

Stephen H. Bryant
President & COO

September 24, 2018

The Hon. Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

The Hon. Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senators Markey and Warren:

Thank you for your September 21, 2018 letter requesting additional information regarding the ongoing response, recovery, and restoration efforts associated with the tragic events of September 13 in the Greater Lawrence area.

As we have discussed in meetings with you and your staffs following this incident, we are committed to full transparency in sharing information. Since this matter is the subject of an ongoing National Transportation Safety Board investigation, there are some matters directly related to the investigation that we are currently prohibited by federal law from discussing. I'm certain we all share the goal of conducting a thorough, complete and independent investigation into what happened here and why, and so we must honor the integrity of the NTSB process.

With that said, I am happy to provide the following information:

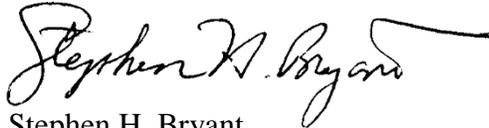
- You asked several questions relating to low pressure natural gas distribution systems, the process of performing work on those systems, and any revised operational procedures or guidance related to that work. Enclosed is an Operational Notice, issued on September 18, 2018, concerning "Additional Requirements for Tie-ins Involving Low-Pressure Facilities." We have redacted only employee names and contact information. The company temporarily suspended all work involving tie-ins on low-pressure systems pending additional inspections of facilities, and that work is resuming only on a limited basis under strict protocols, as set forth in the Operational Notice. Also enclosed is a chart showing the number of lower pressure systems by geographic location, as well as the number of customers served by each location.
- Upgrading is a process whereby an existing system is prepared to operate at a new pressure. It is used only where all or a portion of the distribution system is already built with modern materials and in accordance with construction standards set forth in

the state and federal pipeline safety regulations. It typically takes the form of “out-of-service” testing, in which the entire system is taken out of service and pressure tested in accordance with state and federal regulations. For 2018, the company anticipates approximately 30 out-of-service testing projects, including approximately 20 that are part of the Lawrence System restoration project. Such projects constitute only a portion of the company’s total priority pipeline replacements in a given year, and project planning is fluid from year to year, as updated information becomes available. As a result, it is not possible to predict the number of out-of-service replacement projects beyond 2018.

- You requested information regarding our comprehensive program for establishing, assessing and verifying the qualifications of employees and contractors who perform work on our facilities. Enclosed is a copy of the Columbia Gas of Massachusetts Operator Qualification Plan that addresses these matters.
- The remainder of your questions are in regard to investigative materials that directly relate to the September 13, 2018 incident. As noted above, as a party to the ongoing NTSB investigation, we are prohibited by federal law from releasing such “investigative information” at this time. We will continue to fully cooperate in that investigation, we will share information as it is made publicly available through that investigation, and we will be guided by the findings of the NTSB in making operational improvements in the future.

Once again, thank you for your inquiry. We remain committed to sharing information with you and your constituents as the investigative process continues, and the vital relief, recovery, and restoration work to help the people of Greater Lawrence moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen H. Bryant". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen H. Bryant

Enclosures

**Columbia Gas of Massachusetts
Low-Pressure Pipeline Systems**

DIVISION	CITY/ TOWN	NUMBER OF LOW PRESSURE SYSTEMS	NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS IN LOW PRESSURE SYSTEMS
BROCKTON	ATTLEBORO	1	2,159
	BROCKTON	1	10,284
	RAYNHAM	1	5
	TAUNTON	3	2,587
LAWRENCE	ANDOVER	2	2,068
	LAWRENCE	2	15,803
	METHUEN	2	5,235
	NORTH ANDOVER	2	1,459
SPRINGFIELD	AGAWAM	1	1,313
	CHICOPEE	4	2,470
	EASTHAMPTON	2	1,289
	EAST LONGMEADOW	1	1,669
	FLORENCE	1	853
	INDIAN ORCHARD	2	2,150
	LONGMEADOW	1	2,420
	LUDLOW	1	1,484
	NORTHAMPTON	1	3,272
	SOUTH HADLEY	1	295
	SPRINGFIELD	5	26,169
	WEST SPRINGFIELD	3	3,707
	WILBRAHAM	1	6

Total

86,697