

MINUTES OF GAS & ELECTRIC COMMISSION MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
AUGUST 19, 2026

A meeting of the Holyoke Gas and Electric Department was held on August 16, 2026, at 5:04 P.M. in the Department's offices. In attendance were Commissioners Hoey, Sutter and Beauregard; Manager Lavelle; Superintendents Steve Roy and Brian Roy; Kirk Jonah, Brooke McMahon, Kate Sullivan, Lisa Rogers, and Attorney John Ferriter.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Hoey called the meeting to order at 5:04 P.M.

MINUTES:

On a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Hoey, it was voted 2-0 to approve the minutes from June 16, 2026. Commissioner Beauregard abstained.

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF MANAGER:

Financial Report:

Ms. McMahon reviewed the draft June 2026 financial statements. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

Mr. Lavelle noted that the 2025 DPU report was uploaded to the board portal for the Commissioners to review and sign. Commissioner Beauregard questioned whether Page 3 of that report should include his name or the name of former Commissioner Marrero. Attorney Ferriter stated that he would review and advise.

DIVISION REPORTS:

GAS DIVISION

Mr. Brian Roy reported that 95% of planned summer gas is locked in price and 49% of forecasted winter gas is also locked in price, and that wholesale natural gas purchases continue to be executed consistent with the hedging plan for the current 12-month procurement window. He then reviewed August natural gas rate comparisons, noting that the Department remains very competitive in all rate classes. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

He then noted that construction is ongoing at the LNG I&R Project and that contractors are on schedule for mechanical completion by September for the non-jurisdictional portion of work. He then noted that staff are working on a design update with Sanborn Head to integrate new tank at the site and that near-final drawings are due by the end of October, with delivery of the tank anticipated in second quarter of 2027.

Mr. Roy then reported that gas construction contractor crews completed 2600-feet of cast-iron abandonment on Sargeant Street last week and have moved to Cabot Street, between Sycamore and Locust Streets. He then reported that work on the PHMSA FY2022 Grant project is ongoing with crews currently working at the intersection of Nick Cosmos and Cabot Street. He also reported that

there are currently six (6) leaks on file and that the leak survey contractor is scheduled to complete the walking surveys of the system within four weeks. He then gave a brief update on new gas service requests and the DPU DIMP audit exit letter, noting that there were two minor findings that are being addressed. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

ELECTRIC DIVISION

POWER SUPPLY

Mr. Steve Roy reviewed the August 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 August 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 July peak occurred on the 2nd, hour-ending 19, and that 12.096 MW were shed via load reducers. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Roy gave an update on electric distribution maintenance and construction activities, noting that the planned pole and conductor replacements on Southampton Road and Westfield Road are expected to be completed by the end of September. He also reported that planned AMI meter installations are 75% complete, with 1,800 AMI meters having been installed since January 1st. He also reported that 32 backyard services have been relocated to the street side of the property along Cleveland, Park Slope and Nonotuck Streets. He also gave an update on battery storage installation activity and the 1292/1657 transmission line access road improvements. Indicating that work will continue into 2027. Commissioner Beauregard asked if the Department had an ownership position on any of the battery storage systems and Mr. Steve Roy stated no. Commissioner Beauregard noted that the 2025 DPU report indicated a balance of approximately \$4.1 Million for storage battery equipment. Mr. Roy stated that the item refers to the UPS installation on Water Street.

Mr. Roy also gave an update on FERC Oder 881 (transmission line ambient rating requirements) compliance noting that successful data transmission to ISO-NE was confirmed as part of the test setup. Finally, he noted that the most recent long-term power supply forecast indicates the HG&E will meet the state's carbon-free requirements through 2042 without any significant changes required. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

ELECTRIC PRODUCTION

Mr. Roy reported that hydro production is tracking 2.3% above plan year-to-date. He noted that new rubber bladder sections #4 and #5 will be commissioned this week and that the contractor will then mobilize to replace sections #1 and #2. He stated that section #3 would be completed in 2027. He then gave a brief update on Cobble Mountain Unit #3 rebuild and gave an update on other ongoing projects. He also noted that the Department was named a responsible party by MassDEP for an oil leak at the Valley Hydro tailrace. He stated that delineation of the leak is underway and that he expects the studies will show that the adjacent property owner is the proper responsible party. Finally, he noted that the fall canal outage is scheduled for September 19th through September 26th. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Jonah gave an update on sales and operations activity. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Ms. Rogers gave a brief update on a recent DPU request that utilities refrain from terminating service due to non-payment when the state issues an unhealthy heat warning. There was a brief discussion on the matter.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Sullivan gave an update on the school safety awareness program activities and noted that Public Power and Public Natural Gas week is scheduled for the week of October 7th and that activities will be held at the Merry-go-Round facility. She then gave an update on preliminary plans to recognize the 25th year of the Dam purchase as well as the 125th anniversary of the founding of HG&E. There was a discussion on the matter.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

COMMERCIAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE REQUEST – 92-114 RACE STREET: Mr. Lavelle reported that the Department received a Commercial Energy Assistance Request in the amount of \$191,160 from the owners of 92-114 Race Street for the installation of new energy efficient windows. He noted that the project is planned to be completed over two years with the assistance being paid out in equal amounts in 2026 and 2027. He noted that additional financial information from the customer is required and he recommended that the item be tabled until that information is received and reviewed. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Beauregard, it was unanimously voted to table the assistance request per the recommendation of management.

BID AUTHORIZATIONS: None

BIDS RECEIVED:

VEHICLE #23 REPLACEMENT: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission award the bid for Vehicle #23 Replacement to Marcotte Ford through the State Contract #VEH110 at a price not-to-exceed \$70,000. He noted that this vehicle replacement was unplanned and is required due to an accident caused by a third-party that rendered the existing vehicle a total loss. He noted that the vendor currently has a vehicle that meets HG&E specifications and that can be procured from the state bid list. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Beauregard, it was unanimously voted to award the contract per the recommendation of management.

TRAFFIC CONTROL FLAGGING SERVICES: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission award the contract for Traffic Control Flagging Services to All State Flagging, the lowest responsible and eligible bidder meeting all requirements of the solicitation. Commissioner Hoey disclosed that one of the owners of the recommended vendor has performed legal services for him and he abstained from deliberations and voting. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Beauregard, it was voted 2-0 to award the contract per the recommendation of management. Commissioner Hoey abstained from voting.

HADLEY FALLS STATION ROOF REPLACEMENT: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission award the contract for the Hadley Falls Station Roof Replacement to Silktown Roofing, the lowest responsible and eligible bidder meeting all requirements of the solicitation. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Beauregard, it was unanimously voted to award the contract per the recommendation of management.

POWER PIPING SYSTEMS & HVAC MAINTENANCE, INSTALLATIONS & REPAIRS

ANNUAL CONTRACT - EXTENSION: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission authorize a one-year extension to the annual contract (#24-15) for Power Piping Systems & HVAC Maintenance, Installations and Repairs with Harry Grodsky & Co., subject to a 2% increase in labor rates with all other terms and conditions consistent with the existing contract. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Beauregard, it was unanimously voted to authorize the contract extension per the recommendation of management.

PURCHASE APPROVAL – CISCO 8011 ROUTERS: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission authorize the expenditure of up to \$50,765 for the purchase of three (3) Cisco 8011 routers, four (4) Cisco SFP optics and five-year support off of state contract #ITT72. He noted that the recommended purchase is required to replace existing aggregation routers, which have reached the end of their software engineering (EOE) date, and provide one spare unit for the lab environment. He noted that the purchase is included in the 2026 capital plan. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Beauregard, it was unanimously voted to authorize the purchase per the recommendation of management.

PURCHASE APPROVAL – CHECKPOINT SUPPORT & MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

RENEWAL: Mr. Lavelle recommended that the Commission authorize the expenditure of up to \$299,836 for the purchase of a three (3) year maintenance and support contract for the Checkpoint Security Gateway and Management Systems to replace the existing contract that expires on September 4, 2026. He noted that the contract covers all related Checkpoint hardware and software that protects the utility networks from internet threats and that the Checkpoint services include: web content filtering, anti-virus and malware scanning, intrusion protection, secure mobile and VPN connections, and threat monitoring and reporting. He further noted that the recommended purchase is included in the 2026 operating budget. After a brief discussion and on a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Beauregard, it was unanimously voted to authorize the purchase per the recommendation of management.

COMMUNICATIONS:

08/12/26 – Draft Commission Meeting Minutes from 06/16/26

07/28/26 – JL/BM/Financial Statements, Balance Sheet & Summary Reports – June 2026

08/10/26 – KS/MC/CEAP – Lighthouse Personalized Educations for Teens, Inc.

08/11/26 – BR/CB/Purchase of Replacement Vehicle – Truck #23

06/20/26 – SR/CW/Technical Review – Traffic Control Flagger Services

07/08/26 – SR/SL/Bid Recommendation – Hadley Falls Station Roof Replacement

06/22/26 – JL/CW/Recommendation – Extension of Power Piping Systems & HVAC Maintenance, Installations & Repairs Annual Contract

08/12/26 – TH/RV/Purchasing Approval: Cisco 8011 Routers

08/18/26 – KJ/AJ/Purchasing Approval: 3YR Checkpoint Support Renewal

NEXT MEETING DATE:

It was agreed that the next Commission meeting would take place on Tuesday, September 8th at 5:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion from Commissioner Sutter, seconded by Commissioner Beauregard, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the Meeting at 6:20 P.M.

HG&E Commission

Minutes 08/19/26