Non-Flammable Gas Release for Transmission Pipeline Work Planned for Tuesday October 8th at 7AM

Please be aware that Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC just advised the City that it will be releasing odorized natural gas again in order to perform routine preventative maintenance work at its Valve Site near Walnut Street in Wellesley and Quinobequin Road in Newton near the Washington Street – Route 128 interchange (see Map provided by Algonquin below).

The release is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, October 8th at 7AM for a period of 12 hours. There will be another release after the maintenance work is completed sometime before Wednesday, October 16th. When the second release is scheduled, a notice will be released by the City.

Algonquin/Enbridge Personnel will be present during the entire operation on Tuesday. There will be noise and odor associated with this work. Portable deodorizing equipment and monitors that constantly measure the levels of natural gas will be used.

In order to do maintenance on the pipeline, it has to be empty. Algonquin will first significantly reduce the amount of gas running through the pipeline (this is known as depressurizing). The release planned Sunday will then evacuate any residual gas. Once the pipeline is empty, their maintenance work can begin.

Before a similar release in August, Mayor Fuller organized a discussion with Algonquin/Enbridge officials and Newton’s Emergency Management Director and Fire Department. The company emphasized to the City that there will be no danger to persons or property in the area. During the maintenance activities, people in the general vicinity may smell the odorant in natural gas or hear the noise associated with the controlled releases. This is a normal part of the process. Police, fire and public health officials in Newton have been notified as well as nearby residents. Local first responders will be notified shortly before and at the conclusion of the controlled release of natural gas so that they can respond to any calls which they might receive.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Algonquin/Enbridge’s operations office in Westwood at 781-329-3750 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Calls may also be directed to the Enbridge Gas Control 24 hour call line at 1-800-726-8383.