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Natural Gas Industry/Customer Groups Meet To Discuss Supply Challenges

Participants at Natural Gas Council “Customer Summit” Agree that Collaboration Needed to Accelerate Delivery of Natural Gas Supplies

Washington, DC, April 4, 2006 – Leading participants in the natural gas industry and customer stakeholders today agreed that greater collaboration is a key to addressing natural gas supply issues, and that unified messages for policymakers can yield positive results for consumers and industry alike.

The groups gathered today at the annual Natural Gas Council “Customer Summit” in Washington, DC. The event was designed to explore what the industry and its customers can do together to encourage additional supplies of natural gas and to mitigate the effect that high prices have on consumers and the economy.

“It is clear to me that a broader advocacy campaign is essential to forging policies that ensure adequate, affordable and reliable supplies of natural gas,” said Paul D. Koonce, Chairman of the Natural Gas Council and CEO of Dominion Energy, Inc. “No one group can do it alone, and we intend to utilize events such as the NGC Customer Summit to motivate and unify stakeholders,” Koonce said.

“We dodged a supply bullet this winter with warmer than normal temperatures, but the market fundamentals have not changed,” said Koonce. “Urgency remains, and no one should be lulled into complacency. We must move forward to develop additional natural gas supplies, and consensus messages from stakeholders will help policymakers act decisively and constructively,” Koonce stated.

Participants at the Customer Summit heard from leading experts on natural gas markets and formed interactive discussion groups to explore consensus viewpoints on issues related to the supply of natural gas. Senate Energy Committee Chairman Pete Domenici (R-NM) and Commodity Futures Trading Commission member Sharon Brown-Hruska also addressed the Summit.

The NGC is an informal association of senior natural gas industry executives who meet periodically to discuss the opportunities and challenges confronting the industry. The NGC is comprised of executives from the American Gas Association (AGA), the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA), the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA), and the Natural Gas Supply Association (NGSA).



The American Gas Association (AGA) represents 197 local energy utility companies that deliver natural gas to more than 56 million homes, businesses and industries throughout the United States. AGA member companies account for roughly 83 percent of all natural gas delivered by the nation's local natural gas distribution companies. AGA is an advocate for local natural gas utility companies and provides a broad range of programs and services for member natural gas pipelines, marketers, gatherers, international gas companies and industry associates. Natural gas meets one-fourth of the United States' energy needs.



The Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA) was founded in 1944 and represents interstate and interprovincial pipeline companies from the United States, Canada and Mexico before the United States Congress and federal regulatory agencies. INGAA's 28-member companies' primary areas of interest include the activities of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Department of Transportation's Office of Pipeline Safety and the Congress related to pipeline certification, rate authority, security, safety and energy policy. INGAA has a professional staff of 13 and an annual budget of approximately \$5 million.



The Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) is a national trade association headquartered in Washington, D.C. It serves as an informed voice for the exploration and production segment of the industry, and advocates its members' views before the U.S. Congress, the Administration and federal agencies. IPAA provides economic and statistical information about the domestic exploration and production industry. IPAA also develops investment symposia and other opportunities for its members.



The Natural Gas Supply Association (NGSA) represents U.S.-based producers and marketers of natural gas on issues that affect the natural gas industry, including the residential and industrial consumers who rely on the fuel for a myriad of purposes. NGSA is an advocate for the use of natural gas within a balanced national energy policy and promotes the benefits of competitive markets that operate under reasonable regulations. As the voice of producers who find, sell, transport and deliver 27 percent of U.S. natural gas supply, NGSA works through legislative and regulatory policy initiatives to maintain competitive markets, to ensure reliable and efficient transportation and delivery and to increase the supply of natural gas to U.S. markets.

Natural Gas Council Associate Members

American Petroleum Institute, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Canadian Gas Association, Canadian Energy Pipeline Association, Center for Liquefied Natural Gas, Gas Processors Association, Edison Electric Institute, Mexican Gas Association, and the Process Gas Consumers.