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**APGA Releases Levelized Cost of Energy Study**

*Washington, D.C. (August 29, 2017)* – Today, the American Public Gas Association (APGA) released a study titled “Levelized Cost of Energy: Expanding the Menu to Include Direct Use of Natural Gas.” A copy of the study can be viewed at [www.apga.org/lcoe](http://www.apga.org/lcoe). Public policymakers and utility regulators use levelized cost of energy studies when considering additions to the electric grid. The levelized cost of energy compares different costs of energy by combining: capital costs; operations and maintenance; performance (efficiency); and, fuel costs. Historically, levelized cost studies have only focused on electric generation technologies. This study provides levelized cost comparisons of electricity generation options and the direct use of natural gas (space heating, water heating, cooking and clothes drying).

Natural gas direct use in American homes, offices, stores and factories is an energy of consumer choice, an alternative to using electricity, that delivers many significant benefits – economic, environmental, health and comfort, energy conservation and national security. The study demonstrates, among other things, that the direct use of natural gas has significantly lower levelized costs than any of the electric generation technologies, making natural gas the fuel of choice for many applications. The data in the study also indicates that the direct use of natural gas avoids the potential for stranding capital investments and provides fuel diversity while reducing emissions. As this study clearly shows, rather than focus exclusively on the electricity system, policymakers and utility regulators must consider the broader energy system, including the opportunities afforded by the direct use of natural gas.

The natural gas infrastructure in the U.S. is unmatched in safely and efficiently delivering reliable, low cost energy to the American people. Most Americans are blessed to have reliable energy diversity in their homes and businesses with direct access to both natural gas and electricity. APGA has long-maintained that the direct use of natural gas is in the Nation’s interest and, as the study affirms, is the right choice for many homeowners and businesses. In a statement accompanying the release of the study, Bert Kalisch, APGA’s President & CEO, communicated that “The customers served by APGA’s members already know the benefits, both economic and environmental, that direct natural gas use in homes and businesses provides. Despite efforts by some to push for nationwide electrification of all of our energy end-use applications, this study confirms that natural gas should be a foundational fuel for America in the 21st century and beyond.”

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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.*