

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**Technical Conference on Greenhouse Gas Mitigation:
Natural Gas Act Sections 3 and 7 Authorizations**

Docket No. PL21-3-000

**PRE-CONFERENCE OPENING STATEMENT OF STEPHEN MAYFIELD,
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FOR THE CITY OF TALLAHASSEE**

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I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this panel today and thank Chairman Glick, the Commissioners, and Commission staff for organizing this important technical conference regarding potential methods natural gas companies may use to mitigate the effects of direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions resulting from certain Natural Gas Act authorizations.

I am Stephen Mayfield, Assistant General Manager – Gas Operations for the City of Tallahassee, and I appear on behalf of the American Public Gas Association or APGA. The City of Tallahassee has municipal utilities providing electric, natural gas, water, sewer, and transportation services to its citizens. Its gas utility has been in operation since 1956 and provides affordable, reliable, efficient gas service to over 34,500 citizens of Leon, Wakulla, and Gadsden Counties in North Florida.

Approximately 1,000 communities across the U.S. rely on their public gas utilities for safe, reliable, and affordable fuel for use in cooking, clothes drying, and space and water heating, as well as for various commercial and industrial needs. While not subject to FERC jurisdiction, APGA members and, subsequently, their customers are impacted by the decisions of the Commission, especially in terms of rates set or other regulatory requirements that impact the cost of natural gas for homes and businesses across the country.

APGA appreciates the Commission’s interest in exploring how its regulated entities may be able to limit greenhouse gas emissions in order to help meet our country’s climate goals. As not-for-profit utilities that are locally-owned and governed to be accountable to the communities they serve, APGA members, including the City of Tallahassee, are continuously seeking ways to provide affordable energy for their customers, while maintaining safe and sustainable operations. As energy providers, APGA member gas systems are environmental stewards, prioritizing sustainability, emissions reductions, and anything that may positively affect their impact on the environment.

To do our part and best support the communities we serve, APGA members are taking action, such as replacing cast iron pipes with polyethylene pipes to minimize leaks, exploring ways to integrate pipeline-quality renewable natural gas (RNG) into their systems, and joining voluntary emissions reporting programs such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Methane Challenge. Here at the City of Tallahassee, we repair all leaks as soon as possible, even lower grade ones; have begun an annual walking leak survey on our entire system, up from our 3-year

interval; and follow industry best practices when blowing down pipelines to limit methane emissions during maintenance and other activities.

As our industry works to lower its carbon footprint, pipeline safety must remain the top priority. Furthermore, reliable and affordable energy should be available to all Americans and not be cost-prohibitive, something we ask the Commission to keep in mind as it explores ways to mitigate GHG emissions. Natural gas has already played a significant role in minimizing emissions from electricity generation- with energy use expected to increase in the coming years, the Commission is encouraged to ensure that it is taking appropriate steps in approving infrastructure that allows for America's abundant energy resources to reach the homes and businesses that need them.

As FERC and others look to minimize GHG emissions, public gas utilities will continue to be essential to thousands of communities across the country, and we look forward to working together with the Commission and other stakeholders towards solutions that support appropriate GHG mitigation efforts while maintaining safe, reliable, and affordable service to American consumers. Thank you again, and I look forward to today's discussion.