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**APGA Urges DOE to Conduct Study on Natural Gas Direct-Use**

Washington, D.C. (May 5, 2017) – The American Public Gas Association (APGA) reached out to the Department of Energy (DOE) today to urge them to consider exploring the potential benefit of expanding the current natural gas infrastructure to assess the impact such an effort could have on our country’s overall energy system. Specifically, DOE should conduct a study that quantifies the benefits of the direct-use of natural gas. The results of this study could be incorporated into the announced grid reliability study and those findings could serve as the basis for a diversified energy plan and policy.

The letter states that, “It is our view that greater access to natural gas service would provide relief for our congested electrical infrastructure and improve the diversity and reliability of our energy network, while offering additional resiliency measures, providing environmental and energy conservation benefits, and lowering homeowners’ and businesses’ energy costs.”

The letter concludes with “We applaud DOE’s leadership on this issue and we look forward to working with you in ensuring a safe, reliable, economical and diversified energy system for the American people.”

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APGA is the national association of municipally and publicly-owned local distribution systems. There are about 1000 public gas systems serving more than 5 million customers. These public gas utilities are not-for-profit retail distribution entities that are owned by, and accountable to, the citizens they serve. They include municipal gas distribution systems, public utility districts, county districts, and other public agencies that have natural gas distribution facilities.