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APGA: DOE LNG Export Study Relies Upon Obsolete Data

Exporting LNG Has Dramatic Negative Affect on Domestic Prices

Washington, D.C. (December 6, 2012) – Yesterday, the Department of Energy (DOE) released a study conducted by NERA Consulting entitled the “Macroeconomic Impacts of LNG Exports of the United States.” In response to the study, the following statement can be attributed to the American Public Gas Association’s (APGA) President and CEO, Bert Kalisch.

“Although we have not finished our analysis of the DOE report, it is evident that it relies upon obsolete data and its conclusion that unlimited exports of LNG will be economically beneficial for the United States is deeply troubling.

“APGA believes that domestic consumption of natural gas is the highest and best use of our resources. Large-scale export of LNG threatens our ability to fully harness natural gas in its myriad of domestic applications and threatens our ability to achieve the important national objectives of long-term affordable energy for consumers, economic growth, reduced dependence on foreign oil, and cleaner air.

“APGA has consistently stated that exports of LNG will have dramatic price impacts on domestic consumers and businesses. This report affirms energy price increases for consumers, projects wage decreases in countless industries, and highlights the uncertainties surrounding domestic shale gas production. The confluence of these facts calls into question the proposition that large-scale export of LNG is in the national interest.

“Policymakers must make decisions about the use of our domestic resources for both the short and long-terms. We must not trade away our competitive advantage in natural gas and the economic, environmental, and national security benefits that can be realized for the short-term profits of a few.”

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.

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