

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 10, 2019

Responsible: Kenneth Christman, Assistant General Counsel

IR-PL-1-21: Please provide the Incident Analysis (“IA”) Report for the incident, including the following information:

- a) Incident root cause;
- b) Lessons learned; and
- c) Recommendations and/or remedial actions.

Response:

The National Transportation Safety Board (“NTSB”) is conducting the investigation into this natural gas pipeline over-pressurization. CMA is assisting the NTSB in its investigation of the incident. That investigation is not yet complete. CMA submitted its proposed findings and recommendations to the NTSB on July 15, 2019. A copy of those proposed findings and recommendations, which includes a statement of the probable cause of the over-pressurization, is attached as Attachment IR-PL-1-21.

It is CMA’s understanding that federal regulations (49 C.F.R. § 831.13) prohibit the disclosure of the proposed findings and recommendations to persons who are not parties to the investigation. For that reason, CMA asks that the proposed findings and recommendations be given confidential treatment, pursuant to G. L. c. 25, §5D, until such time as the NTSB publicly releases this information.