

PROPOSED CITY WIDE PLAN 10/7/22

submitted by Cory Alperstein, Meira Appell, Ron Blau, Barbara Divitto, Ellie Goldberg, Elaine Landes, Bob Persons, Nathan Phillips, James Purdy, Melanie Renaud, Chagit Steiner, Philip Vergragt, Leslie Zebrowitz, 350Mass Newton

Referenced in the [RESOLUTION FOR A FUTURE WITHOUT GAS AND FOR CLEAN HEAT](#), City Council support vote February 21, 2023 by Councilors Leary, Kalis, Humphrey, Bowman, Downs, Crossley, Greenberg, Lipof, Ryan, Lucas, Kelley, Wright, Norton, and Albright

RE: Proposed changes to National Grid applications for Grants of Location 10/7/22

Dear City Councilors,

As we proposed at the September 8 Public Facilities Committee meeting, instead of considering National Grid's GOL applications one by one, we suggest that the Public Facilities Committee require the following information from National Grid before accepting new applications for GOLs.

These requirements will give the Public Facilities Committee meaningful information for making responsible pipeline management decisions that are based on **a comprehensive, city-wide plan** to achieve the benefits of

- reducing GHG emissions from lost gas,
- increasing community safety and reducing risk of explosion, fire, and pollution,
- protecting ratepayers and taxpayers from squandering funds in dangerous, wasteful, obsolete fossil fuel infrastructure,
- investing public funds in efficiencies and clean energy that achieve the goals of Newton's Climate Action Plan and the Commonwealth's Climate goals.

1. Require National Grid to provide the full map of Newton's gas infrastructure

- The map needs to show the age, material type, condition, pressure and history of each section of pipeline including the methods and materials used in repairs and/or methods and material used for replacements), the location and condition of turnoff valve caps (gateboxes), and other features that affect the safety and reliability of the pipe.

- The map needs to define and identify leaking pipes (and joints) and leakprone pipes.
 - The map needs to show Newton's road construction/paving plans especially in pipelines where there are multiple leaks and/or high volume leaks (SEIs).
2. Require National Grid to provide a Risk Analysis and Cost Analysis that includes:
- CURRENT pipeline and leak inspection dates and gas leak grades.
 - CURRENT date, location and history of each leak repair, the criteria used for maintenance decisions and type of repair or replacement.
 - The cost of each proposed pipeline replacement project and the cost of alternative maintenance options including relining and joint repair.
 - The cost of lost gas per leak and the cumulative amount of lost gas during the age of the leak, and the emissions reduction achieved when each leak is fixed.
 - (See useful model: [HEET maps](#))

We believe that this information will create the basis for setting priorities and effective decision making to align with Newton's Climate Action Plan. It also acknowledges the urgency of reducing the enormous cost and risk of our gas infrastructure. We look forward to your consideration of our proposed changes to the GOL application and to working with you as advocates for the best interests of our families and neighbors.

[GSEP AT THE SIX-YEAR MARK A REVIEW OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GAS SYSTEM ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM](#) (gastransitionallies.org)

Signatures:
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