

Via Electronic Mail

December 15, 2022

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

Re: D.P.U. 22-62; Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid: Geothermal Energy
Demonstration Program Implementation Plan-Notice of First Pilot Site Selection

Dear Secretary Marini:

On September 13, 2022, the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) approved the implementation plan (“Implementation Plan”) of Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid” or the “Company”) for its geothermal district energy demonstration program (“Geothermal Pilot”). The Department had previously approved the Company’s Geothermal Pilot on December 15, 2021 in Boston Gas Company, D.P.U. 21-24 (“Order”).

The Company engaged CDM Smith to assist with reviewing and conducting feasibility assessments of the site applications submitted to the Company for potential Geothermal Pilot locations. CDM Smith first screened the proposed locations for one of the four pilot criteria: (1) diversity of load profile; (2) located in an environmental justice and/or low-income community, (3) existing gas system constraints; or (4) elimination of LPP replacement (“Site Criteria”).¹ Proposals that satisfied at least one of the Site Criteria were evaluated and scored for: (i) customer diversity (residential and commercial/industrial (“C&I”) mix); (ii) whether the location includes more than one EJ criteria such as LI and minority; (iii) whether the location involves a network and is not part of a single facility; (iv) availability of space for geothermal equipment such as the bore field and pumphouse; (vii) ease of permitting; (viii) community stakeholder acceptance and support; (ix) geologic conditions, (x) construction challenges; (xi) if the Company is the electric provider, (xii) avoidance of LPP replacement, (xiii) area system constraints, and (xiv) flexible options for routing and installation of the bore field/vertical loop.

Based on the evaluation and feasibility analysis, the Company has selected for its first Geothermal Pilot site an area in Lowell, MA with options for interconnecting residential and C&I customers. The site is located within an environmental justice community for income and minority population. The Company selected this location because it satisfies many important factors including the opportunity to connect low income customers, the load diversity offered by the surrounding mix of residential/commercial/industrial buildings, the multiple options for bore fields and routing, favorable geologic conditions, National Grid as the electric provider, the diversity of residential dwellings that include single and multi-family dwellings many of which are not owner-occupied, and support based on early outreach. The Company will be conducting

¹ Order at 3-4.

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more widespread outreach to the area and customers to educate them about geothermal heating and cooling and the potential for participation in the Geothermal Pilot.

This is the first site selected and the Company anticipates selecting 2-3 more sites for its Geothermal Pilot that will satisfy the remaining Site Criteria. Enclosed is a Certificate of Service.

Please contact me with any questions.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bess Gorman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bess Beikoussis Gorman

Enclosures

cc: Kevin Crane, Esq., Hearing Officer
D.P.U. 22-62 Service List