declaration has been lifted.

The Department also expects that, given the state of emergency in the Commonwealth, that the Company takes all reasonable steps for payment accommodations before any shutoffs to commercial and industrial customers for non-payment.

I appreciate your cooperation in extending the Moratorium. Thank you in advance for your anticipated continuing cooperation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Consumer Division Acting Director, Joseph M. Truschelli, at (617) 939-6113.

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