

## Cape Cod Natural Gas Sales Moratorium - **Update**

**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.



## Cape Cod Natural Gas Sales Moratorium - FAQ

### **What inspection work did National Grid conduct on Eastern Cape Cod?**

In 2014, National Grid launched an extensive research project to review 21 miles of natural gas mains on Eastern Cape Cod to ensure that we are delivering natural gas safely and reliably.

### **What were the results of the inspection?**

Our inspections found that some parts of the 21 mile main, specifically the welds joining sections together, no longer meet today's standards for the main's high operating pressure. As a precaution, and with the approval of the Department of Public Utilities, we lowered the pressure at which the main operates. This will maintain a safe and reliable system for our existing customers who rely on that main for natural gas supply.

### **Where is this main located?**

The 21 mile natural gas main in question travels from Yarmouth to Harwich and Brewster.

### **How old is this main?**

Various pieces of this 21 mile stretch of natural gas main have been built and/or replaced over time, but the oldest sections date back to 1960.

### **How will National Grid serve Cape Cod during the winter?**

National Grid anticipated lower pressure as a potential issue and has planned for this contingency. We will use portable liquefied natural gas (LNG) to supplement the natural gas supply at strategic locations on Cape Cod on the coldest days of the year, which is a plan we have had in place for many years. Both residential and commercial customers will continue to receive safe, reliable natural gas service throughout the winter. However, we will not be able to connect new customers to the natural gas system in the communities of Dennis, Harwich, Brewster, Chatham, Orleans and Eastham. Barnstable and Yarmouth will also be affected, but a limited number of new customers may be able to connect in those towns.

**Please contact Kerrie Doyle at (781) 907-2201** with questions regarding the availability of new natural gas service in Barnstable and Yarmouth.

### **When will this moratorium on new connections be implemented?**

National Grid will implement the moratorium in these towns on Cape Cod immediately. National Grid will honor all commitments to connect customers on the Eastern section of Cape Cod who already received a formal approval from us to connect to our system. It may take several months to finish connecting all of these new customers, so you may see National Grid employees or contractors working with customers in your community through Spring 2015. It is important to note that these instances are not exceptions to the moratorium – the customers had secured a commitment from National Grid prior to the moratorium.



## **I am a current customer – does the moratorium affect me?**

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:

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## **Will National Grid provide any compensation for those who cannot get new gas service?**

National Grid apologizes for the inconvenience. We understand this creates challenges for local builders, municipalities, potential new customers and those who might be planning gas conversion projects. We realize that customers may need to make decisions today and choose alternative fuels. We are not able to offer financial incentives or compensation for natural gas not being an available fuel choice.

## **Should I be concerned about living near this main?**

This main is operating safely. Safety is our number one priority at National Grid, and the pressure was lowered in this gas main as a precautionary measure. There is no reason for customers to be concerned about the safety of this main or other natural gas mains serving Cape Cod.

## **What happens next?**

National Grid would like to resume connecting new customers to our natural gas system on Cape Cod as soon as possible, but to do that we need to upgrade the natural gas infrastructure. Even though this is an existing gas pipeline, proposing upgrades to the infrastructure will require regulatory approvals, so this will be a multi-year project. While our early timeline suggests up to a seven year process, we are working to accelerate the main replacement project through opportunities to engineer, permit and construct the new gas main in a shorter timeframe. When we have a more refined timeline and an anticipated date on which the new gas main may begin operating, we will share that information publicly.

