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**Natural Gas Remains Lowest Cost Energy Source for American Homeowners**

*Washington, D.C. (March 28, 2019)* – On March 8, the Department of Energy (DOE) released its forecast for the representative average unit costs of five residential energy sources for the year 2019 as required by the Energy Policy and Conservation Act. The average unit costs were developed by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) and based on simulations used to produce the February 2019, EIA Short-Term Energy Outlook. This cost information is used, among other things, to comply with Federal Trade Commission requirements for labeling new home appliances.

The five sources included in the DOE release are electricity, natural gas, No. 2 heating oil, propane and kerosene. Below is the representative cost for each of the sources in terms of Per Million BTU’s and in dollars:

Electricity: $38.83 per million Btu or 13.2cents/kWh

Natural Gas: $10.38 per million Btu or $1.038/therm or $10.79/MCF

No. 2 Heating Oil: $20.80 per million Btu or $2.86/gallon

Propane: $21.65 per million Btu or $1.98/gallon

Kerosene: $24.64 per million Btu or $3.33/gallon

As you can see from the numbers, natural gas remains the most affordable residential energy source, less than one-third the cost of electricity. Later this year, APGA will be releasing phase 2 of its Levelized Cost of Energy Study, which should further highlight the cost competitiveness of the direct use of natural gas. American homeowners not only save money while they enjoy the comfort, convenience and control of natural gas service, they help to lower overall emissions through the efficient direct use of natural gas to heat their homes and water, cook their meals and dry their clothes.

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*APGA is the national association of municipally and publicly-owned local distribution systems. There are about 1,000 public gas systems serving more than 6 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.*