



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888
(401) 941-4500

Chairperson Margaret E. Curran
Commissioner Marion S. Gold
Commissioner Abigail Anthony

June 4, 2019

The Honorable Dominick Ruggerio
Senate President
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Status Report on Aquidneck Island Loss of Gas Investigation

Dear Senate President Ruggerio:

On January 29, 2019, the Senate requested the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) investigate and determine the causes for the loss of gas utility service on Aquidneck Island during the week of January 21, 2019. (Resolution 063, Jan. 29, 2019). This is a status update on the PUC's effort to provide the Senate with that report. An investigation has been underway since January 30, 2019. Per R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-4-13 to 14, the lead agency is the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division). The Division has been collecting information and coordinating with the Attorney General's office and the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). The PUC has also opened a docket to ensure the Division is addressing certain minimum questions. A copy of correspondence to the Division is attached. The docket also allows the PUC to receive regular updates from the Division.

At this time, less than six months into the investigation, the PUC can report that substantial information is still being gathered and analyzed. The Division has reported that it has hired gas pipeline experts to analyze the data for impacts on and from both the gas transmission system and the gas distribution system. The Division is also receiving solid support from PHMSA, having held in person meetings with PHMSA during which it has been able to review information that it otherwise would not have access to as a state agency.

Initial information suggests that there may have been multiple contributing factors leading to the outage. The Division expects to publicly release a final report prior to the upcoming heating season. This report may be followed by a subsequent regulatory process or processes through which there could be fines assessed or costs disallowed if it is found that The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (gas company) contributed to the incident through imprudent management decisions.

The PUC remains committed to providing the Senate with any additional updates as they become available. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 401-780-2108 or Jonathan Schrag at 401-780-2178 with any additional questions on the status of the investigation.

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Curran /cgw

Margaret E. Curran
Chairperson

Enclosure
Copy: Senator Euer



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March 11, 2019

To: Mr. Kevin M. Lynch, Acting Administrator, Division of Public Utilities & Carriers

Cc: Celia O'Brien, Rob Humm, Raquel Webster and Christy Heatherington

Re: Investigation into Gas Outage on Aquidneck Island (Docket 4934)

Dear Mr. Lynch:

On March 1, 2019, pursuant to directives issued by the Rhode Island Senate (S0188), the Public Utilities Commission opened a docket to investigate the causes of the recent gas outage on Aquidneck Island.

The Commission is aware that the Division has already opened its own summary investigation under R.I. Gen Laws 39-4-13, to determine whether probable cause exists to open a formal investigation under R.I. Gen Laws 39-4-14. The Commission is not seeking to duplicate efforts already in motion. Please advise the Commission by March 22, 2019 of the status of the investigation. Additionally, please file status reports reading the Division's investigation with the Commission every thirty days.

The Commission seeks information on the following issues:

Reliability and Resiliency

- Was there an outage at the Providence LNG tank?
- LNG peaking capacity and performance.
- What was the role of regasification in this outage, if any?
- What was happening with system pressure support?
- What did the control center know and when?
- What role, if any, did Field's Point play?
- What caused the malfunction of the Enbridge valve?
- What contingency plans, if any, were implemented in this incident?
- The Company's compliance with code requirements.

March 11, 2019

Planning & Reliability

- How did the Long-Range Gas Supply Plan perform under this situation?
- Was the Company adequately prepared for such an incident and how well did it execute its plans?

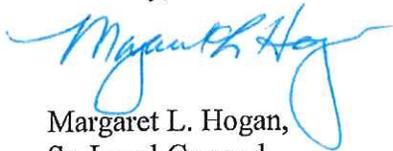
Incident Response Costs

- Was the Company's response appropriate and adequate?

Please advise the Commission as soon as possible if the Division will not be investigating any of these issues. The Senate directed the PUC to submit a written report by June 4, 2019. The PUC does not presently anticipate closing this Docket at that time, but will keep it open for status updates, as the Commission deems necessary.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the Commission's request or timeline, please do advise.

Sincerely,



Margaret L. Hogan,
Sr. Legal Counsel