

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

RESPONSE OF COLUMBIA GAS OF MASSACHUSETTS TO THE
FIRST SET OF INFORMATION REQUESTS FROM THE D.P.U.
PIPELINE ENGINEERING AND SAFETY DIVISION

D.P.U. 19-PL-07 – Merrimack Valley Incident (9/13/18)

Date: September 25, 2019

Responsible: Robert V. Mooney, V. P. Engineering and Construction

IR-PL-1-4: Please provide all information related to M&R's involvement in the South Union Street project from the project's inception in 2016 through the time of the incident.

Response: CMA's capital projects, such as the South Union Street Project, are subject to substantial coordination and multiple layers of managerial oversight within and across departments. Engineering and Construction Managers regularly meet with their direct reports, known as Leaders, to discuss and assess the status of ongoing projects, and Engineering and Construction Leaders regularly meet with their field employees to discuss and assess the status of ongoing projects. This includes regular coordination among Engineering, Construction, and Operations (which includes Measurement and Regulation (M&R)) regarding capital projects within each Operations Center.

Individual interactions between Engineering and M&R about particular projects also occur routinely. Project engineers may consult with M&R personnel at any point in a project's lifecycle. On the South Union Street project, before submitting the project design for approval, the Field Engineer who prepared the construction plans spoke with the Lawrence System Operations Supervisor overseeing M&R in Lawrence about the project design and specifically about whether the project design would affect the sensing lines at the South Union @ Winthrop regulator station.

Individual interactions between Construction and M&R about particular projects also occur routinely. During the 2016 construction phase of the South Union Street project, the project Inspector and Construction Leader discussed the need to relocate the sensing lines at the South Union @ Winthrop regulator station. In October 2016, the Construction Leader notified M&R that work in the area of the South Union @ Winthrop regulator station had started. At the same time, he also notified M&R that the sensing lines eventually would need to be relocated.

In addition, there is regular interaction, both formal and informal, between M&R and other departments about planned and ongoing capital projects. For example, representatives from Engineering, Operations, and M&R in the Lawrence Operations Center participate in semi-annual meetings to review capital projects slated for the upcoming construction season. In addition, the M&R Manager also attends a monthly Capital Project Management Meeting with Engineering, Construction, and Operations Managers and Leaders, which is designed to facilitate coordination and communication about capital projects across these groups. The South Union Street project was among the projects discussed at this meeting. The Operations Center Manager also holds monthly, half-day staff meetings with the Operations Leaders, which the Construction

Leader and M&R Manager also attend, during which ongoing capital projects within the systems serviced by the Operations Center are discussed. M&R also meets with other departments towards the end of the year to develop and review the Winter Operations Plan. The Winter Operations Plan for 2016-2017 listed the South Union Street project as an ongoing system upgrade/betterment project that could impact system performance during the winter season.

Additional information regarding this request is available at Attachments IR-PL-1-4(a)-(c).



