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**Northeast Gas Association Statement:  
MUTUAL AID RESPONSE TO NATURAL GAS SYSTEM INCIDENT IN  
NORTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS**

**September 14, 2018...** The safety of residents is the first priority and our thoughts are with all the people affected by the natural gas incident on September 13 in the towns of Lawrence, Andover and North Andover, Massachusetts.

The incident occurred on the gas distribution system of Columbia Gas of MA. The utility estimates about 8,600 homes and businesses were impacted in the three communities. The next stage is confirming the safety of customers by inspecting each impacted home and building prior to beginning the system restoration process.

To assist the local utility with returning service as soon and safely as possible, a mutual aid request has gone out from the Northeast Gas Association to its member natural gas utilities in the region for assistance. The utilities are responding by providing service crews and equipment to assist Columbia Gas of MA today.

The cause of this event on the local distribution system remains under investigation, with the oversight of local, state and federal officials.

The priority remains as always ensuring the safety of the communities served by natural gas utilities. Over 1.6 million homes and businesses in Massachusetts utilize natural gas every day, and over 2.7 million in all of New England.

*NGA is a regional trade association that represents natural gas distribution companies, transmission companies, liquefied natural gas importers, and manufacturers and suppliers to the industry. These companies provide natural gas to approximately 13 million customers in nine states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont).*