



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, MA 02133

September 1, 2011

The Honorable John D. Keenan, House Chairman
Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
State House, Room 473B
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Keenan:

As members of the Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy and on behalf of the House Republican Caucus and the residents of Massachusetts, we write to call upon the Committee to invite National Grid and NSTAR to appear at a public hearing to discuss prolonged power outages from Tropical Storm Irene.

On Sunday, August 28th, cities and towns across the Commonwealth were barraged with severe winds reaching 80 mph, flooding rains, and power outages throughout the state. 700,000 residents were without power on Sunday, and today, close to 65,000 households still remain without. As a result of ongoing concerns over communication, strategy and preparedness, we respectfully request the Committee conduct a public hearing to discuss how to best respond to customers in the future.

The purpose of a public hearing would be threefold:

- First, it would be helpful for National Grid and NSTAR to discuss their current emergency response plans and any improvements that can be made to such plans.
- Second, to facilitate dialogue surrounding failed communications between electric companies, customers, and municipalities during and after the storm.
- Third, to address untimely responses by National Grid and NSTAR to customers.

We appreciate and applaud the tireless work of the electrical workers that have labored day and night to restore power to hundreds of thousands of customers. We realize the Department of Public Utilities will most likely conduct similar hearings, and respectfully defer to your expertise regarding the best way to proceed.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

Representative Paul Adams
17th Essex District

Representative Randy Hunt
5th Barnstable District