

Information Request DPU-ES-33-15

Refer to the prefiled testimony of William J. Akley and Douglas P. Horton, at 28-29. Please provide cost estimates, start and completion dates, an explanation of customer benefits, and the project authorization forms for the following System Resiliency projects:

- (a) Hopkinton Ashland Transfer Line;
- (b) Worcester Feed Replacement; and
- (c) Plymouth North South Connector.

Response

Cost estimates for each System Resiliency project are as follow:

- The cost estimate for the Hopkinton Ashland Transfer Line Project is \$17.2 million.
- The cost estimate for the Worcester Feed Project currently contemplated for construction in the Towns of Southborough and Westborough is \$21.8 million. Additional costs are currently included in the 2019 five-year plan as the Company evaluates additional projects to enhance its distribution system where pressure improvements and capacity are required to adequately serve existing and future customers.
- The cost estimate for the Plymouth North-South Connector is preliminary, as the Project is still in the planning and development stages. However, the Company is currently including approximately \$10.5 million dollars in the 2019 five-year plan to complete design and permitting, and the first three years of construction.

Start and completion dates for each System Resiliency project are as follow:

- The Hopkinton-Ashland Transfer Line Project is scheduled to be constructed over the course of five construction seasons, beginning in the spring of 2021 and ending in the fall of 2025. The Project is currently pending before the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) and awaiting a final decision. The start and end dates for construction are subject to change based upon the date of issuance of the EFSB decision and other required local permitting.
- The Worcester Feed Project in Southborough and Westborough is planned to be constructed over the course of two construction seasons beginning in the Spring of 2022 and ending in the Fall of 2023. This Project is expected

to be filed for approval from the EFSB in mid- 2020. The start and end dates for construction are subject to change based upon the EFSB final decision, along with other State and local permitting.

- The Plymouth North-South Connector Project is currently scheduled to begin in 2022. However, the Project is still in the planning and development stages and start and completion dates, as well as potential costs, are subject to change.

Explanations of customer benefits for each System Resiliency project are as follow:

- The Hopkinton-Ashland Transfer Line is an existing distribution pipeline that supplies gas between two of the Company's Gate Stations (the Wilson Street Gate Station in Hopkinton and the Pond Street Gate Station in Ashland). These stations can be supplied from Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC ("AGT"), Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, LLC ("TGP"), and/or Liquefied Natural Gas ("LNG") from the Company's Hopkinton LNG Plant. The Hopkinton-Ashland Transfer Project is a way for the Company to supply the Pond Street Gate Station with additional gas sources during high demand periods or periods of reduced capacity from interstate pipelines. Portions of the existing pipeline are undersized for the current demand, causing a significant pressure drop (over 250 psi) along the length of the pipeline, significantly limiting the amount of gas that can be supplied to the Pond Street Gate Station. The Pond Street Gate Station serves nearly 19,000 customers in Ashland, Framingham, Natick, Sherborn, Holliston, Hopkinton and Southborough ("the Greater Framingham Area"). This Project would allow the Hopkinton-Ashland Transfer Line, to serve as a completely redundant source of gas to the Pond Street Gate Station. For more detailed information regarding the Project, please refer to the EFSB Docket 18-02.
- The Worcester Feed Line is an existing distribution pipeline that extends between the Town of Hopkinton and the City of Worcester. The existing distribution pipeline supplies gas from either TGP, AGT or LNG to: Hopkinton, Southborough, Westborough, Northborough, Grafton, Shrewsbury, Millbury, North Grafton, Marlborough and Worcester, serving approximately 31,000 customers in total. Since the existing Worcester Feed Line was installed in the 1970s, demand in the area has continued to increase, causing a pressure drop along the length of the existing Worcester Feed Line. A pressure drop of as much as 148 psig has been experienced during periods of high demand between the start of the Worcester Feed in

Hopkinton and the end in Worcester. The Worcester Feed Line Improvement Project is required to improve performance of the distribution system serving customer in the above-mentioned towns. The Worcester Feed Line Improvement Project in the Towns of Southborough and Westborough also allows for future system enhancements, as the Company identifies other areas of its distribution system where pressure improvements and capacity are required to adequately serve existing and future customers.

- The design for and benefits of the Plymouth North-South Connector are still being studied by the Company; however, the primary driver behind the Project is to provide backup capability in the greater Plymouth area. Currently, the Town of Plymouth is served by two separate gate stations that do not have overlapping service territories. If one gate station has to be taken out of service for a repair or for some other contingency, gas service would not be able to be maintained to customers served by that particular gate station. Installing a pipeline between the two stations thereby allows for continuity in service if one of the stations has to be taken out of service for any reason.

The costs for these projects, which are still being planned, are not included in the rate base for this proceeding and so project authorization forms are not provided. The exception is a small portion of the Hopkinton Ashland Transfer Line project, which was completed in 2017, as described in the response to AG-15-16:

The Company's filing includes project documentation and project authorization approvals for an initial phase of the multi-year Hopkinton to Ashland Transfer Pipeline Replacement Project on pages 2114 through 2131 of Exhibit ES-LML/TCD-5 Schedule 5A, page 24 of Exhibit ES-LML/TCD-5 Schedule 3A-1-2018, and page 4 of Exhibit ES-LML/TCD-5 Schedule 4A. As described on page 2121 of Exhibit ES-LML/TCD-5 Schedule 5A, the overall project is '[t]he replacement of the remaining 20,000 ft. of 6 in. [pipe]' and this specific phase of the project was to 'have an approximate 450 ft. section installed in 2017 prior to final landscape and paving [at the Legacy Farms development and roadway] being complete.