

KEEGAN WERLIN LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
99 HIGH STREET, SUITE 2900
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02110

(617) 951-1400

TELECOPIER:
(617) 951-1354

July 23, 2020

Mark D. Marini, Secretary
Department of Public Utilities
One South Station, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Inquiry into Establishing Policies and Practices for Electric and Gas Companies – D.P.U. 20-58

Dear Secretary Marini:

The distribution company members of the Customer Assistance Working Group¹ are writing to follow up on a recommendation offered by the Working Group in its May 29, 2020 Report to the Department of Public Utilities (the “Department”) regarding the end of the current Shut-Off Moratorium for commercial and industrial (“C&I”) customers. The Working Group recommended in the Report that the current Shut-Off Moratorium for commercial customers end on September 1, 2020 in order to encourage those C&I customers who can pay to begin paying down arrears and arrange for a payment plan prior to the winter moratorium, as needed.

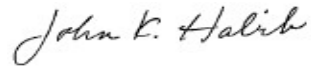
The Distribution Companies fully acknowledge that the Working Group’s recommendation on this issue is currently before the Department and is pending review. To the extent the Department were to approve the recommendation, the Distribution Companies would need to commence shut off notifications on/about August 4, 2020. Accordingly, any guidance the Department is able to offer before that date regarding the end of the current C&I Shut Off Moratorium would be greatly appreciated to facilitate customer outreach.

The Distribution Companies are eager to roll out the next phases in their Customer Outreach Plan, in coordination with the full Working Group, and in a manner fully consistent with guidance from the Department. The Distribution Companies have been authorized to represent that the Office of the Attorney General and AIM support their request, and that the DOER and NCLC have no objection.

¹ Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company, Boston Gas Company and Colonial Gas Company, each d/b/a National Grid, and NSTAR Gas Company and NSTAR Electric Company, each d/b/a Eversource Energy, Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts, Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a Liberty, The Berkshire Gas Company, and Blackstone Gas Company (“collectively, the “Distribution Companies”); the Office of the Attorney General (“AGO” or “Attorney General”, the Department of Energy Resources (“DOER”), the National Consumer Law Center (“NCLC”), the Low-Income Energy Affordability Network (“LEAN”) and the Associated Industries of Massachusetts (“AIM”) (together, the “Working Group”).

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact me with any questions you may have regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John K. Habib".

John K. Habib, Esq.

Enclosures

cc: Rachel Cottle, Esq. – Hearing Officer
Elizabeth Anderson, Esq. – Office of the Attorney General
Robert Hoagland, Esq. – Department of Energy Resources
Charles Harak, Esq. - National Consumer Law Center
Jerrold Oppenheim, Esq. – LEAN
Robert Rio – Associated Industries of Massachusetts