



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

April 30, 2026

Via E-mail

Mr. Jeremy McDiarmid
Chairman
Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Chairman McDiarmid:

I write to urge you to support the Massachusetts Gas System Enhancement Program for replacing cast-iron and other leak-prone pipe in natural gas distribution systems in the State of Massachusetts. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is aware of state legislative and regulatory changes that could reduce rate recovery for Massachusetts gas distribution operators in the process of replacing leak-prone pipe, such as cast-iron and bare steel, which are known to present an increased safety risk. Failing to support these replacement projects could increase the potential for pipeline incidents that may result in death, injury, or property damage.

Our data indicates Massachusetts has approximately 2,003 miles of cast-iron main, 1,083 cast-iron services, 696 miles of bare steel main, and 101,368 bare steel services remaining. This infrastructure must be replaced to improve pipeline safety and maintain reliability of service to the public. PHMSA encourages the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (MA DPU) to support pipeline operators in their efforts to replace leak-prone pipe, improve pipeline safety, and protect the public.

Thank you for your consideration of this important pipeline safety issue.

Sincerely,

Paul Roberti
Administrator

Cc: Mr. Richard Enright, Director, Pipeline Safety Division, MA DPU