

RPS for GSEP Proposed Amendment the Future of Clean Heat

- SECTION 16, cont. Amends Chapter 164, § 145(h) to require the Department of Public Utilities to issue regulations to increase the number of customers receiving non-emitting thermal energy from a non-gas pipe alternative until 100% of the annual eligible infrastructure is a non-gas pipe alternative. The Department will every three years evaluate the speed of such transition to maintain affordability for low and moderate income customers. If the Department determines that a gas company has not met the increase in non-gas pipe alternatives as required by this section, the department may deny a gas company the accelerated cost recovery provided by this section for the following year. *(Repeal and replace; new language in bold.)*

Chapter 164, Section 145. (h) The department may promulgate rules and regulations under this section. **The department shall require a gas company to increase each year a percentage specified by the department of customers connected to a non-gas pipe alternative installed pursuant to the program under this section until such percentage is 100 per cent. The department shall every three years evaluate the increase in non-gas pipe alternatives installed by such gas company as required pursuant to this section (i) to maintain affordability for low and moderate income customers (ii) to meet the limits and sublimits pursuant to chapter 21N, and (iii) the mandates pursuant to chapter 25, section 1A. Such regulations shall be promulgated within 12 months of the effective date of this provision.** The department may discontinue the replacement program and require a gas company to refund any costs charged to customers due to failure to substantially comply with a plan or failure to reasonably and prudently manage project costs.

Research Studies Mentioned

- Buonocore, J.J., Salimifard, P., Magavi, Z. *et al.* Inefficient Building Electrification Will Require Massive Buildout of Renewable Energy and Seasonal Energy Storage. *Sci Rep* 12, 11931 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-15628-2>
- Liu, Xiaobing, Ho, Jonathan, Winick, Jeff, Porse, Sean, Lian, Jamie, Wang, Xiaofei, Liu, Weijia, Malhotra, Mini, Li, Yanfei, and Anand, Jyothis. *Grid Cost and Total Emissions Reductions Through Mass Deployment of Geothermal Heat Pumps for Building Heating and Cooling Electrification in the United States*. United States: N. p., 2023. Web. <https://doi.org/10.2172/2224191>
- The Economic Value of Ground Source Heat Pumps for Building Sector Decarbonization Review of a recent analysis estimating the costs of electrification in Canada. Dunskey Energy Consulting: Oct 2020. <https://ontariogeothermal.ca/downloads/dunskey--hrai-benefitsofghsps--2020-10-30-.pdf>