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APGA Files Comments on NERA LNG Export Study

Washington, D.C. (January 24, 2013) – Today, the American Public Gas Association (APGA) filed comments on the controversial study conducted by NERA Consulting entitled the “*Macroeconomic Impacts of LNG Exports from the United States*.” The following statement can be attributed to the American Public Gas Association’s (APGA) President and CEO, Bert Kalisch.

“The [NERA Study] exaggerates the benefits, downplays the potential harms, and fails to consider the foregone opportunities entailed by LNG exports. The DOE should consider the profound tradeoffs that will result from a policy that permits the aggressive export of a valuable fuel sourced in the U.S. rather than supporting its expanded use domestically.”

“The consequences of unfettered exports of LNG are clear: increased energy prices for consumers, job losses and decreasing wages in almost all sectors of the economy other than natural gas production, a lost opportunity to reduce our dependence on foreign oil through the expanded use of Natural Gas Vehicles (NGVs), and a squandered domestic manufacturing renaissance.”

“Policymakers must choose whether these dramatic consequences outweigh the benefits that will flow to natural gas production companies and the small number of people who own them. We believe unequivocally that they do not and as we saw from the polling data from America’s Energy Advantage, the American people agree.”

APGA is the national association of municipally and publicly-owned local distribution systems. There are about 1000 public gas systems serving more than five 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.