

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD**

**NOTICE OF ADJUDICATION AND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING**

EFSB 22-07
Holyoke Gas & Electric Department

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 69J, Holyoke Gas & Electric Department (“HG&E”), with offices at 99 Suffolk Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040, has filed a petition with the Energy Facilities Siting Board (“Siting Board”) in connection with HG&E’s proposal to construct, operate and maintain an additional new 70,000 gallon liquefied natural gas (“LNG”) storage tank at its existing West Holyoke LNG storage facility off Mueller Road in Holyoke, Massachusetts. This work is referred to as the “HG&E LNG Infrastructure and Resiliency Project” (or “Project”). HG&E’s petition asserts that the Project is needed to maintain the reliability of the natural gas distribution system to its approximately 11,500 existing customers in Holyoke and Southampton.

The Siting Board will conduct a remote public comment hearing regarding the Project using Zoom videoconferencing at 6:30 pm, Wednesday, March 29, 2023. Attendees can join by clicking (or entering) the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83239347654> from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. For audio-only participation, attendees can dial in at **(646) 558-8656 (not toll free)** and enter the Webinar ID: **8323-9347-654**.

The Siting Board has created a special information webpage for this proceeding and will update it during the course of the proceeding at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/holyoke-gas-and-electric-lng-project> or scan the QR code below.



If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public comment hearing, please send an email to Geneen.Bartley@mass.gov with your name, email address, and mailing address by **Tuesday, March 28, 2023**. If you anticipate commenting by telephone, please leave a voicemail message at **(617) 305-3529** with your name, telephone number, and mailing address by **March 28, 2023**. Additional commenters may be allowed during the public comment hearing at the discretion of the Presiding Officer.

The Siting Board will also accept written comments on the Project. Written comments will be most useful to the Siting Board if submitted by **Wednesday, April 12, 2023**. Persons or groups who wish to be involved in the Siting Board proceeding beyond providing comments at the public comment hearing or submitting written comments may seek either to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant. A petition to intervene or participate must be filed with the Siting Board in electronic format, by email or email attachment, to dpu.efiling@mass.gov and to robert.j.shea@mass.gov no later than the close of business (5:00 pm) on **April 12, 2023**.

Public Comment Hearing

At the public comment hearing, HG&E will present an overview of the Project. Public officials and members of the public will then have an opportunity to ask questions and make comments about the proposed Project. The public comment hearing will be transcribed by a court reporter. A recording of the public comment hearing will be posted to the Siting Board's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UcklPj6xxSKww-Kr26lEZVTA> after the hearing.

HG&E's Proposed Site

The West Holyoke LNG storage facility was constructed with two LNG tanks in 1971. In 1974, plans were made for the addition of three additional LNG tanks, but only two were constructed. HG&E proposes to add the proposed tank to maintain reliable service on peak days. The additional tank would be capable of storing approximately 70,000 gallons of LNG and is proposed to be adjacent to the existing four LNG tanks within the existing footprint and fence line of the West Holyoke facility. The Company proposes to install necessary interconnections to existing equipment and systems in conjunction with installation of the tank. These new components include piping, isolation valves, double block and bleeding valves, overpressure protection, gas and flame detectors, an ambient natural convection pressure build coil, and safety equipment. The new tank will increase truck deliveries to the facility by approximately 1-2 truckloads per month. HG&E is also proposing modifications of existing equipment at the same time as the Project, including the replacement of the facility's existing vaporizer with two new vaporization units, upgrades to safety and control equipment, and a new air compression system.

Intervention and Participation

Persons or groups who wish to be involved in the Siting Board proceeding beyond providing comments at the public hearing or submitting written comments may seek either to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant. Intervention as a party allows the person or group to participate fully in the evidentiary phase of the proceeding, including the right to participate in evidentiary hearings in Boston, and to appeal a final decision. A limited participant would receive documents in the proceeding and would have the opportunity to present written and oral argument to the Siting Board after evidentiary hearings conclude.

Any person interested in intervening as a party or participating as a limited participant in this proceeding must file a written petition in accordance with the Filing Instructions set forth immediately below. A petition to intervene or a petition to participate as a limited participant must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 980 CMR 1.00, the Siting Board's procedural rules, which can be found on the Board's website at:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/980-cmr-1-rules-for-the-conduct-of-adjudicatory-proceedings/download> . To be allowed, a petition to intervene filed pursuant to 980 CMR 1.05

must demonstrate that the petitioner may be substantially and specifically affected by this proceeding.

Filing Instructions for Comments and Intervener/Limited Participant Petitions

Written comments on HG&E's Project, or a petition to intervene or participate as a limited participant must be filed in two places:

First, the petition to intervene or participate, and comments, must be filed with the Siting Board in electronic format, by email or email attachment to: dpu.efiling@mass.gov and to robert.j.shea@mass.gov no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **Wednesday, April 12, 2023**. The text of the email must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (EFSB 22-07); (2) the name of the person or entity submitting the filing; and (3) a brief description of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing.

Second, the comments or petition or comments must be sent electronically to counsel for HG&E, James M. Avery, Esq., Pierce Atwood LLP, 100 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02110, javery@pierceatwood.com.

Siting Board Jurisdiction and Standard of Review

Under G.L. c. 164, § 69J, the Siting Board will review HG&E's filing to determine whether the Project would provide a reliable energy supply with a minimum impact on the environment at the lowest possible cost.

Public Review of HG&E's Petition

The petition to construct the Project includes the following information: (1) a description of the Project; (2) an analysis of the need for the Project; (3) a description of the alternatives to the Project; (4) a description of the site selection process and of the proposed site; (5) a description of the environmental impacts of the Project; and (6) a description of the Project's consistency with policies of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Copies of HG&E's petition, including all attachments, are available for public inspection in paper copy format at the following locations:

- Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02110
- Holyoke City Clerk's Office, City Hall, Room 2, 536 Dwight Street, Holyoke, MA 01040
- Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut Street, Holyoke, MA 01040
- Southampton Town Clerk's Office, Suite 2, 210 College Highway, Southampton, MA 01073
- Edwards Public Library, 30 East Street, Southampton, MA 01073
- Westfield City Clerk's Office, City Hall - Room 210, 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA 01085
- The Westfield Athenaeum, 6 Elm Street, Westfield, MA 01085

In addition, HG&E's petition, including all attachments, is electronically available via the Siting Board's website at:

<https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber/EFSB22-07>

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, or audio format) contact the Department's ADA coordinator at gabriella.knight@mass.gov.

Accommodation Requests

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a complete description of the accommodation you will need and a way we can contact you if we need more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible. Last minute requests will be accepted, but may not be able to be accommodated. Please send your requests to: Gabriella Knight, ADA and Diversity Manager at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs at gabriella.knight@mass.gov.

Interpretation services for those with limited English language proficiency are available upon request. Include in your request the language required, and a way to contact you if the Presiding Officer needs more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible. Last-minute requests will be accepted but may not be able to be accommodated. Contact the Presiding Officer (contact information below).

Contact

Any person desiring further information regarding this Notice, including information about intervention or participation in the proceeding may also contact the Presiding Officer at the address or telephone number below:

Robert J. Shea, Presiding Officer
Energy Facilities Siting Board
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 851-4246
robert.j.shea@mass.gov

Aerial View of Project Site



Photograph of Project Site

