

MINUTES OF GAS & ELECTRIC COMMISSION MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
JULY 15, 2025

A meeting of the Holyoke Gas and Electric Department was held on July 15, 2025, at 5:10 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, 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 June 18, 2025.

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF MANAGER:

Financial Report:

Ms. McMahon reviewed the draft May 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 87% of summer gas supply is locked in price and 28% of planned winter gas is locked in price. He noted that wholesale natural gas prices are up approximately 12% over plan for the remainder of the year which will impact the PGA if that trend continues. He then reported that unit sales through July are projected to be approximately 1% ahead of plan. He also reviewed the July 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 site work for the replacement vaporizers is ongoing and that construction of the non-jurisdictional portion of the project is progressing on schedule for a 3rd quarter 2026 completion. He then reported that distribution crews completed the main replacement on Meadowview and Hillside Avenue and that 4 of 46 services have been installed. He also reported that 75% of Woodmar Glen services replacements have been completed and that 26 of 75 planned inside regulator replacements have been completed. He noted that there are currently no leaks on file and that 25 leaks have been detected and eliminated this year through June. He then gave an update on the PSMS implementation, and the PHMSA grant process. Chairman Hoey asked if the apparent financial difficulties of the current gas construction contractor were impacting Department operations or finances. Mr. Roy stated that there is no material impact on operations or finances and that the only impact on Department staff is within the finance team that has to respond to and comply with any IRS requests for direct payment. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

ELECTRIC DIVISION

POWER SUPPLY

Mr. Steve Roy reviewed the July electric rate comparisons and reported that the Department remains competitive in all rate classes compared to regional peers. He then reviewed the July 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 June peak occurred on June 24th, hour-ending 18, and that 11,471 MW were shed via Department load reducers. Mr. Roy also noted that ISO-NE declared a capacity scarcity event on June 24th due to high power demand related to the heat wave at the time and a thin capacity reserve. He stated that electricity demand peaked at 26,024 MW for the ISO-NE region, the highest demand since 2013. He noted that all Department resources with a capacity supply obligation (CSO) were operating and met their respective CSO's throughout the scarcity event. He noted that wholesale energy prices peaked at over \$1,100/MWh and that the performance of the assets during that event netted over \$470,000 in energy sales and pay-for-performance revenue from the ISO. Mr. Roy also noted that during the peak demand the region had to rely on natural gas generating resources for over 47.5% of the electricity needed and that only 6% of peak energy was provided by renewable resources (wind, solar, etc). He stated that the balance of the energy was provided by hydro (8%), nuclear (13%), oil (12%), net imports (12%) and other (1.2%). There was a brief discussion on the matter.

TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Roy gave an update on maintenance and construction activities and noted that all planned manhole inspections were completed in June. He stated that the Jefferson Street electric service replacements that were planned for the summer have been deferred to 2026 due to the City changing plans for the sewer replacement in the area. He stated that staff are diligently working to reduce the number of open work orders as any open work orders as of September 1st will have to be manually entered into the new NISC ERP system. He further reported that ten bids were received for the 1894 Transmission Line Rebuild project and that staff would have a recommendation on the contract award for the August meeting. He noted that 1,743 of 2,400 (73%) planned AMI meter deployments have been completed to date. Mr. Roy then gave a brief update on battery storage activity. 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 1.9% above plan. He reported that planned maintenance outages will be taken at Hadley station over the coming weeks with anticipated low river flows. He noted that planned maintenance includes the Unit #1 blade positioner, Unit #2 unwatering system, installation of new station service transformers, and Hadley Station GSU maintenance. He then reported that FERC began their annual site inspection today and is scheduled to complete inspections tomorrow. He further reported that the contract for the rubber bladder replacement has been executed and he gave a brief update on Cobble Mountain maintenance activities and the Unit #3 rebuild status. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Lavelle reported that Telecom Division sales are approximately 1% behind budget through June and he noted that some of that variance may be due to the recent separation of telecom billing from the standard customer utility bill. He noted that the finance team is auditing the new billing process to ensure accuracy. He then reported that the Telecom team continues to support the ERP conversion process and is on schedule to resume cybersecurity training in September. 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 NISC representatives would be on-site during the last week of July for a mock go-live exercise. She stated that the Customer Service go-live date is still scheduled for September 8th. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Sullivan gave an update on the stakeholder communication plan for the ERP conversion scheduled for the first week in September. She noted preliminary notifications have been sent to elected officials and key accounts and that additional notifications will be sent to all customers between now and early September. She then reported that the 2025 customer satisfaction survey is nearly completed and that she should have preliminary results for the next Commission meeting. She also gave an update on Public Power/Public Gas week activities that are being planned for October 8th, and she gave an update on the summer education and safety programs. There was a discussion on the matter.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

SPONSORSHIP REQUEST- FIESTA PATRONALES DE HOLYOKE: Mr. Lavelle reported that the Department received a sponsorship request in the amount of \$5,000 from the organizers of the Fiestas Patronales de Holyoke and he recommended that the request be approved as it is consistent with the sponsorship level for the past several years. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Marrero, it was unanimously voted to approve the sponsorship per the recommendation of management.

COMMERCIAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE REQUEST- HOLYOKE PROPERTY

MANAGEMENT, LLC: Mr. Lavelle reported that the Department received a Commercial Energy Assistance request from Holyoke Property Management, LLC, in the amount of \$50,600 for the installation of two (2) energy efficient ducted air source heat pumps and one (1) packaged rooftop HVAC unit to replace the existing HVAC system at 476 Appleton Street and he recommended that it be approved as requested. Commissioner Sutter disclosed that the customer is a former client, and he abstained from deliberating on the matter. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Marrero, seconded by Commissioner Hoey, it was voted 2-0 to approve the assistance as requested. Commissioner Sutter abstained.

BID AUTHORIZATIONS: None

BIDS RECEIVED: None

COMMUNICATIONS:

05/08/25 – Draft Commission Meeting Minutes from 06/18/25

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

07/10/25 – JL/KC/Sponsorship Request – Fiestas Patronales de Holyoke

06/27/25 – KC/MC/Commercial Energy Assistance Program Request – Holyoke Property Management, LLC

NEXT MEETING DATE:

It was agreed that the next Commission meeting would take place on Tuesday, August 19th 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 5:42 P.M.

HG&E Commission

Minutes 07/15/25