

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

REBECCA L. TEPPER
SECRETARY OF ENERGY
AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

ONE SOUTH STATION
BOSTON, MA 02110
(617) 305-3500

JEREMY C. McDIARMID
CHAIR

STACI RUBIN
COMMISSIONER

ELIZABETH A. ANDERSON
COMMISSIONER

October 27, 2025

Via email only

All Investor-Owned Gas Distribution
Companies Regulated by the
Department of Public Utilities (Exhibit A)

All Investor-Owned Electric Distribution
Companies Regulated by the
Department of Public Utilities (Exhibit B)

All Municipal Light Plants
of the Commonwealth of
Massachusetts (Exhibit C)

RE: Joint Request Regarding Winter Moratorium

Dear Companies:

As you know, the regulations of the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) prohibit electric and gas companies (“Companies”) and municipal gas and electric departments, corporations, and plants (“MLPs”) from shutting off service from November 15 through March 15 (“Moratorium”). G.L. c. 164, § 124F; 220 CMR 25.03(1)(a)(3). On October 21, 2025, National Consumer Law Center, Massachusetts Community Action Agencies, Massachusetts Energy Directors Association, Low-Income Energy Affordability Network, the Commonwealth’s investor owned gas and electric utilities, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities jointly requested that the Department advance the beginning of the Moratorium to the soonest possible date—no later than November 1, 2025—and to extend the Moratorium to April 1, 2026.

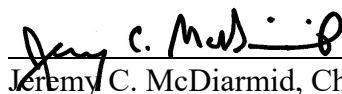
These requesters state that the on-going federal government shutdown has delayed the allocation of Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (“HEAP” or “LIHEAP”) funds to Massachusetts families. The requesters relay that the shutdown has introduced uncertainty to the regular LIHEAP funding cycle to Massachusetts community action agencies, who are now without assurances regarding their ability to rehire seasonal staff, process applications and notify clients and utility companies of HEAP energy assistance grants. In the normal process, the Companies would then protect those HEAP-eligible low-income customers from disconnection prior to and during the Moratorium. Additionally, the parties request an extension of the Moratorium to April 1, 2026, while temperatures are still cold.¹

The Department agrees that advancing the beginning date and extending the termination date of the Moratorium at this time will mitigate the harmful effects of the federal government shut-down on Massachusetts customers and will enable a consistent message among utilities and advocates, which will assist low-income households to meet their financial obligations while protecting them from shut-offs in cold weather. That message includes the importance of making payments during the winter months and avoiding the accumulation of large arrearages. Therefore, the **Department approves the joint request and asks that as of Monday, October 27, 2025, your company or MLP refrain from initiating the termination process until April 1, 2026. More specifically, we request that second requests for payment pursuant to 220 CMR 25.02(3)(b) not issue until April 1, 2026 or later.**

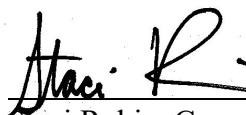
¹ The Department notes that it has extended the Moratorium past March 15th in recent years. Relatedly, on June 24, 2025, due to an Extreme Heat Warning issued by the National Weather Service, the Department requested that the Companies and MLPs offer the protections afforded in the Moratorium to prevent customer shut-offs during a period when temperatures exceed an unhealthy heat threshold.

The Department appreciates your cooperation in extending the Moratorium in previous years. Thank you in advance for your anticipated continuing cooperation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Theresa Kelly, our Director of Consumer and Administrative Affairs, at (617) 305-3642.

Sincerely,



Jeremy C. McDiarmid, Chair



Staci Rubin, Commissioner



Elizabeth A. Anderson, Commissioner

Enc.

cc: Jenifer Bosco, National Consumer Law Center
Brian Beote & James Collins, Co-Chairs; Jerrold Oppenheim, General Counsel
Low-Income Energy Affordability Network
Liz Berube, Officer, MASSCAP
Andrea Mendoza, Co-Chair, Massachusetts Energy Directors Association
Matthew E. Saunders, Deputy Chief, Energy & Ratepayer Advocacy Division
Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Amy Stitely, Undersecretary for Strategy & Climate, Executive Office of Housing & Livable Communities
Elizabeth Mahony, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
Theresa Kelly, Director, Consumer Division

Exhibit A
(Investor-Owned Gas Distribution Companies)

Kristen Fellmann
Supervisor of Customer Care & Credit & Collections
The Berkshire Gas Company

Nicole C. Jezykowski
Vice President, Customer Experience
Boston Gas Company d/b/a National Grid

Jess Cain
Vice President, Customer Operations & Assistance Programs
Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts and NSTAR Gas Company,
each d/b/a Eversource Energy

Justin L. Stearns
Supervisor, Credit and Collections
Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil

R.J. Ritchie
Director, Legal Services Liberty Utilities (New England Natural Gas Company) Corp. d/b/a
Liberty

Exhibit B
(Investor-Owned Electric Distribution Companies)

Justin L. Stearns
Manager, Credit & Collections
Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company d/b/a Unitil

Nicole C. Jezykowski
Vice President, Customer Experience
Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company,
each d/b/a National Grid

Jess Cain
Vice President, Customer Operations & Assistance Programs
NSTAR Electric Company, d/b/a Eversource Energy

Exhibit C
(Massachusetts Municipal Light Plants)

Ashburnham Municipal Light Department
Attn: Brooke Czasnowski – General Manager

Holyoke Gas and Electric Department
Attn: James Lavelle – General Manager

Belmont Municipal Light Plant
Attn: Craig Spinale - General Manager

Hudson Light and Power Department
Attn: Justin Connell - General Manager

Boylston Municipal Light Department
Attn: Mark Barakian - General Manager

Hull Municipal Lighting Plant
Attn: Panos Tokadjian

Braintree Municipal Light Department
Attn: William Bottiggi - General Manager

Ipswich Municipal Light Department
Attn: Dylan Lewellyn – General Manager

Chester Municipal Light Department
Attn: Diane Hall - General Manager

Littleton Municipal Light Department
Attn: Nick Lawler – General Manager

Chicopee Municipal Light Department
Attn: Daniel Faille - General Manager

Mansfield Municipal Electric Department
Attn: Joseph Sollecito - General Manager

Concord Municipal Light Department
Attn: Jason Bulger – Director

Marblehead Municipal Light Department
Attn: Joseph T. Kowalik - General Manager

Danvers Municipal Light Department
Attn: Clint Allen – Utility Director

Merrimac Municipal Light Department
Attn: Mary Usovicz - General Manager

Georgetown Municipal Light Department
Attn: Mary Snow - General Manager

Middleborough Gas & Electric Light
Department
Attn: Kenneth Stone - General Manager

Groton Municipal Light Department
Attn: Jonathan Patterson - General Manager

Middleton Municipal Light Department
Attn: Michael Cloutier - General Manager

Groveland Municipal Light Department
Attn: Kevin Snow - General Manager

North Attleborough Electric Department
Attn: Peter Schiffman – General Manager

Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant
Attn: Thomas Morahan – General Manager

Norwood Municipal Light Department
Attn: Kevin Shaughnessy – Superintendent/
General Manager

Holden Municipal Light Department
Attn: Barry Tupper - General Manager

Paxton Municipal Light Department
Attn: Tara Rondeau - General Manager

Peabody Municipal Light Plant
Attn: Joseph Anastasi - General Manager

Princeton Municipal Light Department
Attn: Sean McKeon - General Manager

Reading Municipal Light Department
Attn: Gregory Phipps – General Manager

Rowley Municipal Light Department
Attn: Matthew Brown - General Manager

Russell Municipal Lighting Plant
Attn: Alan Robinson - General Manager

Shrewsbury Electric & Cable Operations
Attn: Christopher Roy - General Manager

South Hadley Municipal Light Department
Attn: Sean P. Fitzgerald – General Manager

Sterling Municipal Light Department
Attn: Matthew Stelmach - General Manager

Taunton Municipal Light Department
Attn: Kimberly Holmes – General Manager

Templeton Municipal Lighting Plant
Attn: John M. Driscoll - General Manager

Wakefield Municipal Gas & Lighting Plant
Attn: Peter Dion – General Manager

Wellesley Municipal Lighting Plant
Attn: David G. Wood – Plant Director

West Boylston Municipal Light Department
Attn: Jonathan Fitch - General Manager

Westfield Gas & Electric Municipal Light
Department
Attn: Thomas Flaherty - General Manager

Cuttyhunk Electric Light
Attn: gosnoldtownclerk@yahoo.com