

MINUTES OF GAS & ELECTRIC COMMISSION MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
DECEMBER 16, 2025

A meeting of the Holyoke Gas and Electric Department was held on December 16, 2025, at 5:00 P.M. in the Department's offices. In attendance were Commissioners Hoey, Sutter and Marrero; Manager Lavelle; Superintendents Steve Roy and Brian Roy; Brooke McMahon, Kirk Jonah, Kate Sullivan Craven, Lisa Rogers, and Attorney John Ferriter.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Hoey called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

MINUTES:

On a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes from November 18, 2025.

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF MANAGER:

Financial Report:

Ms. McMahon reviewed the draft October 2025 financial statements. Commissioner Marrero questioned why October natural gas pipeline costs were 72% higher than last October. Mr. Brian Roy stated that the increase is a function of increased demand for natural gas, coupled with a global increase for LNG, without any material increase in supply for our region. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

DIVISION REPORTS:

GAS DIVISION

Mr. Roy reported that wholesale natural gas purchases continue consistently with the hedging plan for the current 12-month procurement window and noted that 85% of planned winter gas is locked in price. He then reported that unit sales for December are projected to be approximately 10% ahead of plan, and year-end sales are projected to be up 4% over plan due to colder than normal weather. He also reviewed the December natural gas rate comparisons, noting that the Department remains very competitive in all rate classes.

Mr. Roy gave a brief update on the LNG I&R project noting that construction has been suspended for the winter and will resume in the spring. He noted that the project is on schedule for completion by the end of third quarter 2026. He then reported that distribution crews are nearing completion of a cast iron main replacement on Race Street and that planned regulator station upgrades and inside regulator relocations have been completed for the year. He stated that cast iron main replacements of 2 miles, and elimination of known bare steel services remain on schedule. He reported that construction of the PHMSA funded main replacement on Race Street would complete this work and that further work will be halted until the spring. He noted that there are currently zero (0) leaks on. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

ELECTRIC DIVISION

POWER SUPPLY

Mr. Roy reviewed the December electric rate comparisons and reported that the Department remains competitive in all rate classes compared to regional peers and is currently the lowest in all categories. He then reviewed the December Mark-to-Market report and reported that all transactions and counter-party default risks are within policy limits. He also gave an update on peak load reduction activities and noted that the November peak occurred on November 11th, hour-ending 18, and that 7.0326 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 14 of 33 commitments have been completed to date, with the remaining projects on schedule for completion by the end of the year. He stated that crews are finishing the replacement of underground conductors on Winterberry Circle and will then move to the installation of the electric service for the Lightshift BESS project on Whitney Avenue. Mr. Roy then gave a brief update on current battery storage construction activity, and he reported that the Holyoke Conservation Commission approved the order of conditions for planned work in the transmission right-of-way for the 1292 and 1657 circuits. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

ELECTRIC PRODUCTION

Mr. Roy noted that hydro production through November is 15.3% below plan due to low water flows and estimated that production would be approximately 20% below plan by year-end. He then gave an update on a recent ISO-New England scarcity event from November 23rd and reported that HG&E resources outperformed capacity obligations resulting in a net pay-for-performance payment of \$1,700. He also gave an update on the Gatehouse Head Gate Actuator Replacement Project noting that the two new station transformers have been delivered and are being prepared for connection. He also gave a brief update on 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 reported that Telecom Division sales are approximately 1% behind budget through October and are expected to be on plan by year-end of the year. He reported that Telecom staff have completed the installation of the new Cisco aggregation routers and that systems are operating nominally. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Ms. Rogers gave an update on low-income heating assistance funding and current year's income eligibility limits. She also reported that the lien list has been sent to the City Assessor to ensure that we are in best position to collect certain outstanding balances through our lien authority. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Sullivan gave an update on the statistics for on-line account sign-ups by customers and described the SmartHub iPad contest to encourage additional adoption by customers. She then gave a report on a recent reverse job shadow by HG&E employees at Holyoke High School, noting that the HG&E presentations were well received. She also noted that the year-end Footprint and Pathways reports have been updated noting that both reports outline the Department's progress in meeting the state's climate targets. There was a discussion on the matter.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

GAS RATE ADJUSTMENTS: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission approve the recommended adjustments to electric rate schedules A, GB-1, GB-2, GB-3, GB-4, AG-1, AG-2 and AG-3, consistent with the December 8, 2025, memorandum from Superintendent Brian Roy. He stated that the recommended adjustments would amount to a 3% to 4% increase for customers on those rate schedules. He also stated that the recommendation is consistent with the 2026 operating budget that was recently approved. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to approve the rate modifications as recommended.

GAS SERVICE REPAIR RATE ADJUSTMENTS: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission approve the recommended adjustments to Gas Service Repair rates consistent with the December 8, 2025, memorandum from Superintendent Brian Roy. He stated that the recommended adjustments are necessary to keep rates aligned with actual costs and he noted that the proposed residential rates are still 46% below market comparisons and that proposed commercial rates are 10% below market comparisons. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to approve the rate modifications as recommended.

BID AUTHORIZATIONS: None

BIDS RECEIVED:

ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission award the annual contracts for Electric Distribution Transformers to Wesco Hitachi (item A1A) and E.L. Flowers/Power Partners (items B1A-B7A), the low bidders meeting all requirements for the respective items as detailed on the December 10, 2025, memorandum from Vincent O'Connell, Sr. Electrical Engineer. Mr. Lavelle also recommended that, due to ongoing supply chain issues with transformer lead-times, the Commission award a secondary contract for item A1A to E.L. Flowers, the second lowest bidder for that item. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to award the contracts per the recommendation of management.

EXCAVATIONS & RESTORATIONS ANNUAL CONTRACT: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission award the annual contract for Excavations and Restorations to JSC Construction, LLC, the lowest responsible and eligible bidder meeting all requirements of the solicitation. He further recommended that the Commission reject the bid from Kudlic Bros., Inc., due to their credit instability. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to reject the bid from Kudlic Bros., Inc., and to award the contract to JSC Construction, LLC, per the recommendation of management.

GAS CONSTRUCTOR CONTRACTOR ANNUAL CONTRACT: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission award the annual contract for Gas Constructor Contractor to NPL Construction Co., the lowest bidder meeting all requirements of the solicitation. He further recommended that the Commission reject the bid from Fairway Gas as their submittal did not comply with the bid

requirements. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to reject the bid from Fairway Gas and award the contract per the recommendation of management.

PURCHASE APPROVAL – GAS METERS WITH AMR INSTALLATION AND

PROGRAMMING: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission authorize the expenditure of up to \$59,200 for the purchase of 400 AC-250 TC natural gas meters with AMR installation and programming from Powell Controls, Inc. He stated that the meters are required for planned replacements for 2026 and that Powell Controls is the sole provider of the equipment. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to approve the expenditure per the recommendation of management.

PURCHASE APPROVAL – HONEYWELL PERMASERT STAB FITTINGS: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission authorize the expenditure of up to \$200,000 for the purchase Honeywell Permasert stab fittings required to complete planned 2026 capital projects. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to approve the expenditure per the recommendation of management.

PURCHASE APPROVAL – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES- CATHODIC PROTECTION: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission authorize the expenditure of up to \$120,000 for the purchase of professional services from New England CP, Inc., required to comply with state and federal regulations for corrosion control of natural gas facilities. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to approve the expenditure per the recommendation of management.

ENGINEERING SERVICES – OLD GASWORKS OMMIR: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission authorize the expenditure of up to \$86,675 for engineering services required to perform Operation, Maintenance, Monitoring, Inspection and Reporting (OMMIR) services required under the Massachusetts Contingency Plan for the Gasworks remediation. Commissioner Hoey abstained from deliberations on the matter noting that his firm has bid on related work at the site in the past. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was voted 2-0 to authorize the expenditure per the recommendation of management. Commissioner Hoey abstained from voting.

COMMUNICATIONS:

12/11/25 – Draft Commission Meeting Minutes from 11/18/25
12/03/25 – JL/BM/Financial Statements, Balance Sheet & Summary Report – October 2025
12/08/25 – JL/BR/Rate Recommendation – Gas Rate Adjustments for CY2026
12/08/25 – JL/BR/Gas Service Work Rates Adjustment – CY 2026
12/10/25 – SR/VO/Recommendation – 2025 Electric Distribution Transformers
12/05/25 – SR/VO/Bid Recommendation – Excavations & Restorations Annual Contract
12/10/25 – JL/CW/Bid Recommendation – Gas Construction Contractor Annual Contract
12/09/25 – BR/WS/Purchasing Approval: Small Diaphragm Gas Meters
12/10/25 – BR/JB/Purchasing Approval: Honeywell Permasert Fittings
12/03/25 – BR/RB/Purchasing Approval: Professional Services - Cathodic Protection Surveys
12/11/25 – BR/CP/Purchasing Approval: Engineering Services – Old Gas Works OMMIR

NEXT MEETING DATE:

It was agreed that the next Commission meeting would take place on Tuesday, January 13th 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 5:48 P.M.

HG&E Commission

Minutes 12/16/25