



GROUNDWORK

Lawrence

February 10, 2020

Laurie Weisman
Presiding Officer
Department of Public Utilities
One South Station, Boston, MA 02110

RE: DPU 19-140

Dear Presiding Officer Weisman:

Groundwork Lawrence (GWL) requests to participate in the above listed docket as a limited participant.

GWL is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the mission to bring about the sustained regeneration, improvement and management of the physical environment by developing community-based partnerships which empower people, businesses and organizations to promote environmental, economic and social well-being.

GWL, by and through its staff, constituents, and work throughout Lawrence, has a direct interest in the outcome of this proceeding. GWL has long standing relationships with residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations affected by the September 13 event. Since 1999, GWL has built or renovated 27 parks and open spaces across Lawrence, including one used as a site for temporary housing after the September 13 event. The September 13 event delayed GWL's open space development work, caused the cancellation of an annual cleanup event, and displaced our staff and constituents. The work conducted by GWL for the relief efforts took priority over other staff work, resulting in the delay of multiple projects and initiatives.

As a community based organization, GWL wishes to see any fines imposed on Columbia Gas of Massachusetts be put to use in the affected communities. Examples of what the fine could fund include Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs), supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts, improving the local housing stock, increasing the tree canopy, etc. We respectfully ask that you grant our request to participate as a limited participant.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Heather McMann
Executive Director
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