

## **DPU ORDERS MORATORIUM ON NATIONAL GRID**

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)

CONTACT: --

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“Following today’s incident in Woburn, the Department of Public Utilities, under its regulatory authority over the gas distribution system, ordered National Grid to impose a moratorium on all work, except for emergency and compliance work, across the company’s entire service territory pending the results of DPU’s review of National Grid’s safety practices. In addition, the Department is requiring National Grid to have an inspector on location for all work that could lead to abnormal pressurization until this review is complete. Separately, the Department is in the process of hiring an Independent Evaluator to assess, out of an abundance of caution, the safety of pipeline infrastructure throughout Massachusetts.” Peter Lorenz, EEA

### **Background**

- As part of an Order recently issued by the Department of Public Utilities, National Grid is required to provide the Department with information regarding staffing, costs, and the services that National Grid has provided during the company’s current labor lockout compared to the same period in previous years.
- Last week, the Department of Public Utilities, based on information provided by residents, launched an investigation into safety violations and possible failures to follow procedures and federal pipeline safety regulations and has required the company to provide additional information by November 13, 2018.
- The Department of Public Utilities, out of an abundance of caution, recently announced their intent to hire an independent evaluator to conduct a statewide examination of the safety of the natural gas distribution system within the Commonwealth.

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