

NOTICE OF MEETING
WAKEFIELD MUNICIPAL LIGHT & GAS DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DATE: September 1, 2026
CALL TO ORDER: 12:00 PM
LOCATION: ZOOM

This meeting will be on Zoom only. Every effort will be made to allow the public to view and or listen to the meeting in real time. Persons who wish to do so are invited to click on the following link

Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/LIEVUKa3Q8u7irVwAAqFBA>

Please only use dial in or computer and not both as feedback will distort the meeting.

WMGLD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
480 North Ave
Wakefield, Massachusetts 01880

September 1, 2026
12:00 PM
AGENDA

- A. **Call to Order**
- B. **Gas Moratorium Discussion**
- C. **Executive Session – If Necessary**

Minutes from June Meeting

Expanding the Natural Gas Moratorium

Pete noted that the existing gas moratorium, adopted in 2018, has had a significant impact. He recalled previous discussions regarding the Specialized Energy Code and concerns about whether some new residential projects could still qualify for gas service while complying with code requirements. Staff are evaluating whether to expand the moratorium to all new residential construction, thereby eliminating gas as an option for those projects. Although the effect on overall gas load is expected to be limited due to the relatively small amount of new single-family construction, the change would help avoid conflicts with the Specialized Energy Code and simplify implementation. Commr. Prifti inquired how this would affect tear downs. Pete clarified that a complete teardown where a new building is constructed, gas service would not be permitted under the expanded moratorium. However, if part of the existing structure remains and the project is considered a modification rather than new construction, existing gas service could remain, and the situation would be evaluated differently. Pete explained that there are approximately 106 customers on the gas service waiting list. To obtain gas service they would need to bear the installation costs to dig for the service and the Department would lay the pipe and make the connection. Going forward, he recommends further encouraging electrification by freezing new additions to the list and closing the discounted gas heat rate to new participants. Customers currently on the waiting list would be grandfathered into the program if they ultimately receive service, while the gas heat rate would be frozen and unavailable to future customers. New gas customers would instead be placed on the Gas Appliance gas rate, which is 20-30% higher. This approach would support the Department's strategic goals of increasing the number of customers using electricity for heating and cooling and reducing peak gas demand on the system. He noted that the list should be reviewed and updated to remove any inactive or uninterested customers. He also stated that a timeframe should be established requiring customers on the waiting list to install gas service within a specified period or become ineligible to remain on the list. Commr. Kallay expressed concern that customers on the list are treated fairly and given adequate time to afford and coordinate the contractor's work necessary to install the gas service. Pete said that staff will go through the list first and get back to the Board. The Board can then discuss and determine a timeframe. Pete also said staff will look at the modification of the rate and determine if a rate hearing is warranted.

A motion was made by Commr. Prifti to freeze the list of customers that have applied for gas service as of June 3, 2026, until a decision is made on potential moratorium on single family dwellings and seconded by Commr. Boettcher

Vote: The motion was approved unanimously 5-0.