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CITY OF AMESBURY, MA



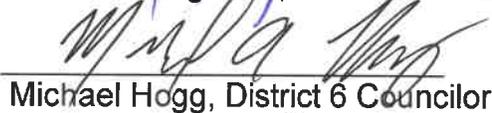
**CITY OF AMESBURY  
IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE**

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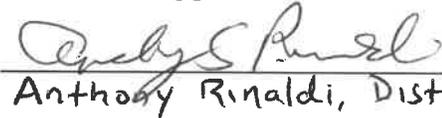


Steven Stanganelli, Councilor-at-Large

BILL No. 104



Michael Hogg, District 6 Councilor



Anthony Rinaldi, District 2 Councilor

**An Ordinance** to Promote Public Safety and Manage Work to be Completed by Public Gas Utilities.

**Summary:** This measure puts in place a policy to manage emergency and non-emergency gas utility installations and maintenance work to protect public safety and infrastructure in the event of a public moratorium.

**Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Amesbury assembled and by the authority of the same, as follows:**

That the City shall maintain membership in the DigSafe program (or its successor) so that City shall be properly notified of any planned excavations on or near public property and infrastructure; and

At any time that there is a planned excavation or gas hookup the Natural Gas Public Utility shall be required to receive a permit from the City that confirms that work is being performed by regular employees of the Public Utility or by properly licensed contractors who are in compliance with state Department of Public Utilities rules and not under investigation; and

In the event that the Mayor in coordination with the City Council, or Commonwealth has issued a moratorium on any Utility to perform gas hookups, the City shall have a procedure in place to provide relief for non-emergency work and installations; and, in this case,

The City's Department of Inspectional Services will issue permits according to the following qualifications and criteria:

1) New, non-emergency gas line work will be allowed during a moratorium on a case-by-case basis following a process and criteria only when and where the Mayor, DPW Director, Inspectional Services Director, and Fire Chief are first satisfied that safe gas work services can be provided; and sufficient evidence is presented by individuals or entities seeking relief to the Mayor, DPW and Fire Chief to satisfy the following criteria:

a) Qualifications & Criteria:

i) Non-emergency permits will NOT be issued unless and until the Department of Inspectional Services can verify that necessary and appropriate licenses and certifications for such work are held by each of those persons performing installations, connections, inspections, or other project services; furthermore, that such contractors or entities are verified to not be under investigation for non-compliance with the state DPU, and further that work be performed under state law, particularly in regards to DPU inspection.

b) Non-emergency permits shall only be issued in those circumstances where a permit seeker can demonstrate substantial harm to their health and safety or livelihood by further delays in permit issuance.

2) Conditions on Approval:

a) A non-emergency permit seeker must agree to indemnify and hold the City of Amesbury harmless from any and all damages which could arise from the grant of a permit during the current or future moratorium periods.

b) The grant of permit is not a guarantee that National Grid, its successors and/or assigns or contractors will in fact perform the work.

c) All approvals are subject to the City having sufficient resources to verify the credentials and certifications of National Grid workers and contractors providing services.

d) All permits provided during the moratorium will be listed and made for public inspection.

(a) The City's Department of Inspectional Services shall inform the City Council of such permits being issued.