

March 24, 2023

Robert J. Shea, Presiding Officer
Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Subject: Support for Holyoke Gas & Electric LNG Project (EFSB 22-07)

Dear Mr. Shea,

This letter affirms my continued support for Holyoke Gas & Electric's recent petition to the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB 22-07) for additional storage capacity at the existing West Holyoke Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Facility. While the site enhancement is minimal, this non-pipeline solution is critical to natural gas system safety and reliability, which has community-wide impact.

At present, HG&E's natural gas portfolio is made up of both firm pipeline capacity from the Tennessee Gas Pipeline and LNG. On the coldest days of each year, LNG is used to provide approximately 40% of HG&E's natural gas supply to customers. There are a variety of safety and reliability concerns as it relates to the current portfolio, including HG&E's reliance on a single pipeline provider, their inability to expand capacity through regional pipeline providers, as well as potential and predicted increases in peak loads due to severe weather. The proposed project will provide system flexibility by enabling HG&E to maintain reliable service over modest periods of cold weather where supplemental deliveries of LNG might be unavailable or delayed ensuring natural gas service is available when customers need it, especially on days with subzero temperatures.

HG&E has developed and implemented aggressive and innovative energy efficiency opportunities for customers with hopes to significantly reduce consumption and promote electrification. While these efforts have been helpful, the gains have had a minimal impact on peak day usage. We support HG&E's continuing commitment to these beneficial efficiency programs but recognize the continuing need for safe and reliable service as the energy transition moves forward. For these reasons, this reliability project is of the utmost importance for our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments and this letter of support. While the public process is essential when siting energy projects, the safety and reliability of utility services have never been so vital to our constituents. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kevin A. Jourdain

Kevin A. Jourdain, Esq.

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