



## Newton Citizens Commission on Energy City of Newton, Massachusetts

<http://www.newtonma.gov/government/climate-and-sustainability/citizens-commission-on-energy>

**Halina S. Brown**, Chair

Cory Alperstein  
Michael Gevelber  
Stephen Grody  
Philip Hanser  
Asa Hopkins  
Jonathan Kantar  
Jon Slote  
Jay Snyder  
Ann Berwick (ex-officio)  
Bill Ferguson (ex-officio)

*Advisory Members:*

Beverly Craig  
James Purdy  
Philip Vergragt  
Puja Vohra

May 16, 2023

Honorable Mayor Fuller  
Honorable Councilor Albright

Dear Mayor Fuller and Council President Albright,

The Newton Citizens Commission on Energy supports Public Facilities Committee Chair Alison Leary's and Council President Susan Albright's call for an investigation into the root cause of the April 6 explosions, to be conducted by the Department of Public Utilities and/or the Attorney General.

Dr. Nathan Phillips and others have identified significant Grade 1 gas leaks in several locations at sites near high voltage electric lines. We are concerned that National Grid's response to this incident is, at best, incomplete, and therefore may be creating greater public risk than is responsible. We need clear, comprehensive, fact-based answers, to assure the public that National Grid is prioritizing safety, reliability, and reasonable and prudent costs. We do not feel we have them.

The safety of our community depends on us all publicly acknowledging the inherent high risk/high consequence conditions of Newton's leaky gas infrastructure. Newton residents need to be informed about the explosions, become aware that a serious investigation is underway, and be encouraged to engage in a community-wide conversation about the future of gas. We call on Mayor Fuller to take the lead in responding to the April 6th explosions.

Sincerely,

Halina Brown, Chair

cc. Alison Leary  
Jonathan Yeo  
Nathan Phillips  
Ann Berwick  
Bill Ferguson  
Members of Newton City Council