

NPA Working Group Meeting #1
October 16, 2024
75 State Street, Boston, MA

Agenda:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>
10-10:30	Introductions, Ground Rules
10:30-11	Background, Working Group Purpose
11-11:30	NPA 101
11:30-12:15	Lunch
12:15-1:45	Gas System 101
1:45-2	Wrap Up, Next Steps

Background/Working Group review:

Summary: Presentation by Apex providing an overview of the DPU 20-80 Order and where NPAs come into play, as well as guidance on development of the NPA framework. Discussion of the purpose of the NPA Working Group, and what is in and out of scope for the group's discussions, and a timeline for the process. Outline of the roles of the other groups of the NPA stakeholder process: Technical Subcommittee, Community Focus Group, Public Engagement.

Key Points from Stakeholders:

- Carbon impacts of various NPA options should be included in the framework.
- What is the process for tracking feedback on the framework?
 - Facilitator response: After WG process and framework revisions, facilitation team will track and collect comments of the working group on various perspectives coming out of the process in the spring for submittal to the DPU.
- Electric system generally, and MLPs in particular, need to have information and timing on the gas system changes, as electric system planning takes time.
- Impacts to the workforce should be included in scope.
- Interest amongst the group to discuss cost recovery around NPAs.
 - Facilitator recommendation to add this discussion to a springtime agenda, time permitting, once the framework has been reviewed by the Working Group. Further discussion is required to determine which costs the group be reviewing.

Action Items:

- Add workforce implications to the in-scope list.

- Facilitator to create a written document of the Working Group's goals and in and out of scope items for further comment from the group.
- Community Focus Group is seeking group members – ask to all Working Group members to connect with Matt or Marti on potential candidates.
- After Working Group process and framework revisions, facilitation team will track comments of the Working Group on various perspectives coming out of the process in the spring.

NPA 101

Summary: Presentation by Apex providing an overview of what an NPA is, the different types of strategies to address them, and examples of NPA proceedings in other states.

Key Points from Stakeholders:

- Clean Heat Standard should be considered in the NPA process.
- As the primary stakeholder in the NPA process, LDCs are responsible for establishing the initial framework and getting feedback.
- If a customer needs gas, it shouldn't be built into the rate base, and that entity should be responsible for its costs.
 - Facilitators note that this could be covered through the line extension policy.

Action Items

- Facilitators to consider how the Clean Heat Standard could fit into this process.

Gas 101

Summary: Presentation by LDCs providing an overview of the gas system in Massachusetts including consumption metrics, production, transmission, and distribution details, and gas inventory by types of pipeline across the five MA LDCs. The LDCs presented a few key elements of safety, reliability, and compliance topics including operating pressure, unplanned outages, and State and Federal regulations the gas system needs to comply with. Each LDC presented metrics on their customers, communities, employees, and gas infrastructure managed which included maps of gas lines, noting non-leak prone and leak prone pipes.

Key Points from Stakeholders:

- Discussion around real-life safety issues and how the LDCs work through their processes.

Action Items:

- LDCs file their Operating Manuals with the DPU – LDC's confirmed these are not publicly available.
- Unitil to confirm local ordinances on propane within their territories. Unitil has confirmed Fitchburg has a restriction on certain dual fuel configurations.
- Eversource is working to include more detailed maps, as requested at the Stakeholder meeting.

Wrap Up:

Summary: Next Working Group meeting is on November 6th, and NPA framework materials will be provided ahead of time if possible. Feedback can be emailed to npaworkinggroup@apexanalyticsllc.com or submitted through the “Contact Us” form on the website: www.npaworkinggroup.com.

Action Items:

- Share NPA framework materials prior to meeting if possible.