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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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February 10, 2026

Via Email to the D.P.U. 25-200 Service List

All Investor-Owned Electric and Gas Distribution Companies  
Regulated by the Department of Public Utilities

RE: Winter Bill Relief and Proactive Management of Customer Costs

Dear Distribution Companies:

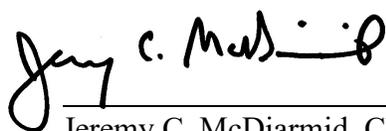
The Department appreciates your prompt action responding to the Governor's call to reduce winter electric and gas rates by 25% and 10%, respectively. These deferrals will result in meaningful bill relief for residential consumers on their February and March bills, while the Companies will be made whole over the rest of the year.

We also acknowledge and appreciate the participation of the public, elected officials, and other key stakeholders on a short time frame. Members of the public made it clear that high electric and gas bills are making it difficult for them to make ends meet. More specifically, the Department heard from many legislators and hundreds of ratepayers objecting to the Companies' initial proposals because they contemplated the recovery of some carrying charges (interest) on the deferred collections. We appreciate that the Companies listened, changed course, and will not collect carrying charges on these deferrals.

More fundamentally, the Department agrees with the comments from the Companies and other stakeholders that this form of short-term relief cannot substitute for meaningful reform that will result in more affordable ratepayer bills in future years, especially during winters like this one with prolonged cold snaps. For the second winter in a row, the Department and the Companies have implemented short-term, emergency bill deferrals to offset high winter bills. This is unsustainable.

As the Companies and other stakeholders acknowledged, the Department's investigation of gas and electric delivery charges and bill redesign, D.P.U. 25-200, is an appropriate venue to further explore and implement durable, long-term mitigation measures for winter bill impacts. We expect that the Companies—who possess all critical data and information about their rates and customers, and who are best positioned to assess cumulative bill impacts in future months and years—will meaningfully engage in D.P.U. 25-200 to propose real, long-term relief for their customers. Building off the reports the Companies will file on Friday, February 13 comprehensively reviewing their rates and charges, and continuing with comments and technical sessions, the Department looks forward to the Companies offering robust proposals for proactively managing and mitigating costs for their customers.

We look forward to continuing to engage with you on this critical work for the benefit of ratepayers of the Commonwealth.



Jeremy C. McDiarmid, Chair



Staci Rubin, Commissioner



Elizabeth A. Anderson, Commissioner

cc: Distribution List for D.P.U. 25-200