



Department of Public Service

Public Service Commission

John B. Rhodes
Chair and
Chief Executive Officer

Diane X. Burman
James S. Alesi
Tracey A. Edwards
John B. Howard
Commissioners

Thomas Congdon
Deputy Chair and
Executive Deputy

Robert Rosenthal
General Counsel

Michelle L. Phillips
Acting Secretary

Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223-1350
www.dps.ny.gov

October 24, 2019

Senator Brian Kavanagh
Senator Kevin Parker
Senator Leroy Comrie
Senator Julia Salazar
Senator Kevin Thomas
Senator John E. Brooks
Senator Diane Savino
Senator Andrew Gounardes
Senator Simcha Felder
Senator Velmanette Montgomery
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Honored Members of the Senate,


I am in receipt of your September 24, 2019 letter regarding your request that the Commission open formal, public proceedings regarding the natural gas moratoria in the Brooklyn Union Gas Company d/b/a National Grid NY and the KeySpan Gas East Corp d/b/a National Grid (collectively, National Grid or the Companies) service territories. You indicate that it is your belief that the Public Service Commission (Commission) should open the investigations to allow the public to participate and so that stakeholders and other interested parties may monitor and participate in the investigations. You also indicate that your constituents would like to comment to the Commission or provide evidence of their economic losses. You also state that your constituents and other customers of National Grid are frustrated by the uncertainty surrounding their natural gas service, particularly those who own renovated homes, affordable housing projects and new businesses who are being denied gas service by the Companies.

The Commission recently took significant action to address these customer concerns. By order to show cause issued October 11th¹, the Commission directed National Grid to immediately connect the 1,157 customers that were previously denied natural gas service by the Companies due to their moratoria. Further actions against National Grid may be taken as a result of the order to show cause as it also requires that National Grid implement an alternative supply and demand reductions plan to ensure safe and reliable gas service. In addition, the order to show cause provides that National Grid's actions may have constituted violations under the Public Service Law that could result in financial penalties.

On October 21, 2019, the Companies filed a response to the order to show cause indicating that they are currently conducting customer outreach and dedicating significant resources to connect the 1,157 customers as directed by the Commission. National Grid also claims that "unprecedented" steps are being taken as part of its implementation and contingency plan to reduce peak gas demand to ensure adequate gas supply this winter. The Commission will actively monitor the Companies' progress in connecting these customers and ensuring adequate natural gas supply this winter.

Should you have any questions, you may contact Tammy Mitchell, Director of the Office of Electric, Gas & Water at 518-486-2462 or at her e-mail address Tammy.Mitchell@dps.ny.gov.

Sincerely,



John B. Rhodes
Chief Executive Officer

#9228

¹ Case 19-G-0678, Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Investigate Denials of Service Requests by National Grid USA, The Brooklyn Union Gas Company d/b/a National Grid NY and KeySpan Gas East Corporation d/b/a National Grid. This one-commissioner order was confirmed by the Commission on October 17th.