



**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

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January 4, 2019

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247 Station Drive  
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Re: Guidance Regarding New Pipeline Safety Law

Dear All,

Governor Baker recently signed “An Act Ensuring the Safety and Soundness of the Commonwealth’s Natural Gas Infrastructure,” Chapter 339 of the Acts of 2018. In light of the potential for abnormal operating conditions, including overpressurizations, that could result from certain work, this law requires “engineering plans or specifications for engineering work or services that could pose a material risk to public safety, as determined by the department..., developed by or on behalf of a gas company, shall bear the stamp of approval of a professional engineer certified under section 81E of said chapter 112.”

This document provides interim guidance that explains when a professional engineer’s stamp is required under this statute. The Department has determined that engineering plans and specifications for the work and services listed below require a professional engineer’s stamp of approval. This guidance is effective immediately, unless otherwise noted, and will remain in effect until further notice. This guidance does not apply to emergency work. Additionally, the Department will conduct a public process and receive stakeholder input to finalize the scope of work and services that will require a professional engineer’s stamp.

1. Design and construction that creates or reconfigures district pressure regulator stations or gate/take stations.
2. Design and construction of new compressor stations.
3. Design and construction of intrastate transmission lines.
4. Uprating of intrastate transmission lines.
5. For construction that begins on or after April 1, 2019, design and construction of work on distribution mains.
6. Uprating of distribution mains.
7. For construction that begins on or after April 1, 2019, design and construction of service lines that require the bypass of a distribution line to supply service.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Angela M. O’Connor*

Angela M. O’Connor  
Chairman