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APGA Concerned with Senator Markey's Unaccounted for Gas Report

Washington, D.C. (September 10, 2013) – Today, the American Public Gas Association (APGA) sent a letter to Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) detailing concerns with his recently issued report on unaccounted for gas (UAF) titled, “America Pays for Gas Leaks: Natural Gas Pipeline Leaks Costs Consumers Billions.”

The following statement can be attributed to APGA President & CEO Bert Kalisch.

“We believe that this well-intentioned report significantly overstates the amount of UAF that is lost from local distribution companies (LDCs) due to reliance on inaccurate EPA data and by failing to consider the primary drivers of UAF, which include LDC gas use, measurement error, and billing cycle issues.

“APGA acknowledges that natural gas leaks are an important issue for LDCs, and should be addressed expeditiously by utilities. In particular, APGA supports common-sense policies to replace bare steel and cast iron pipelines and our members work diligently to replace their comparatively little amounts. Out of 124,000 total miles of main, only 3,300 miles were made of cast iron and only 3,300 miles were made of bare steel at the end of 2010.

“We stand ready to work with Senator Markey and all other members of Congress to ensure that the issue of gas leakage is addressed in a common sense, cost-conscious manner to protect consumers and the environment.”

A copy of the correspondence can be found at: www.apga.org/correspondence.

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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.