

GSEP Working Group

Major Contested Issues

January 19, 2024 Meeting

As a means of facilitating a productive discussion of the remaining issues at the January 19 meeting of the GSEP Working Group, and as a means of discerning a sense of the Group on any contested issues, it may be appropriate to have a vote (either voice or roll call, as appropriate) on each of the contested issues of significance. The itemization below is an attempt to identify some of these remaining contested issues. The Working Group can decide the issues on which to hold a vote, which may or may not include issues listed below, and may include other issues not included on the list below.

1. Addition of “repair” and “retirement” in addition to “replacement” whenever the term “replacement” appears in the statute.
2. Change “replacement” in title of section and in the definition of “eligible infrastructure replacement” to a more inclusive term, such as “measure,” “act,” or “action.”
3. Include “minimization of stranded assets” as an additional consideration in determining eligible infrastructure replacement
4. Include in the definition of “eligible infrastructure replacement” a consideration that the investment is not inconsistent with GHG emissions limits and sublimits in Chapter 21N and commonwealth’s emissions strategies
5. Include in the definition of “eligible infrastructure replacement” a requirement that “non-gas pipe alternatives” be considered
6. In the consideration of “non-gas pipe alternative,” requiring a finding that such alternative is infeasible or not cost-effective
7. Definition of “plan” includes consideration of targeted decommissioning of a gas system, based on independent assessment of costs and benefits of decommissioning
8. Definition of “project” is expanded to include a “decommissioning plan,” which would replace a portion of existing natural gas infrastructure with a non-gas pipeline alternative
9. Authorize a gas company to terminate natural gas service to an existing customer pursuant to a decommissioning plan approved by the DPU
10. Terminate preferential rate treatment for GSEP-related costs for GSEP filings after December 31, 2024
11. Terminate existing expedited rate treatment for GSEP-related costs in favor of recovery of such costs by LDCs in base rates, through a proposed phase-out schedule
12. Requiring DPU to develop standards “to inform a decision by a gas company whether to install a non-gas pipe alternative or to replace the gas infrastructure with new gas infrastructure”