

MINUTES OF GAS & ELECTRIC COMMISSION MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
JUNE 18, 2025

A meeting of the Holyoke Gas and Electric Department was held on June 18, 2025, at 5:08 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 5:08 P.M.

MINUTES:

On a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes from May 13, 2025.

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF MANAGER:

Financial Report:

Ms. McMahon reviewed the draft April 2025 financial statements. She then presented the 2024 Department of Public Utilities (DPU) report to the Commission for approval. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to approve the DPU report as presented.

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 71% of summer gas supply is locked in price and 22% of planned winter gas is locked in price. He then reported that unit sales through June are projected to be approximately 1% ahead of plan due to slightly colder than planned weather. He then reviewed the June 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 of the non-jurisdictional portion of the project is progressing on schedule and on plan to be completed by September 2026. He then reported that distribution crews are currently working on Meadowview and Hillside Avenue replacing mains and services in advance of the City's planned sewer main replacement in those areas. He noted that there are currently no leaks on file, and he gave an update on the PSMS implementation, and the PHMSA grant process. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

ELECTRIC DIVISION

POWER SUPPLY

Mr. Steve Roy reviewed the June electric rate comparisons and reported that the Department remains competitive in all rate classes compared to regional peers. He then reviewed the June 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 May peak occurred on May 16th, hour-ending 19, and that 7.544 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 and noted that crews are currently working on George and Jefferson Streets for service relocations that are scheduled to be completed by the end of August. He noted that 1,668 of 2,400 (70%) planned AMI meter deployments have been completed to date. He reported that manhole and pole inspections are ongoing and scheduled to be completed by September. He also reported that he received notice from MassCEC that the grant funding (\$460K) for the 52W9 conductor replacement is approved and that a contract should be in hand by the end of July. Mr. Roy then gave a brief update on the ESG Clean Energy PPA's, battery storage activity and proposed Large Industrial Rate modifications. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

ELECTRIC PRODUCTION

Mr. Roy noted that hydro production for June is ahead of plan and that year-to-date production is on plan. He then reported that the Department received satisfactory condition notice for the 2024 annual FERC inspection for Project 2004 and that the 2025 project inspection is scheduled for mid-July. He then noted that the flood station work-around solution for breaker operators was successfully tested, and the installations are scheduled to be completed by the end of the month. He then gave an update on Cobble Mountain maintenance activities and the Unit #3 rebuild status. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Jonah gave an update on recent sales and operations activity for the Telecom Division. He then reported that the telephone system software and security upgrades have been completed as planned and that cybersecurity training would resume in September. He further reported on the Telecom group support of the ERP conversion with the purchase and deployment of several iPads to support field activities related to the new NISC system. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Ms. Rogers reported that 49 new budget payment applications were approved, and she gave an update on fuel assistance funding for the current heating season. She then reported that work continues with the NISC ERP system conversion, and that the Customer Service go-live date is still scheduled for September. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Sullivan gave an update on various customer outreach initiatives including the notices to customers regarding the ERP conversion scheduled for the first week in September. She noted that the 2025 Customer Satisfaction Survey would be conducted over the next few weeks, and she reported on visitor statistics for the Rober E. Barrett Fishway for the season that ended on June 15th. She then reported that the City Council unanimously approved a resolution in support of the Department's EFSB petition and requesting that the EFSB approve the application for the addition of a fifth LNG storage tank. She also reported that, in response to several proposed programs being developed by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), the Massachusetts public power community (including MMWEC, MEAM and ENE) is encouraging all member systems to have their governing boards go on record stating their commitment to public power and achieving net-zero carbon emissions with locally developed programs and policies without mandates from the State. She noted that there is a draft resolution later on the agenda for consideration by the Commission. There was a discussion on the matter.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

SPONSORSHIP REQUEST- GREATER HOLYOKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Mr. Lavelle reported that the Department received a sponsorship request from the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce requesting that the Department continue its Corporate Leader Sponsorship level, consistent with the past several years. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was voted to approve the sponsorship as requested.

COMMERCIAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE REQUEST- REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES, LLC: Mr. Lavelle reported that the Department received a Commercial Energy Assistance request from Remote Opportunities LLC, in the amount of \$94,880 for the installation of energy efficient windows at their property at 6 Water Street and recommended that it be approved as requested. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to approve the assistance as requested.

COMMISSION RESOLUTION – LOCAL CONTROL OF MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANTS: Mr. Lavelle reported that as a result of several proposed policy and legislative changes from the Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), the Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts (MEAM), the Massachusetts Municipal Electric Association and Energy New England are all working with their respective municipal light plant members in the State to encourage their governing boards to go on record in support of maintaining local control, the hallmark of public power, that is being threatened by the proposed legislation and policy changes by EEA. He presented a draft resolution for consideration by the Commission. After a brief discussion, and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Hoey, it was voted 2-0 to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Marrero abstained.

BID AUTHORIZATIONS: None

BIDS RECEIVED:

HOLYOKE DAM INFLATABLE CREST GATE: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission award the contract for the replacement of the Holyoke Dam Inflatable Crest Gate to Northern Construction, the low bidder meeting all requirements of the solicitation. Commissioner Hoey disclosed that his nephew works for Northern Construction and is a minor shareholder of the company and he asked Attorney Ferriter if he should abstain from deliberations and voting on the matter. Attorney Ferriter noted that the matter does not rise to the level of a conflict for Commissioner Hoey as his nephew is not an immediate family member and the nephew's interest in the matter is not substantial enough to affect the integrity of his participation in the matter. He stated that the disclosure by Commissioner Hoey would suffice for compliance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 268A. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to award the contract per the recommendation of management.

SECONDARY GAS CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR - ANNUAL CONTRACT: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission award the Secondary Gas Construction Annual Contract to Burns

Construction Company, Inc., the low and only bidder meeting all requirements of the solicitation. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to award the contract per the recommendation of management.

CORERO NETWORK DEFENSE SYSTEM APPLIANCE TECHNICAL SUPPORT- 3 YEAR

RENEWAL: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission authorize the expenditure of up to \$111,236 for a three-year renewal of technical support and maintenance for the three Corero Network Defense System appliances. He noted that the appliances are a key component of the Department's network security system and the current support for the appliances is near expiration. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to authorize the expenditure per the recommendation of management.

VMWARE VSPHERE FOUNDATION LICENSE AND SUPPORT: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission authorize the expenditure of up to \$191,520 for a three-year renewal of VMware VSphere technical support and maintenance for the Department's 14 virtual server platform. He noted that the servers are an integral piece of the Department's network, serving both utility and Telecom operations and that the current support is nearing expiration. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to authorize the expenditure per the recommendation of management.

SOFTWARE SERVICES – AMBIENT ADJUSTED RATINGS FOR 115KV TRANSMISSION

SYSTEM: Mr. Lavelle requested that the Commission authorize the expenditure of up to \$259,600 for software services required to design and implement a software solution to comply with FERC Order 881 which requires transmission owners to provide ambient adjusted ratings (AAR) for its transmission assets in real time to ISO-New England. He stated that the expenditure includes the delivery of a facility ratings management system that will provide AARs for the Department's four 115kV transmission lines and stream the forecasted line ratings in real time to ISO-NE. He noted that the deliverables include a cloud-hosted repository of line and equipment ratings data, weather forecasting service with hourly temperature for 10 days and implementation of a rating calculation engine for determining ratings based on temperature and other inputs. Commissioner Hoey asked Mr. Roy several questions regarding the specific deliverables with the procurement and how frequently the data would be submitted to ISO-NE. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to authorize the expenditure per the recommendation of management.

COMMUNICATIONS:

05/08/25 – Draft Commission Meeting Minutes from 05/13/25

06/04/25 – JL/BM/Financial Statements, Balance Sheet & Summary Report – April 2025

06/06/25 – COMM/BM/2024 DPU Report

06/12/25 – JL/KC/Sponsorship Request – Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce Annual Sponsorship

05/23/25 – KC/MC/CEAP – Remote Opportunities, LLC

06/18/25 – COMM/JL/Commission Resolution – Municipal Light Plant Commitment to Local Control

05/29/25 – SR/DF/Technical Review – Holyoke Dam Inflatable Crest Gate Replacement Project

06/12/25 – JL/CW/Bid Recommendation – Secondary Gas Construction Contractor

05/16/25 – KJ/WM/Purchasing Approval: 3-Year Renewal Corero Support

06/06/25 – KJ/EG/Purchasing Approval: 3-Year Renewal VMWare Support

06/10/25 – SR/SD/Purchasing Approval: Software Services: Ampacimon FERC 881 Compliance

NEXT MEETING DATE:

It was agreed that the next Commission meeting would take place on Tuesday, July 15th 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 6:40 P.M.

HG&E Commission