



## NEWS

For Immediate Release: May 11, 2009

Contact: Jeff Schrade (202) 326-9300 at NGSA

Martin Edwards at INGAA (202) 216-5910 and Jeff Eshelman at IPAA ((202) 857-4722

### **Low-Carbon Natural Gas Part of Long-Term Electrical Power Generation, FERC Told**

**Groups say agency's policies should recognize critical role for natural gas to  
integrate wind and solar**

(Washington, DC) Clean-burning natural gas will provide more than 100 years of stable energy for the nation's electrical system and will help integrate wind and solar power onto the nation's electrical grid, the chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) was told Monday.

"Natural gas currently supplies over 20 percent of the country's total electric demand and, with reasonable access to reserves, domestic natural gas will be available to meet the demand for clean low-carbon natural gas for more than one hundred years," wrote the leaders of three major natural gas associations in a letter addressed to FERC Chairman Jon Wellinghoff.

"We ask the Commission to support policies that allow natural gas to realize its potential in meeting our long-term energy goals, including reliably integrating renewable energy sources into the electric grid and ensuring sufficient power generation for the future," the trio wrote.

The four-page letter was signed by the heads of the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA), the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA), and the Natural Gas Supply Association (NGSA). The three organizations joined together as part of the public comment period on the agency's proposed "Smart Grid" action plan.

The trio noted that wind and solar-powered electrical systems can face reduced output when the wind stops blowing or the sun stops shining.

"Natural gas is part of a practical holistic approach to solving these problems," the three wrote. "By providing a low-carbon complement to renewable energy, natural gas will ensure electric power reliability through on-demand gas-fired generation."

They pointed out that quick-start natural gas-fired units can come online in as little as ten minutes, and can respond reliably in real time when renewable generation is interrupted. The full text of the letter can be found at <http://www.ngsa.org>.

####