

Proposed Boston Gas Leaks Ordinance – Quick Summary

Gas Leaks Allies | 12/12/2016



PURPOSE. Lower the cost and disruption associated with opening City streets by better coordinating infrastructure repairs. Also:

- Reduce leaked gas and its adverse health, climate, & environmental impacts.
- Increase safety for workers and residents.



COORDINATION OF REPAIRS. The City must notify gas companies:

- When the City plans to open up a street for any purpose; the City will notify the gas company and may give it the opportunity to survey the nearby area for leaks, and repair any leaks while the street is already open.
- If the gas company does not survey and repair leaks when a street is open, the City may deny future non-emergency permit applications from the gas company to reopen streets.



DURING REPAIRS. The City may deny future non-emergency permit applications from the gas company if the company does not:

- Survey the nearby area for gas leaks and repair those leaks.
- Allow the City an opportunity to survey the area for leaks prior to repaving.
- Ensure gas shutoff valves are accessible, operable, and have a gate box.
- Certify that valves and gate boxes have been tested and are capable of accepting a gate key, and that all repairs have been performed properly.



REPORTING. Each year, gas companies must provide to the City:

- Five-year gas leak repair plan provided to the DPU.
- Annual Service Quality Report provided to the DPU.
- Scheduled start of planned infrastructure repair activities within the City.
- Any other leak data provided to the DPU regarding: environmentally significant leaks, or the volume or greenhouse gas emissions of any leak(s).



JOBS POLICY. All gas repair work performed by independent contractors should comply with the Boston Residents Jobs Policy.



TREE DAMAGE. The City will develop, publish, and implement procedures for:

- Pursuing compensation for trees damaged by gas leaks.
- Mitigating any further damage to trees caused by gas leaks.



SEVERANCE CLAUSE. If any section of the ordinance is determined to be unlawful (e.g., preempted by state law), all other sections remain valid.