



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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D.P.U. 19-140

May 29, 2020

Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own Motion into Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts' responsibility for and response to the September 13, 2018 Merrimack Valley Incident, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 60105, G.L. c. 164, § 76, G.L. c. 164, § 105A, and 220 CMR 69.00.

APPOINTMENT OF SETTLEMENT INTERVENTION STAFF

The Commission of the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") has determined that it is appropriate to designate Settlement Intervention Staff ("SIS") to participate in the above-captioned proceeding. Accordingly, the Department has designated Richard Enright and Janine Vargas of the Pipeline Safety Division as SIS. With this appointment, SIS is not required to file a separate petition to intervene.

It is intended that SIS shall participate fully as a party to this proceeding, provided, however, that the SIS shall not be considered an aggrieved party in interest and shall not have any rights to seek judicial review of any Department decision in this proceeding.

The members of SIS shall be prohibited from advising the Commission of the Department in any review of the above-caption petition once substantive settlement discussions between SIS and the parties have begun. In addition, the Commission shall not be bound by any positions taken by SIS during settlement negotiations.

By June 15, 2020, SIS and the other full parties to this proceeding shall submit a proposed settlement that is sufficient for the Department to review and consider in resolution of this proceeding, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 60105, G.L. c. 164, §§ 76, 105A, and

220 CMR 69.00. If a proposed settlement cannot be submitted by June 15, 2020, the parties shall notify the Department that its proceeding may continue without settlement.

/s/ Matthew H. Nelson

Matthew H. Nelson
Chairman

/s/ Robert E. Hayden

Robert E. Hayden
Commissioner

/s/ Cecile M. Fraser

Cecile M. Fraser
Commissioner

cc: Mark D. Marini, Secretary
Laurie Ellen Weisman, Hearing Officer
D.P.U. 19-140 Service List