

MINUTES OF GAS & ELECTRIC COMMISSION MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
OCTOBER 14, 2025

A meeting of the Holyoke Gas and Electric Department was held on October 14, 2025, at 5:10 P.M. in the Department's offices. In attendance were Commissioners Hoey and Marrero; Manager Lavelle; Superintendents Steve Roy and Brian Roy; Kate Sullivan Craven, Lisa Rogers, and Attorney John Ferriter.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Hoey called the meeting to order at 5:10 P.M.

MINUTES:

On a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes from September 16, 2025.

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF MANAGER:

Financial Report:

Mr. Lavelle reviewed the draft August 2025 financial statements. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

DIVISION REPORTS:

GAS DIVISION

Mr. Brian Roy reported that wholesale natural gas purchases continue consistent with the hedging plan for the current 12-month procurement window and noted that 59% of winter gas supply is locked in price. He then reported that unit sales through September are projected to be approximately 1% ahead of plan, with higher early winter sales offset by lower shoulder month sales (warmer weather) and lower industrial sales. He also reviewed the October natural gas rate comparisons, noting that the Department remains very competitive in all rate classes.

Mr. Roy then gave a brief update on the LNG I&R project noting that the replacement vaporizers have been set and the impoundment is being constructed. He stated that completion of the non-jurisdictional portion of the project is progressing on schedule for a 3rd quarter 2026 completion. He also reported that staff continues efforts to obtain a Temporary Solution designation from the DEP for a portion of the Old Gasworks site and that preliminary discussions have taken place with a company that is interested in leasing a portion of that site for hydrogen production. He then reported that distribution crews continue to work in the area of lower Cabot Street on the PHMSA funded main replacement and have completed the installation of 1,000 feet, out of the planned 1,100 feet of main scheduled for replacement. He then noted that distribution work in the Beacon Avenue area has been completed and that cast iron mains and bare steel service replacements remain on schedule. He then noted that walking leak survey of gas services was completed in September and that there are currently no leaks on file. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

ELECTRIC DIVISION

POWER SUPPLY

Mr. Steve Roy reviewed the October electric rate comparisons and reported that the Department remains competitive in all rate classes compared to regional peers. He then reviewed the October Mark-to-Market report and reported that all transactions are within policy limits. He also gave an update on peak load reduction activities and noted that the September peak occurred on September 6th, hour-ending 17, and that 7.248 MW were shed via Department load reducers. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Roy gave an update on maintenance and construction activities noting that crews completed planned inspections on the 179 transmission poles and that all other planned projects are on schedule for completion by the end of the year. He reported that crews have nearly completed installation of the new conductors on the 17L5 line on Sargeant Street and will then shift to replace underground conductors on Winterberry Circle. Mr. Roy then gave a brief update EV charger installation prep work and battery storage activity, noting that the Agilitas BESS on Whitney Avenue is scheduled to begin commercial operation by the end of November. He then gave a brief update on training activities associated with the new outage management system (OMS) that is scheduled to launch in November. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

ELECTRIC PRODUCTION

Mr. Roy noted that hydro production for October is significantly below plan due to low water flows and that year-end hydro generation is estimated to be approximately 17% below plan, if November and December produce average river flows. He also reported that the fall canal outage went well and noted that two of four abandoned penstocks along the first level canal were filled to prevent leaks and several other facility improvements were completed including: replacement of feed gate operators 5/6, installation of new scroll gates and operators at Boatlock Station, installation of new operators at Overflow #3 and several repairs of the first level canal wall near Front Street. He then reported that an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) flood response functional exercise was conducted on October 7th with key stakeholders and emergency responders and noted that the exercise was well received by all parties. He also gave a brief update on the Cobble Mountain Unit #3 rebuild status. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Jonah gave an update on sales and operations activity. He then noted that cybersecurity training resumed at the beginning of the month and that Microsoft 365 training would be scheduled for the first quarter of 2026. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Ms. Rogers gave an update on the conversion to the NISC ERP system and stated that the conversion continues to go well with no significant open issues. She noted that the few issues that do arise are typically due to customers having difficulty signing up for the on-line capabilities as a result of not properly following instructions that were provided to them. She stated that customer service representatives continue to help those customers to set up their on-line access. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Sullivan reported that HG&E was named Utility of the Year by the Northeast Renewable Energy Coalition (NREC) for its clean energy advancement and attracting clean technology companies to the

City. She stated that the award was presented on Friday, October 3rd in Boston. She noted that Mayor Garcia was also presented an award at the event for being named Mayor of the Year by NREC for his leadership in advancing innovation and clean energy initiatives. She also gave an update on Public Power/Public Gas week activities that took place on October 8th. She then reported that HG&E is hosting a legislative briefing for Western Massachusetts state legislators at the Fishway on Friday and that MMWEC, South Hadley Electric Light Department and Westfield G&E are also participating. There was a discussion on the matter.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

STETSON WIND PROJECT: Mr. Lavelle reported that MMWEC has reached an agreement with the owners of the Stetson Wind Farm in Washington County Maine on a five-year unit contingent power purchase agreement (PPA) beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2030. MMWEC is offering its members the opportunity to participate in the project. After reviewing the terms of the offering, HG&E staff has determined that the energy price and included renewable energy certificates are a good fit for HG&E's power portfolio for the contract term and recommends participating in the offering at up to 4 MW of capacity. Mr. Steve Roy stated that MMWEC occasionally requests member board approval for PPA participation and, given the relatively short turn-around requirements for participation, requested that the Commission vote to authorize HG&E to participate in the project at up to 4 MW of capacity. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Marrero, seconded by Commissioner Hoey, it was voted 2-0 to authorize HG&E's participation in the Stetson Wind Farm project at up to 4 MW of capacity.

BID AUTHORIZATIONS: None

BIDS RECEIVED:

LANDSCAPING SERVICES ANNUAL CONTRACT - EXTENSION: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission authorize a one-year extension to the Annual Contract for Landscaping Services with GTC Landscaping, subject to the rates, terms, and conditions in the existing contract. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Marrero, seconded by Commissioner Hoey, it was voted 2-0 to approve the contract extension per the recommendation of management.

INSULATION, ASBESTOS & LEAD ABATEMENT ANNUAL CONTRACT - EXTENSION: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission authorize a one-year extension to the Annual Contract for Insulation, Asbestos, & Lead Abatement with Atlantic Contracting & Specialties, LLC, subject to a 3.6% increase in labor rates and other terms and conditions of the existing contract remaining the same. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Marrero, seconded by Commissioner Hoey, it was voted 2-0 to approve the contract extension per the recommendation of management.

COMMUNICATIONS:

10/09/25 – Draft Commission Meeting Minutes from 09/16/25

09/30/25 – JL/BM/Financial Statements, Balance Sheet & Summary Report – August 2025

09/16/25 – SR/JS/Stetson Wind Project

09/26/25 – JL/CW/Recommendation – Extension of Landscaping Services Annual Contract

09/26/25 – JL/CW/Recommendation – Extension of Insulation, Asbestos & Lead Abatement Annual Contract

NEXT MEETING DATE:

It was agreed that the next Commission meeting would take place on Tuesday, November 18th at 5:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the Meeting at 5:50 P.M.

HG&E Commission