



Public Facilities Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Present: Councilors Leary (Chair), Kalis, Laredo, Crossley, Norton, Kelley, Danberg

Absent: Councilor Gentile

City Staff: Commissioner of Public Works Jim McGonagle, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works Shawna Sullivan, Associate City Engineer John Daghlion

#546-22 Request for a grant of location in Paulson Road

NATIONAL GRID petition for a grant of location to install and maintain gas main in Paulson Road, Ferncroft Road, Evelyn, Helene Road, and Cotter Road, as follows:

- 1125' ± of 6" plastic main in Ferncroft Road from Paulson Road to the existing 8", cast iron at #1 Ferncroft Road to replace 1125' ± of 4", bare steel.
- 710' ± of 4" plastic main in Helene Road from Paulson Road to the existing 6" plastic in Cotter Road to replace 215' ± 4" cast iron, and 25' ± of 4" plastic and 470' ± of 4" bare steel
- 90' ± 6" plastic main in Evelyn Road from Paulson Road to #64 Evelyn Road to replace 5' ± 8" cast iron main, 90' ± of 4" bare steel
- 1040' ± of 6" plastic main in Paulson Road from Gordon Road to 145 Paulson Road and install 120' ± of 6" plastic in Paulson Road between the gap between #145 Paulson Road and #155 Paulson Road to replace 905' of 4" bare steel and 135' ± of 4" cast iron. (Ward 5)

Public Facilities Held 6-0 on (Councilor Norton not voting) on 12/07/22

Action: Public Facilities Approved 3-2-1 (Councilors Kelley and Norton Opposed) (Councilor Leary abstaining) (Councilor Laredo not voting)

Note: National Grid engineer Melissa Owens introduced this Grant of Location request, adding that she is prepared to answer any of the written questions posed by the Committee, which are attached to this report.

Councilors asked the following questions:

Q: Could you explain more about the water intrusion issue, and why this pipe must be replaced and not repaired?

A: Ms. Owens stated that water intrusion occurs when there is a crack, hole, or any other error in the pipe that would allow water to seep into the pipe. She explained that this pipe can't be re-lined because it would require shutting customers' gas off while repairing the pipe. Replacing the pipe and transitioning customers over to the new pipe results in little or no outage time, which is ideal during the winter months.

Q: How long would customers be without gas service if National Grid were to re-line a pipe?

A: Ms. Owens was unable to answer this question with certainty, as outages are avoided at all costs by National Grid. Community Manager Tammy Saporito confirmed this.

Q: What scenario would prompt National Grid to repair a pipe instead of replacing?

A: Ms. Owens explained that if there was one concise source of water intrusion, they would likely repair. In this case, identifying a single source of intrusion is impossible without digging up the entire pipe, and even then there may be too many intrusion points to justify a repair.

Q: What is the length of gas line that is up to be replaced, and how many homes would be affected?

A: Chair Leary answered that there are 90 abutters listed. Ms. Saporito stated that there about 1.6 miles of pipe being replaced.

Q: Do you suspect that there are multiple sources of intrusion?

A: Ms. Owens confirmed that National Grid suspects multiple sources of water intrusion. She added that repairing one area still leaves the rest of the aging pipe vulnerable to the same types of issues.

Q: Do you have a firm belief that there is water intrusion on this pipe, or do you only suspect water intrusion?

A: Ms. Saporito explained that multiple houses on Paulson reported poor pressure, which would indicate that there is water intrusion in the area. She added that 99 Paulson Road had called numerous times throughout the year to report poor pressure.

Q: Is National Grid being thoughtful about ways to actually repair and reduce the cost to Newton's rate payers?

A: Ms. Saporito stated that National Grid has tried to be proactive in anticipation of weather events to pump out any drips and remove blockages to ensure that customers in this vicinity do not suffer from low gas pressure. She noted that as this pipe ages, these problems will worsen. Removal of water intrusions and blockages is done via a vacuuming process.

Q: How do you identify when a pipe is leaking, and how is the pipe examined?

A: Ms. Owens stated that in the event of an outage call, National Grid goes to the residence that called. In this instance, various investigations were completed, and water was found to be getting into the main. She added that water intrusions are extremely difficult to source without digging up the whole pipe. Ms. Owens also noted that if the pipe is dug up, the cost differential between repair vs replacement is negligible, as the main expense is digging up the pipe.

Ms. Owens continued that if there is a confirmed leak, a replacement is selected based on current leak information, leak history, and 3rd party planned activities.

Q: Is there any technology that allows National Grid to look through the earth to better understand the condition of the pipe, or will the reaction to any intrusion always be to dig up and replace the pipe?

A: Ms. Owens explained that as an engineer, she would always prefer to replace the pipe since it's the best way to prevent water intrusion and damage to equipment during the winter months. She added that she is not aware of such technology, but there may be a Research & Development project investigating this matter.

Q: Do you know the age of the pipes around the City?

A: Associate City Engineer John Daghlian stated that the City doesn't know the specific dates of the pipes around the City, but confirmed that most of the gas infrastructure is 80-100 years old.

Q: Is there a reason you can't TV the gas line to inspect its condition, like is commonly done with sewer and water lines?

A: Ms. Owens explained that it is possible, but with these small pipes it often requires turning off gas service to customers to do so.

Q: Why would you need to replace a gas line with a larger pipe?

A: Ms. Owens clarified that a 4" cast iron main has a 4" internal diameter, but a 4" plastic main has a 3.6" internal diameter. Switching to a pipe with a smaller internal diameter would negatively impact customers' pressure, so they're required to go to the next size main, which is the 6" plastic main.

Q: Do you know how many gas leaks we have in the City?

A: Ms. Saporito agreed to get an updated list from National Grid's Gas Operations Group. She added that 15 gas leaks had been repaired in the City since October of 2022.

Q: Are there any Grade 1 leaks around the City?

A: Chair Leary explained that there are 2-3 per week according to the fire department.

Q: What is National Grid doing to catch up on leak repair?

A: Ms. Saporito explained that since this is the 2nd oldest gas infrastructure in the United States, National Grid inherited what's in the ground and subsequently all of its issues due to its age. There are consistent leaks due to the pipes' age, which contributes to their struggle to keep up.

Councilors made the following comments:

There were concerns over the amount of gas leaks in the City and that there are higher priority areas than the one being requested. It was also noted that there appears to be a large financial incentive for National Grid to replace these pipes, however the City aims to not need these pipes in the future as the transition away from fossil fuels continues.

It was clarified that the Committee wants to work with Ngrid to ensure a stable gas infrastructure and that no resident is without heat in the winter, but wants to better understand both the financials involved and the specific criteria involved for making decisions regarding repair versus replacement.

Ms. Saporito stated that the age of this cast iron and bare steel pipe ranges from 1937-1953, and water intrusions on pipes of this age are extremely common.

It was theorized that targeting older pipes for immediate transition away from gas would help avoid recurring gas leaks and water intrusions. A Councilor added that a similar process was undertaken in order to rehabilitate water and sewer lines, and it can be done in this case if National Grid is willing to share that information.

It was clarified that Grade 1 leaks are considered the highest emergency leaks, as there is risk for explosion in confined spaces, and that National Grid will not leave the site until it is repaired. Grade 3 SEI leaks refer to Significant Environmental Impact.

*Note: **Grade 3 SEI** are grade 3 leaks (commonly called "super emitters") larger than 2000 square feet in rectangular extent – these are leaks of significant environmental impact, or SEI's. They are approximately the largest 7% yet contribute approximately 50% of all leak emissions. They are required to be repaired in 1-3 years.*

It was reiterated that due to environmental and human health concerns, the City does intend to wean itself off of gas entirely.

Multiple Committee members expressed a need for a citywide plan to evaluate the city's methane gas infrastructure and be able to understand how the decision is made regarding repair vs replacement. It was noted that the City's climate goals require the phasing out of fossil fuels and have a plan for ultimately retiring the methane gas infrastructure.

Concern regarding lack of information and adequate responses to what are believed to be simple questions is leading a Councilor to feel uneasy moving forward with this item.

Ms. Saporito stated that pipe replacement is more beneficial than repair because it improves safety and reduces risks associated with a gas main break. Pipe repairs do not ensure the integrity of a gas system.

While frustrated with the lack of answers they are getting from National Grid, there is a sense of duty to pass this Grant of Location due to concerns about the potential loss of gas service or damage to heating systems if the work is not performed in a timely manner. The idea of the Committee being educated by National Grid on this subject matter was proposed.

Ms. Owens stated that the pipe named by Mr. Barrer during the public hearing is not the pipe being used for this project. She added that while a fraction of an inch difference in a pipe's internal diameter may seem negligible, National Grid is required by the DPU to maintain the existing pressure.

Numerous Committee members expressed their appreciation for the National Grid representatives at the meeting.

Public Hearing Comments:

Bob Persons, 2396 Commonwealth Ave, asked how National Grid knows the intrusion is in the Paulson Rd area, rather than the leak on Chestnut St, which is uphill from Paulson Rd.

Ms. Owens explained that National Grid checks all the drip locations in the area to determine the scope of this individual job. She estimated that the drip locations on Chestnut St were found to be dry, indicating that they are not the source of the water intrusion.

Mike Vahey, 27-29 Elliot St, expressed his appreciation for the National Grid representatives, stating that he feels that the current conversation is not productive. He added that he hopes National Grid does not stop working to fix any ongoing issues due to the scrutiny they face from the public.

Carol Wein, 70 Mary Ellen Rd, expressed caution for anyone opposing new gas lines, explaining that she had lost gas service several times over an 8-month period during the cold months. She also expressed appreciation for National Grid's attentiveness toward addressing outages.

Ellie Goldberg, 79 Elmore St, encouraged the City to work with National Grid on a plan for triage and repair while planning to retire the old, leaky gas systems in place. She also expressed interest in an open conversation surrounding how National Grid prioritizes which pipes to repair or replace.

Nathan Phillips, 73 Charles St, first thanked the Committee for stepping up and being a leader in grappling with this issue. He also asked the following questions:

- Do we know exactly where the water intrusion is happening?

- Are meters freezing above ground? If so, what can be done to fix that?
- Is there technology available to crawl through these pipes to see where the issues are?
- Is the pressure of these systems increasing? If so, by how much? Will this increase pressure on leaks downstream?
- When will hydrogen start to be blended into the gas lines?
- Will residents be notified if their gas lines are going to have hydrogen blended in them?

Mr. Phillips added that numerous studies and papers published by National Grid have touted the benefits of repairing pipe in the past, and would like them to acknowledge and state why they have reversed their position.

Ms. Saporito urged the Committee to allow this Grant of Location, citing that the water intrusion presents a major safety issue, citing Ms. Wein's experience.

Cory Alperstein, 19 Hibbard Road, expressed her appreciation for the National Grid representatives at the meeting but also expressed her frustration with the lack of transparency from National Grid as a whole. She added that a comprehensive citywide plan to address the oldest pipes with potential alternative energy solutions, such as geothermal, would help the City escape constant emergency Grant of Location situations in the future.

There is an expressed desire to open a future discussion with DPW to give insight to their work with National Grid, as well as expand the discussion with National Grid to create a citywide plan regarding the prioritization of pipe repair and replacement, and what potential solutions are.

Peter Barrer, 60 Endicott St, agreed that a citywide plan is the best way to address this public investment problem. He also asked for the specs of the pipe National Grid will be using, as the pipe he believes they're using (ASTM D2513) is a 4" pipe with an internal diameter of 4".

Margaret Zaleski, 11 Marshfield Rd, raised a quality-of-life issue, reflecting on her previous experience of extensive National Grid work that made life miserable for her and her neighbors for many months.

Ms. Saporito explained that a start date needs to be agreed upon by the Newton DPW and National Grid, but in most cases, they are allowed to begin work 20 days after approval. She added that the expected duration for this kind of project is 3-3.5 months if there are no conflicts.

Chair Leary closed the public hearing.

Councilor Crossley motioned to approve the item, which passed 3-2-1 with Councilors Kelley and Norton opposed, Councilor Leary abstaining and Councilor Laredo not voting.

**#29-23 Request for a grant of location in Elliot St, Boylston St, Circuit Ave, Josselyn Pl,
 Frances St, Charles St, and Margaret Rd**

NATIONAL GRID petition for a grant of location to install and maintain gas main in Elliot St, Boylston St, Circuit Ave, Josselyn Pl, Frances St, Charles St, and Margaret Rd.

as follows:

- 1850' ± of 8" plastic main in Elliot St from the existing 10" main in Elliot St from the existing 24" in Boylston St to the new 6" in the intersection of Circuit Ave and Elliot St to replace 1840' ± of 10" cast iron and 10' ± of 8" cast iron.
- 335' ± of 2" plastic main in to #978 Boylston St to replace 35' ± of 3" coated steel and 300' ± 4" coated steel.
- 245' ± 4" plastic main in Josselyn Pl from the new 8" plastic in Elliot St to the end of main at #16 Josselyn Pl to replace 110' ± of 4" bare steel main and 135' ± of 4" cast iron.
- 285' ± 4" plastic main in Frances St from the new 8" plastic in Elliot St to the end of main at #22 Frances St to replace 220' ± LP cast iron and 65' ± of 6" plastic.
- 50' ± 4" plastic stub in Charles St from the new 6" plastic. Cast iron in Elliot St. (cut and cap the existing 6" cast iron in Charles St)
- 50" ± 2" plastic main in the intersection of Pattern Circle and Countryside Road to replace 35" ± of 6" coated steel main
- 275" ± 4" plastic stub in the intersection of Elliot St and Margaret Rd from the new 8" plastic in Elliot St. (Ward 5)

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 4-1-1 Subject to Second Call (Councilor Kelley Opposed) (Councilor Norton abstaining) (Councilor Laredo not voting)**

Note: National Grid Customer Service Representative Mary Mulroneu presented this item, noting that it was part of the Cast Iron Replacement Program, adding that the cast iron pipes to be replaced date from 1923 – 1961, with a small section dating back to 2010.

Councilors asked the following questions:

Q: Are these pipes leaking?

A: Ms. Mulroneu confirmed that they are leaking.

Q: How many leaks, and what grade?

A: Ms. Mulroneu explained that there are 3 leaks, according to her report. She added that new leaks pop up all the time, so there may be more. She was unsure of the grade of the leaks, or whether they were of significant environmental concern.

Q: Is this project increasing the capacity of the system in this area?

A: Ms. Mulroney stated that the capacity is not increasing.

Q: Do you typically prioritize the pipes that are the leakiest and greatest methane emitters?

A: Ms. Mulroney confirmed that this is a factor, adding that the history of the area and previous repairs are also considered.

Ms. Saporito added that they're prioritized by leak activity and discussed by National Grid and municipal public works to create an annual plan.

Q: Why is the constantly leaking main under Rt 9 not being addressed by National Grid?

A: Commissioner McGonagle stated that he was not aware of any upcoming work on Rt. 9, but will be happy to check in at their monthly meeting with National Grid.

Q: Could you explain the order of operations and timeframe for this project?

A: Commissioner McGonagle explained that, if approved, National Grid would need to present a traffic management plan to the City and the police department, which helps determine which streets are closed at a given time.

Q: Throughout these changes, the new pipes vary in size. Would this indicate that the pressure varies?

A: Ms. Owens explained that they are converting the whole system in this area to a 22 lb. system. She added that this will likely speed up their work and decrease the duration of the project.

Q: Are there any potential sites for a pilot project to install a geothermal system?

A: Commissioner McGonagle stated that he was not aware of any sites in Newton for such projects.

Ms. Saporito added that while she is not directly involved, she is copied on information surrounding pilot projects. She added that she doesn't believe any decisions have been made as of late December 2022.

Councilors made the following comments:

The severity of gas leaks in this area was corroborated, and it was added that one can smell gas every time they walk through the neighborhood.

It was decided that any approval from the Committee would be contingent on receiving supplemental gas leak data and information regarding the 65' length of pipe from 2010 in writing from National Grid by February 2nd, 2023.

There is a sense of hesitation regarding this project, as a Councilor does not feel that it is aligned with the City's climate goals.

It was expressed that these projects should not be held so there can be a broader conversation surrounding a citywide plan and the transition away from gas. It was added that those conversations are valuable, but should happen independent of these projects, especially if citizens are at risk of going without heat in the winter.

Public Hearing Comments:

Leslie Zebrowitz, 62 Pine Crest Rd, asked if National Grid could explain why they can use 4" pipe in this project, but not the project discussed previously in the meeting (#546-22). She also asked if they could only repair the pipes that were leaking, rather than replace the entire infrastructure. Ms. Zebrowitz noted that there is a 65' section of pipe from 2010 that needed to be replaced, which she felt was oddly recent given the age of the other pipes.

Ms. Mulroney answered that the integrity of the entire system is essential for residents' safety. As for the pipe dating back to 2010, Ms. Mulroney hypothesized that that was replaced in an emergency, given its' small footage.

Ms. Owens explained that 4" pipe is appropriate in this area because it's a 22 lb. system, vs the lower pressure system on Paulson Rd.

Ellie Goldberg, 79 Elmore St, referenced the map of gas leaks in Newton, adding that the gas leaks and old pipes in Newton are a chronic issue. She stated that moving forward, she would like to see a working group on gas leaks that identifies the age of Newton's gas system, problem areas, and seeks to find policy solutions for transitioning away from gas. Lastly, Ms. Goldberg noted that she would like to see improvements made to the safety turnoff valves.

Bob Persons, 2396 Commonwealth Ave, stated that he would like more maps that identify the affected houses and leak data to be included in the materials provided by National Grid in the future.

Nathan Phillips, 73 Charles St, raised the following questions surrounding the pressure increase involved in this project:

- Why is the pressure being increased in this system?
- Is the increased pressure in part to support hydrogen blending?
- Will the residents be informed about increased pressure and hydrogen blending?
- Will every house need to change their meter to accommodate the higher pressure?

Mr. Phillips also discussed the critical mains in Rt 9 and Washington St, and asked if there was a way to complete a less disruptive re-lining project during a shoulder season.

Ms. Owens explained that meters will be replaced at every affected customers' house, adding that they will have a service regulator that will prevent their pressure from changing. She added that

increasing the pressure to 22 lb. PSI pipes allows National Grid to eliminate streets with dual mains. Ms. Owens also explained that Rt 9 work is being discussed, but since it's a state road, the permits will not go through this Committee. Lastly, she noted that National Grid's annual work plan is presented to the City every year and that these projects are planned, though not every Grant of Location is applied for at the same time. She continued, stating that they are required by the DPU to rank projects based on how troublesome they are, and that projects are not picked at random.

Jonathan Canter, 672 Chestnut St, stated that he feels it would be less expensive to install air source heat pumps at every house, which would also limit disruption from National Grid work.

Cory Alperstein, 19 Hibbard Rd, stated that a citywide plan that included National Grid's annual work plan would be helpful, since it will allow residents to understand the amount of work that needs to be completed in their area. She also echoed Mr. Canter's suggestion.

Alex Klimov, 202 Evelyn Rd, expressed that it may not make sense to look to National Grid for support in meeting the City's climate goals. Rather, Mr. Klimov continued, it would be nice to have competition between National Grid and another company that provides geothermal energy for heating and cooling, adding that it would be a much more efficient means of transition.

Karen Slote, 117 Garland Rd, asked why the Public Facilities Committee hadn't been given the National Grid annual work plan.

Commissioner McGonagle explained that the DPW has not been asked for the annual work plan, otherwise it would've been provided. He also noted that, beginning last month, the DPW has asked National Grid to provide a list of recently repaired and ongoing SEI leaks in the City.

Peter Barrer, 60 Endicott St, stated that it was unclear whether National Grid had selected their first pilot site for a geothermal heating project, but noted that Newton would not be in the first set of projects. He added that there were 3 applications – Peirce School, Countryside, and Franklin, all of which were rejected by National Grid.

Larry Lickliger, 17 Wilde Rd, stated that today's youth deserve a coordinated and disciplined retreat from fossil fuels.

Ellie Goldberg, 79 Elmore Rd, stated that Mothers Out Front has been frustrated by a lack of transparency from the DPW regarding the annual work plan.

Nathan Phillips, 73 Charles St, appreciated the direction of the meeting's discussion. He added that the City could help National Grid identify areas of willing residents who would allow them to invest in a geothermal system for their homes, which would help increase community buy-in.

Chair Leary closed the public hearing.

Councilor Crossley motioned to approve the item subject to second call, which passed 4-1-1 with Councilor Kelley opposed, Councilor Norton abstaining and Councilor Laredo not voting.

#30-23 Reappointment of Peter J. Barrer to the Design Review Committee

PRESIDENT ALBRIGHT reappointing Peter J, Barrer, 60 Endicott St, Newton 02459 to the Design Review Committee for a term of office to expire December 31, 2023. (60 days: 3/10/23)

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 6-0 (Councilor Laredo not voting)**

Note: With no questions or concerns from the committee, Councilor Crossley motioned to approve the item which passed unanimously.

The Committee adjourned at 9:38 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Alison Leary, Chair

Questions for Ngrid #546-22 Request for a GOL at Paulson Road

The Public Facilities Committee held Ngrids request for a GOL at the December 7th meeting. The reasons the committee decided on this unanimous action include:

The pipes are not leaking

Considering the large number of significant leaks all over the city, why are non-leaking pipes prioritized? The answer from Ms. Mulroney (Ngrid Representative) "*to support the current infrastructure*" was unsatisfactory. The Engineering department noted that the pipelines are situated by a natural creek, leaving them susceptible to significant damage. Since this neighborhood was developed in the 1950s, there have not been any recorded instances of water intrusion. This begs the question; in the event the water table rises: why wouldn't inserting a sleeve or a liner into the pipe rather than total replacement be a satisfactory repair?

Repair Versus Replacement Questions Still Outstanding

A member of the public asked whether National Grid had responded to Councilor Gentile's motion to provide a cost estimate for the previous 1.6-mile pipeline replacement versus repair request. The Committee has not received an answer to that question. He also inquired as to whether studies regarding alternatives to pipeline replacement had been shared with the Public Facilities Committee and National Grid, and asked about the new operating pressure of these pipes would be, since much of the pipeline is being expanded from 4" to 6". Lastly, he urged the committee to hold this item until these questions are answered.

There is more sophisticated repair technology available to do repair work with laparoscopic equipment which does not require opening the street. We would like specific technical information on how this decision to repair versus replace is made by Ngrid. Prior responses have not been satisfactory. Part of the answer may be that there is a strong financial incentive for Ngrid to replace without considering repair at all. This goes against the best interests of the city and our ratepayers.

Increasing Capacity?

Why are the pipes increasing in size from 4 inches to 6 inches? Ngrid representative said pressure and capacity is NOT increasing. This needs a better explanation. At prior meetings the Committee has been told that an increase in pressure prevents water intrusion.

Impacts of Opening Streets on the Public and Abutters

A question was asked about the start date and duration of the project. This is important information that National Grid has not provided. Mr. Taverna stated that he does not know how National Grid schedules their work or how many crews they will be allocating to this project, so he is not able to estimate how long this work will take. A member of the public added that the Committee has the authority to have some say in protecting the public from undue traffic burdens, and also agreed with a previous comment that there are many gas leaks in Newton that should be prioritized. Councilor Gentile added it was a reasonable question to ask and Ngrid should be able to provide an answer.

A Councilor requested information regarding street repairs subsequent to this work. The Public Facilities Committee should get commitments on the trench repairs and repaving of the streets after utility work is completed. The streets in this neighborhood are not in substandard condition and not scheduled for repaving in the near term.

Not on Track to Meet GHG Reduction Goals

Methane has more than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide over the first 20 years after it reaches the atmosphere. NOAA's preliminary analysis showed the annual increase in atmospheric methane during 2021 was 17 parts per billion (ppb), the largest annual increase recorded since systematic measurements began in 1983.

Latest information from HEET shows that Newton has 648 open gas leaks, costing \$262,527 and releasing 258 metric tons of methane a year.

Ngrids focus on Pipe replacement rather than triage & repair is a Public Health Hazard

Except where new mains are required to replace very old leak prone pipe where major roadwork is planned, The Committee feels that Grants of Locations have recently been accepted too easily and without in-depth analysis. Though the Committee has limits to its authority we still need to do what is best for public safety, and cannot do so without more information.

Respectfully,

Alison M. Leary
Newton City Council, Ward 1
Chair Public Facilities

From: [Mulroney, Mary](#)
To: [Thomas Skehill](#)
Cc: [Tammy Saporito](#)
Subject: 3 - 144 Elliot St, Newton 144162 GOL Question Deadline Update
Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 7:03:21 AM

[DO NOT OPEN links/attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Good morning Thomas,

Please pass along answers to the councilors questions about 3-144 Elliot St, Newton project. 144162.

1. Why 65feet of 6-inch plastic dated 2010 needs to be replaced?

In 2010, there was a cast iron encroachment due to Newton Water work that was replace as required by state law. The replacement resulted in the installation of 65 feet of 6 inch plastic low pressure main. This segment of main will be replaced during the Elliot St project due to the change in the pressure in the system; the existing low pressure leak prone pipes will be replaced with higher pressure infrastructure requiring different standard be applied per DPU regulations.

2. Leak information for the project area.

LEAK_NO	MAIN_SERVICE	CLASS	Date Reported	Division	WONUM	RPT_TOWN	RPT_ST_NUMBER	RPT_ST_NAME	RPT_ST_SFX
1215753	ACTIVE	3	05-May-13	Waltham	916829	NEW	52	ELLIOT	ST
839999	ACTIVE	3	23-Mar-12	Waltham	823462	NEW	115	ELLIOT	ST

Thank you,
Have a great day.
Mary

From: Thomas Skehill <tskehill@newtonma.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2023 11:55 AM
To: Mulroney, Mary <Mary.Mulroney@nationalgrid.com>; Saporito, Tammy <Tammy.Saporito@nationalgrid.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] GOL Question Deadline Update

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Hello,

As discussed at last night's meeting – the Public Facilities Committee would like written responses to a number of questions before the next full City Council meeting.

It was initially stated that those responses would be needed by 1/26/23, but they are actually needed by 2/2/23.

Apologies for any confusion.

Best,
Tom Skehill
Council Clerk – Finance and Public Facilities
City of Newton
Phone: 1 (617) 796 - 1218

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<https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/about-us/corporate-registrations>

FROM: Councilor Alison M. Leary, Chair Public Facilities

TO: City Council

Re: Grants of Location for Methane Gas and the Role of the Public Facilities Committee.

Dear Colleagues,

At the Public Facilities Committee meeting on February 8th, we had a long discussion with National Grid about how decisions are made regarding gas line repair versus replacement and how gas leaks are prioritized. The specific discussion item was #546-22 - request for a grant of location (GOL) in Paulson Road which will be before the City Council on Monday evening. With this particular GOL, there are no leaks but there is evidence of water intrusion which has the potential to damage a heating system and result in loss of service. Please refer to the meeting notes for more specifics on water intrusion.

The vote on this GOL (3-2-1) reflects the committees concerns about meeting climate action plan goals while we conduct business as usual by regularly approving thousands of feet of replacement gas mains. At the same time, we have been advised by our law department about the limits of our authority regarding GOL's. Primary regulatory authority is based at the State level with the Department of Public Utilities (DPU).

Critical efforts are ongoing to lobby at the State level to address gas leaks and the barriers to transitioning to clean, renewable energy. Advocates include the Multi-Town Gas Leaks Initiative (whose meetings I attend), Mother's Out Front and the Gas Transition Allies Strategic Initiatives Committee. Priorities include; updating the Gas System Enhancement Program (GSEP), establishing a centralized climate authority in the Governor's office with a structure for stakeholder engagement; prioritizing the decarbonization of buildings and investing in geothermal systems. I am also grateful for Commissioner McGonagle and Mayor's efforts to prod Ngrid to prioritize the repair of the grade 3 Significant environmental impact (SEI) gas leaks (AKA as "super-emitters") But it is a constant battle and we have not made progress on reducing the number of SEI leaks.

What I have heard consistently at the GOL public hearings from both the public and the councilors was a request for a comprehensive, strategic city-wide plan that would allow the city to coordinate work with Ngrid in a more proactive and organized way and facilitate the sharing of information on gas leaks data.

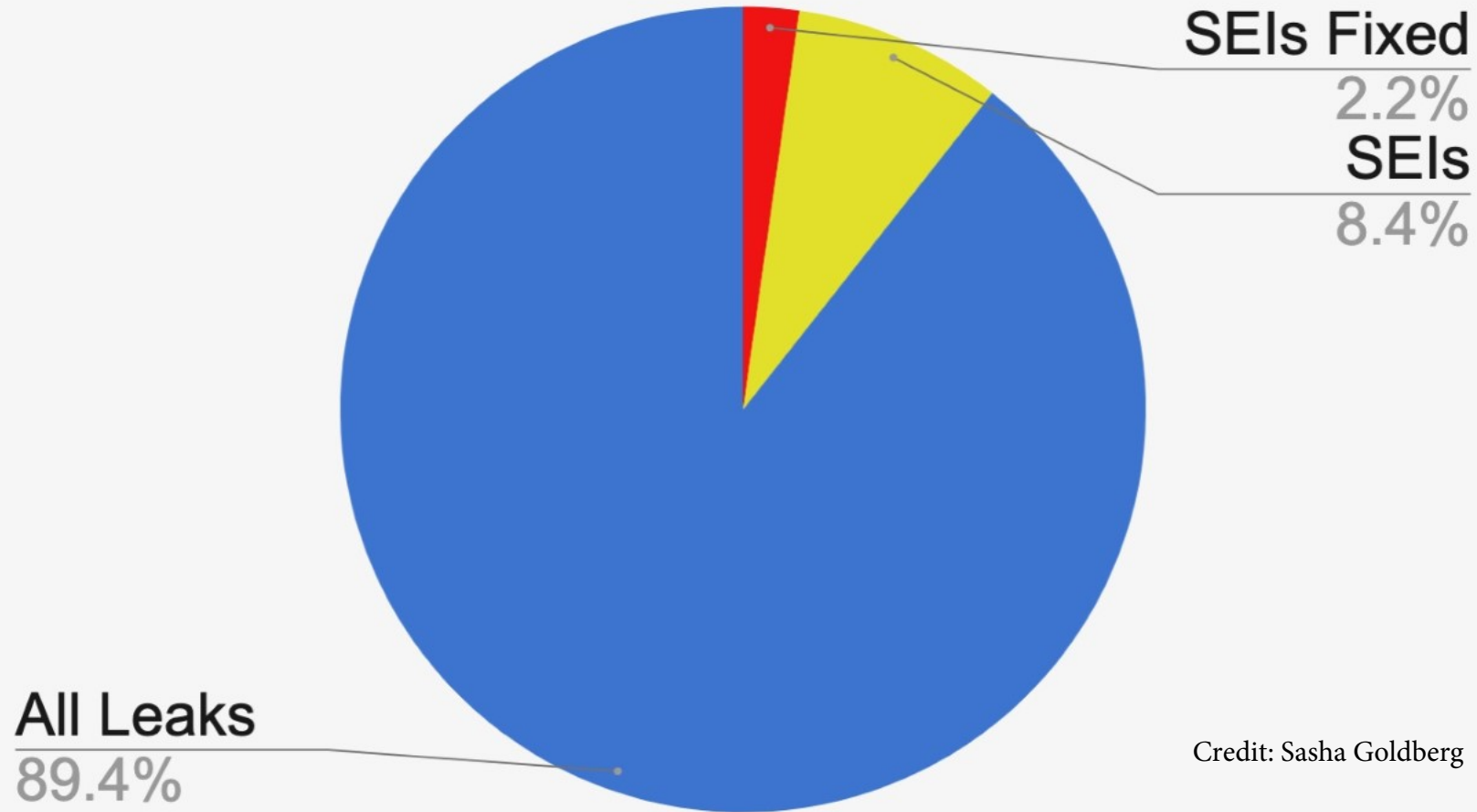
The goals of a comprehensive city-wide gas management plan should include protecting ratepayers from investing in a gas infrastructure system that may obsolete within the next 3 decades. It will also allow the Commonwealth to prioritize public funds towards efficiencies and clean energy, including heat pump technology that can help all communities, including Newton achieve climate goals.

A city-wide plan could include the following:

- Request that Ngrid provides the full map of Newton's gas infrastructure to include the age, material type, condition, pressure and history of each section of pipeline including the methods and materials used in repairs and/or methods and material used for replacements, the location and condition of turnoff valve caps (gate boxes), and other features that affect the safety and reliability of the pipe.
- The map should define and identify leaking pipes (and joints) and leak-prone pipes.
- The map should show Newton's Road construction/paving plans especially in pipelines where there are multiple leaks and/or high-volume leaks of significant environmental impact (SEIs).

A Risk Analysis and Cost Analysis that includes:

- Current pipeline and leak inspection dates and gas leak grades.
- Current date, location and history of each leak repair, the criteria used for maintenance decisions and type of repair or replacement.
- The cost of each proposed pipeline replacement project and the cost of alternative maintenance options including relining and joint repair.
- The cost of lost gas per leak and the cumulative amount of lost gas during the age of the leak, and the emissions reduction achieved when each leak is fixed.



Credit: Sasha Goldberg