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APGA Sends Letters to Senate Energy Committee in Support of President Obama's FERC Nominations

Washington, D.C. (March 29, 2012) - Today, APGA sent letters to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman and Ranking Member Murkowski expressing support for President Obama's nominations of Commissioner John Norris to serve a second term on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and for Antony Clarke to serve in the seat previously held by departed Commissioner Marc Spitzer.

Commissioner Norris was nominated to FERC by President Obama and sworn into office in July, 2009. His current term is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2012. APGA supported his nomination in 2009 and has met with Commissioner Norris several times since his confirmation to discuss natural gas issues. Tony Clarke has served as the senior member of the North Dakota Public Service Commission since 2000. There, Mr. Clark oversaw regulations that permitted billions of dollars in new energy investment through expanded wind, coal and oil and gas infrastructure. Mr. Clarke is also the past President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. He has held a number of statewide positions in North Dakota and is a former state legislator.

Bert Kalisch, president and CEO of APGA noted that, "[s]ince his appointment to the Commission in 2009, Commissioner Norris has consistently demonstrated the ability to recognize a proper balance between competition and regulation, successfully building partnerships with state regulators and industry stakeholders." Kalisch further stated that Commissioner Norris "has proven to be a strong champion for natural gas consumers, as evidenced by his support for reform of Section 5 of the Natural Gas Act." Regarding Mr. Clarke's nomination, Kalisch remarked, "Mr. Clark's experience as a state regulator gives him a unique perspective on those areas where federal and state interests overlap such as generation and smart grid regulation."

On March 20, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on the nominations. It is anticipated that the Committee will vote on the nominations in the near future. Once the Committee approves the nominations, they will be taken to the Senate floor for consideration.

Copies of the letters can be viewed at: www.apga.org/correspondence

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.