



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Borough of Chambersburg

A full service municipality in Franklin County celebrating over 65 years of consumer owned natural gas service over 120 years of community electric and a regional wastewater, water, storm sewer and municipal solid waste utility

CHAMBERSBURG WINS NATIONAL NATURAL GAS SERVICE RECOGNITION

Chambersburg, Pennsylvania – As it turns out, back in May 2020, the American Public Gas Association (APGA), an association of public non-profit natural gas systems headquartered in Washington, D.C., presented the Borough of Chambersburg Gas Department with the prestigious APGA System Operational Achievement Recognition (SOAR) award for excellence in operating its natural gas utility. This is the third time Chambersburg, one of two public gas systems in Pennsylvania, received this prestigious service recognition.

There are only two municipalities in Pennsylvania with public natural gas systems, Philadelphia Gas Works, and the Borough of Chambersburg. Public natural gas systems deliver clean and affordable natural gas to their local homes and businesses through a safe and reliable distribution system. To accomplish their mission, Chambersburg Town Council has developed forward thinking service policies and procedures to strive constantly to improve its operating capabilities, overcome challenges and adapt to its changing environment.

Chambersburg is the only municipality in Pennsylvania to operate a public natural gas system as well as Pennsylvania's largest public power system, delivering both electricity and natural gas to homes and businesses.

Out of approximately 750 APGA members nationwide, its peers on the APGA Operations and Safety Committee selected the Borough of Chambersburg Gas Department for the SOAR, level Gold certification. The selection was based on demonstrated excellence in the four areas of system integrity, system improvement, employee safety, and workforce development. Gold is the highest level of SOAR recognition possible, which Chambersburg achieved with a total score of **99 out of a possible 100 points** in the rating system.

SOAR is a prestigious recognition and the Gold level is reserved for only a select few outstanding public gas systems.

System integrity refers to the natural gas distribution system performing its overall intended function safely, efficiently and effectively—distributing energy to all customers without being degraded or impaired by its internal or external environment. System improvement refers to keeping the natural gas system well maintained and up-to-date through a self-improvement program that includes both an eye on the future through research and development, technology integration and a commitment to system improvement programs. Systems that exhibit excellence in employee safety involve adopting a safety program that includes policies and procedures for education involvement and accountability for all employees, as well as tracking safety performance. Lastly, workforce development focuses on creative recruitment, training, education and development practices that provide a return on investment through increased employee loyalty, motivation, safety and productivity.

APGA President and CEO Dave Schryver remarked, “The Borough of Chambersburg Gas Department was highly rated in all four areas that are required of SOAR. Chambersburg consistently demonstrates a commitment to providing natural gas safely and efficiently to all those in their community and as such, serves as a model for all other natural gas utilities in the country. APGA is proud to recognize the Borough of Chambersburg and is confident in their continued success.”

Jeffrey Stonehill, Chambersburg Borough Manager and Director of Utilities added, “Chambersburg is dedicated to providing safe clean natural gas to local homes and businesses. We are proud of our service excellence, the lowest gas heat rate in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the value and economic wellbeing that brings to our residents and local economy. Having public nonprofit utility enhances Chambersburg's overall quality of life.”

The Borough of Chambersburg Gas Department was one of twenty-five SOAR recipients recognized in 2020. Of the twenty-five SOAR recipients, Chambersburg was one of only eight to achieve recognition at the Gold level. The Gas Department also received a plaque signifying Chambersburg's commitment to and achievement in excellence in operating a natural gas utility system.

John Leary, Gas Superintendent added, "It is humbling to be in the top eight of over 750 public gas systems throughout the U.S.A." For more information, contact John Leary at jleary@chambersburgpa.gov

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About The Borough of Chambersburg

Chambersburg is a unique community. Chambersburg supplies more services than any other municipality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition to typical town functions, Chambersburg is Pennsylvania's only municipality supplying electric and gas. Chambersburg is 1 of 35 Boroughs to operate a municipal non-profit electric utility. Chambersburg is the largest municipal electric utility in the State, twice as large as the second largest, Ephrata, Lancaster County; and, the only one to operate generation stations. Chambersburg is 1 of 2 municipalities in PA to operate a natural gas utility. The other is Philadelphia, which does not operate an electric utility. Nationally, Chambersburg is 1 of 2,000 communities to have its own electric system and 1 of 800 communities to have a natural gas system but 1 of only about 50 to operate both. Chambersburg manages a regional water system, a regional sanitary sewer system (not through an independent Authority), and a new storm sewer utility; one of the first storm sewer utilities to form under the new Federal mandate to regulate stormwater. Chambersburg currently has 20,508 residents (2013).

About the American Public Gas Association

APGA is the national association of municipally and publicly-owned local distribution systems. There are about 1,000 public gas systems serving more than 5 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.