

## **Cape Cod Commission – Responses to Technical questions from March 6, 2015 meeting:**

### 1. Will we be able to maximize meter output of existing customers?

No. In addition to the prohibitions on new service connections in the impacted towns, the moratorium restricts any increase in natural gas use by existing customers in these communities through the installation of new gas appliances or certain types of equipment, including conversions of existing non-heating accounts to using natural gas for heating. There are two exceptions to the moratorium only for existing residential gas customers as follows: 1) natural gas barbecues are permitted as added load, and 2) emergency natural gas backup generators may be permitted subject to application, review and approval of the Company.

These restrictions for new and added load are necessary to ensure safe and reliable service to our existing gas customers. This approach ensures that we are not increasing load on the system during peak periods of demand. Through the Company's winter contingency planning, we have established supplemental gas supply at our two strategically located temporary sites to be activated at temperatures below 5 F°. The Community and Customer Team has met with the Towns and provided the attached communication.



Cape Cod Natural  
Gas Sales Moratorium

### 2. Will the gas company be asking the gas inspectors to limit permits?

Yes, we are requesting that gas inspectors limit inspections and permits with the two exceptions described above for gas barbecues and emergency backup natural gas generators.

### 3. Will the gas company install gas lines for residences in the prohibited zone?

No. New services will not be installed. The growth restrictions in the Eastern Cape Cod region do not allow for new gas service requests (refer to map in response #15 for restriction limits). This approach ensures that we are not increasing load on the system during peak periods of demand. Further, for safety reasons, the Company cannot install new gas lines for residences that will not be used until the moratorium is lifted. The Company has no way of ensuring the future integrity of the facilities and protection from damage until the pipe contains natural gas, since it is the odorant in natural gas that helps the public and the Company identify a leak or damage.

### 4. If not will they allow sleeves and what size and color?

The Company typically will not allow the installation of sleeves to serve as future conduit for a gas service installation. The Company recognizes that developers want to ensure that they are ready to receive gas service once the sales moratorium is lifted and is reviewing this request further for service to residential customers. The Company is committed to coordinating with developers to ensure the timely installation of facilities once the sales restrictions are lifted.



5. What about new sub-divisions and gas piping for the future?

The Company will not install new gas mains and services in new sub-divisions/developments until the growth restrictions have been removed. As stated above, the Company has no way of ensuring the future integrity of the facilities and protection from damage until the pipe contains natural gas, since it is the odorant in natural gas that helps the public and the Company identify a leak or damage.

6. What about a sub-division that has already been piped and can't get gas?

There are four sub-divisions which were approved and finalized prior to the moratorium, that are pending installation. Installations will be honored at these locations which include:

Osprey Landing - Littlefield Pond Rd & Fish and Game Dr., North Harwich for a total 18 services. Three have been installed and fifteen are pending.

Sea Oaks - Dennis for a total of thirteen services. Three have been installed and ten are pending

Farrington Rd – Dennis for a total of seven services. Four have been installed and three are pending.

White Rock Rd – Brewster for a total of ten service. Two have been installed and eight are pending.

No additional sub-divisions will be connected during the moratorium.

7. Will the gas company compensate any existing customer for having to go to propane, not only for the gas set up, but for the equipment that either needs to be converted or replaced while they wait for the moratorium to be lifted?

The Company will not compensate customers for installing new heating systems for their homes. We are reviewing the potential to offer a rebate to customers who install propane and otherwise would have had direct access to natural gas.

8. Will the gas company do the same for new customers that had existing building permits prior to the non-published deadline of October 1<sup>st</sup> which we were told about on December 9<sup>th</sup>?

If National Grid received a fully complete application prior to October 1, 2014, we have factored those applications into our system operations during the moratorium. Any fully complete applications received by National Grid after September 30, 2014 in the impacted areas, cannot be served until the demand restriction is lifted.

9. What about the 30 building permits that were issued prior to the moratorium but gas paperwork was submitted but not before the October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline?

If National Grid received the application prior to October 1, 2014, we have factored those applications into our system operations during the demand restriction. Any applications received by National Grid after September 30, 2014 in the impacted areas, cannot be served. The Company made the decision to apply the moratorium to all requests for new gas service, without any exceptions, to treat all gas customers equally.

10. Why not boost the system with more propane so that some of these items can be addressed?

The Company does not employ the practice of supplementing the natural gas system with propane. Furthermore, development, design, permitting and operation of a large scale propane operation would take significant amount of time and resources to accomplish, assuming permits were granted.

11. Can the engineering process be streamlined for those applications outside the moratorium area, but in the area that requires engineering?

Yes, the Company has reviewed the requirements for gas capacity review (GCR) and analysis within the Towns of Barnstable and Yarmouth. The results of this review have concluded that the threshold for engineering review and analysis can be adjusted for the Town of Barnstable. Effective immediately, the Town of Barnstable will require engineering review to be performed for new and added loads in excess of 1000 cfh only. This change will also be retroactive for all gas capacity requests currently in the engineering queue waiting to be processed. The adjustment of the load threshold will allow a large percentage of residential and small commercial gas capacity requests to proceed without engineering review. This will significantly reduce the number of requests and allow for quicker processing of other requests in the previously defined moratorium areas. This change does not include the Town of Yarmouth which will continue to require all gas capacity requests to be reviewed by engineering

12. A list of approved construction practices for installations that are approved during te moratorium to the scenarios described below:

The allowable equipment loads for existing vs. new customers.

Whether new services will be permitted to be installed without a meter.

Whether new mains will be allowed to be installed in new developments.

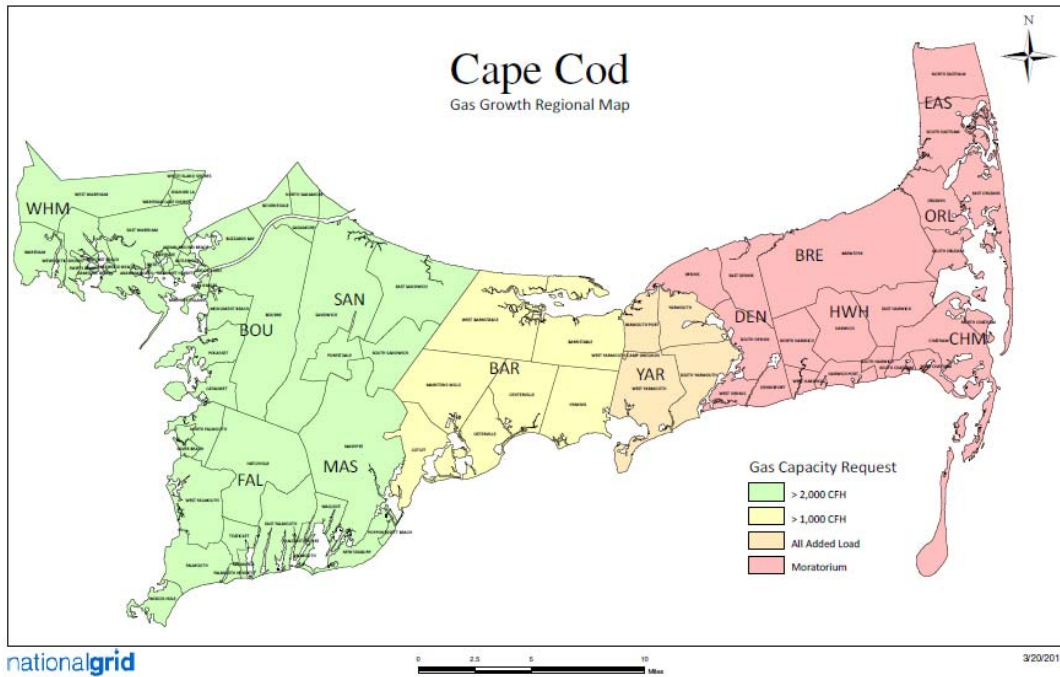
Whether sleeves will be allowed to be installed for future services.

We have captured responses to these questions in our responses set forth above..

13. Exceptions or exemptions to the moratorium based on use

This question is addressed above.

14. A more specific map identifying the areas affected by the moratorium is provided below.



15. A process guide (who to call, when to expect an answer).

All inquiries for gas connections in the Cape moratorium towns can contact Kerrie Doyle at (781) 907-2201

## Cape Cod Natural Gas Sales Moratorium

Until further notice, National Grid is not able to connect new customers to the natural gas system in the communities of Dennis, Harwich, Brewster, Chatham, Orleans, and Eastham. National Grid requests that municipal officials in these communities immediately suspend the issuance of permits consistent with the requirements for the moratorium described below.

Portions of Barnstable and Yarmouth are also affected by the moratorium, but a limited number of new natural gas customers may be able to connect in these towns. Please contact Kerrie Doyle at (781) 907-2201 with questions regarding the availability of new natural gas service in Barnstable and Yarmouth.

National Grid will continue to safely and reliably serve existing natural gas customers in the affected communities. However, the natural gas sales moratorium applies to **any** increase in natural gas demand, including certain types of new equipment added by existing customers. The requirements for the moratorium are as follows:

1. New residential and commercial and industrial customer gas service connections are prohibited.
2. Incremental gas load on existing commercial and industrial customer gas accounts is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, heating, hot water, cooking and other types of loads.
3. Incremental gas load on existing residential customer gas accounts is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, heating, hot water, cooking and other types of loads, unless it meets one of the exceptions below.

### Exceptions:

1. For existing residential gas customers only, natural gas barbecues are permitted as added load.
2. For existing residential gas customers only, emergency backup natural gas generators are permitted as added load, subject to application, review and approval of the Company. Please contact Kerrie Doyle at (781) 907-2201 for questions regarding the availability of service to new natural gas generators.