



# NGA MUTUAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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# NGA maintains Three Mutual Assistance Programs

- ▶ LNG Trucking Emergency Response Plan for an LNG tank truck emergency.
- ▶ The Gas Supply Task Force Plan provides guidelines for addressing a gas supply emergency.
- ▶ **Operations Emergency Mutual Assistance Plan provides guidelines to aid in restoring gas utility service disrupted by:**
  - acts of nature
  - equipment malfunctions, accidents, sabotage
  - other occurrences where the parties deem emergency assistance to be necessary or advisable.

# NGA Operations Emergency Mutual Assistance Plan

- ▶ NGA serves as the point of contact between the requesting companies and all other members of the NGA. NGA provides members with ongoing communications regarding details of the emergency
- ▶ NGA can serve as the point of contact and main coordinator between the Requesting Company and the Responding Company
- ▶ Responding companies participate on a voluntary basis based upon their ability to respond

# Lessons Learned from Sandy

- ▶ **NGA recently issued a report on Flood Planning Industry Practices**
- ▶ **Mutual Aid Coordination**
  - Reciprocating Agreements needed beyond NGA
  - Staffing
    - NGA coordinated mutual aid for both NJ Natural and National Grid
    - NGA identified need to have additional staff trained and ready to go to handle communications, reporting, etc.)
- ▶ **Logistics (Lodging, Meals, Showers, Staging, Fuel, etc.)**
- ▶ **Equipment/Materials**
  - Regulators, Meters, Meter Assembly, Meter Locks
  - Coordination needed as a region or nationally with our manufacturers / distributors, purchasers
  - How can we get to a point where companies' materials are more interchangeable.

# Lessons Learned from Sandy

- ▶ Identification of the need for a gas outage management system – *NGA and GTI following up*
- ▶ Need to work with commission staffs to develop an understanding on mutual aid before events occur
- ▶ Mutual Aid Personnel:
  - Common procedures improves mutual aid response.
  - E.g., several companies use specific pipe joining standards that differ from NGA's and the National Plastic Pipeline Institutes procedures.
  - In an event like Sandy, where new main and services were being replaced, training and qualification would be required.
  - Engineering and Management Support also requires attention.

# Benefits of The NEW NGA/SGA Agreement

- ▶ New NGA/SGA Agreement will cover companies in 24 states
- ▶ NGA and SGA provides a 24/7 central point of contact
- ▶ Contact list organized and updated
- ▶ Process for requests and response itemized in an MA agreement and procedures
- ▶ Defines the responsibilities of requestors and responders.
- ▶ Sets the standard for chargeable items when responding.
- ▶ Spells out liability issues and insurance requirements for all parties.
- ▶ Periodic Mock Drills are performed with participating Members
- ▶ Coordination with AGA's national Mutual Assistance Program is provided when needed



# Changes in the NGA/SGA Agreement

- ▶ NGA and SGA members will have joint responsibility for maintaining the agreement.
- ▶ Joint Agreement supersedes other agreements.
- ▶ Contractors are parties to the agreement.
- ▶ Responders will follow their own safety rules. otherwise agreed upon prior to mobilization.
- ▶ Length of aid period limited to 14 day intervals
- ▶ Host Companies that provide staging assistance are recognized.
- ▶ IRS guidelines for expenses to be followed
- ▶ Alcoholic beverages are not a covered expense.

# For more information...

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