

**RESOLUTION OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
REGARDING THE PROPOSED SPECIAL OFFERING  
OF BAY STATE GAS COMPANY D/B/A COLUMBIA GAS OF MASSACHUSETTS**

*Adopted February XX, 2020 (DRAFT)*

In its October 30, 2018 resolution supporting the statewide 2019-2021 three-year energy efficiency plans, the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (“Council”) highlighted its support of a targeted offering during 2019 to support the homes and businesses impacted by the September 2018 incidents in the Greater Lawrence portion of Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts’ (“CMA”) service territory. The targeted offer, including enhanced incentives for weatherization, was approved by the Department of Public Utilities (“Department”) in D.P.U. 18-110.

CMA is currently seeking the support of the Council to continue offering enhanced incentives for cost-effective insulation and air sealing in Andover, Lawrence, and North Andover through December 31, 2020. The Company does not propose an increase in its 2020 budget at this time, but anticipates that a disproportionate amount of energy efficiency funds may be used in Andover, Lawrence, and North Andover during 2020.

This offering by CMA is not specifically addressed by the Energy Efficiency Guidelines approved in D.P.U. 11-120-A, Phase II (January 31, 2013) (“Guidelines”). However, Section 5 of the Guidelines provide that an energy efficiency Program Administrator that seeks to make a program or budgetary request not otherwise addressed specifically in the Guidelines “shall have the burden to demonstrate the compelling nature of such request.”

**EEAC Review and Support**

As evidenced by the Council’s October 30, 2018 resolution in support of the Program Administrators’ 2019-2021 Three-Year Plan, including CMA’s targeted offer for 2019, the Council supports enhanced incentives for the homes and businesses impacted by the September 2018 incidents.

Furthermore, the 2019 results of the targeted offer provided to the Council through monthly updates by CMA demonstrate that the geo-targeted enhanced incentives have helped many residents in Andover, North Andover and Lawrence. However, the data shows that participation rates in Lawrence have not increased over historical participation numbers as they have in Andover and North Andover. Additionally, a higher percentage of customers in Lawrence are served through the income-eligible program, which offers cost-effective insulation with no co-pay statewide. Because the proposed enhanced incentive applies to market rate customers only, the Council would like to ensure that low income customers in Lawrence also receive an incremental focused effort to increase participation.

Therefore, the Council generally supports the continuation of the enhanced incentives for cost-effective weatherization in Andover, North Andover and Lawrence through December 31, 2020. However, as a condition of its support, the Council requests an increased effort to serve more low

income customers, particularly in Lawrence, compared to historic levels. The Council recognizes that there may be challenges for increasing low income participation in Lawrence and requests the following:

1. A joint presentation from CMA and the Low-Income Energy Affordability Network (LEAN) at the June 17<sup>th</sup> EEAC meeting, to provide the Council with the following detailed information:
  - a. The number of Lawrence residents served by the programs historically and the number of residents that have participated in the targeted offer.
  - b. To the extent that pre-weatherization barriers are preventing cost-effective projects from moving forward, specific documentation of the number of projects and types of barriers.
  - c. Description of efforts undertaken by CMA to increase participation in Lawrence.
2. Continued monthly updates from CMA, with quarterly updates on number of projects unable to move forward due to pre-weatherization barriers, including the type of barrier.
3. Evaluation study (to be completed in 2020) of the 2019 targeted effort to assess the results of the program and lessons learned in an effort to explore the potential for increasing participation in other Mass Save® eligible towns.

Based on this review, the Council supports CMA's proposal to continue offering enhanced incentives for cost-effective insulation and air sealing in Andover, Lawrence, and North Andover through December 31, 2020, if it includes a focused effort to increase participation in Lawrence.

The EEAC hereby directs that this resolution be transmitted in full by the Department of Energy Resources to the Department.