**PUBLIC HEARING STATEMENT – BROOKLYN**

**AARON CHOO**

**VICE PRESIDENT GAS FIELD OPS & PROGRAM**

**NATIONAL GRID**

GOOD AFTERNOON, MY NAME IS AARON CHOO AND I AM THE VP OF GAS FIELD OPERATIONS FOR NATIONAL GRID. WE OPERATE ELECTRIC AND GAS NETWORKS THROUGHOUT NEW YORK STATE THAT SERVE MORE THAN 4.2 MILLION CUSTOMERS – INCLUDING MORE THAN 1.3 MILLION CUSTOMERS HERE IN NYC.

NEW YORK’S CLIMATE LAW IS AMONG THE MOST AMBITIOUS IN THE WORLD – AND NATIONAL GRID IS COMMITTED TO DOING OUR PART TO ACHIEVE A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE IN NEW YORK. WE ARE INVESTING MILLIONS IN WIND, SOLAR, AND BATTERY STORAGE, IN ADDITION TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE.

SOLVING CLIMATE CHANGE REQUIRES SWEEPING CHANGES TO HOW WE GENERATE ELECTRICITY, FUEL OUR VEHICLES, AND HEAT OUR HOMES – HOWEVER, UTILITIES AND THE STATE ALSO MUST ENSURE SAFE, RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY. ELECTRIFICATION WILL BE KEY IN MEETING CLIMATE GOALS TO BE SURE, BUT THE ENORMOUS CHALLENGE IN FRONT OF US DEMANDS A RANGE OF PRACTICAL AND COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS. TODAY, NEARLY 90 PERCENT OF THE ELECTRICITY USED IN NEW YORK CITY IS GENERATED WITH NATURAL GAS. ON THE COLDEST WINTER DAY, THE GAS NETWORK DELIVERS THREE TIMES THE ENERGY THAT THE ELECTRIC NETWORK DELIVERS ON THE HOTTEST SUMMER DAY. RELIABLY DECARBONIZING THE CURRENT ELECTRIC SYSTEM, LET ALONE THE INCREASED LOAD OF A MORE ELECTRIFIED FUTURE, WILL TAKE MORE THAN JUST BUILDING MORE RENEWABLE PROJECTS.

*THERE IS A BETTER WAY* TO ACHIEVE CLCPA GOALS THAT DOES NOT BET THE CITY’S FUTURE ON A SINGLE SOLUTION. NATIONAL GRID RECENTLY LAUNCHED OUR VISION TO ELIMINATE FOSSIL FUELS FROM OUR GAS NETWORKS. THAT VISION IS ROOTED IN SUPPORTING OUR CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITIES WITH AN ENERGY TRANSITION WHERE NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND.

SOME THINK WE SHOULD SHUT DOWN ALL EXISTING GAS HEATING INFRASTRUCTURE—WE DISAGREE. RATHER THAN REMOVE GAS LINES AND FORCE CUSTOMERS TO BUY ALL NEW APPLIANCES AND HEATING EQUIPMENT, WE CAN USE FOSSIL-FREE FUELS LIKE RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS AND GREEN HYDROGEN INSTEAD – TECHNOLOGIES THAT EXIST TODAY AND CAN BE SCALED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF MILLIONS OF CUSTOMERS WHO RELY ON NATURAL GAS –

THERE ARE THOSE WHO CALL THIS A FALSE SOLUTION. THE ONLY FALSE SOLUTIONS ARE PATHWAYS THAT PRECLUDE VIABLE OPTIONS AND DENY CUSTOMER CHOICE FOR ACHIEVING DECARBONIZATION.

**IN THE NEAR TERM, RELIABLE ENERGY NETWORKS ARE CRITICAL TO ENABLING THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION … WHICH IS WHY WE MUST CONTINUE TO MAKE TARGETED, COMMON SENSE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS - LIKE THE GREENPOINT VAPORIZER PROJECT THAT HAS BEEN INDEPENDENTLY ASSESSED AND VALIDATED AS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT CUSTOMERS’ CURRENT ENERGY NEEDS. GOING FORWARD, THE CLIMATE ACTION COUNCIL SHOULD CONSIDER A PATHWAY THAT USES EXISTING ENERGY NETWORKS, AND RECOMMEND THE ADOPTION OF RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARDS TO SUPPORT FOSSIL FREE GAS IN NEW YORK.**

THANK YOU.

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