**Statement of Alberto Bianchetti to Climate Action Council**

**May 12, 2022**

My name is Alberto Bianchetti, I lead Customer and Community affairs for National Grid in Central and Northern New York and the Mohawk Valley. In April, National Grid launched our vision to eliminate fossil fuels from our US gas and electric systems to reach our shared greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Our vision includes three equally important steps. The first through weatherization and energy efficiency, we can dramatically reduce the amount of energy needed to power our society. Next is targeted electrification and networked geothermal. Efficient and coordinated electrification will be an essential piece of the clean energy future. The third critical element is a 100% fossil-free gas network. This last piece uses existing infrastructure, built over decades, to deliver clean energy in the form of renewable natural gas and green hydrogen and is more affordable and more reliable than the scenarios that the Draft Scoping plan currently considers. Our approach will not only achieve a net zero energy future and the CLCPA climate goals but will also provide more affordable clean energy choices so no customer is forced into a solution they don’t choose or can’t afford, and no community is left behind in the clean energy transition.

Our plan has broad support from prominent business organizations in the State, from labor – those highly skilled, good paying jobs that have delivered safe reliable and affordable energy for decades, from academia, including Stanford University, SUNY Stonybrook, and even from Syracuse ESF’s Assistant Professor Tristan Brown, an appointed member of a Climate Action Council Advisory Panel. As Professor Brown has said: “Renewable natural gas is one of the most cost-effective tools for reducing humanity’s greenhouse gas emissions that we have available. National Grid’s plan, with its diverse combination of electrification, hybridization, and RNG development, will enhance system reliability while simultaneously reducing the economy’s emissions of the destructive greenhouse gas methane.”

**Achieving meaningful decarbonization will require every tool in the toolbox –** and a **coordinated gas and electric strategy** is a better way to tackle the affordability and customer adoption challenges of the clean energy transition**.** The CAC should allow options other than full electrification for heating.

The current Draft Scoping Plan would also benefit from additional analysis in the following areas:

The current plan does not analyze costs – to the customer, or to the State and it does not effectively address resilience and reliability in an integrated holistic system across sectors.

The Plan does not address a low carbon fuel standard.

We also have concerned regarding the accounting treatment for “life-cycle emission accounting,” and believe they need to be reviewed in this public review process before it is completed.

**I urge the Climate Action Council to consider these points before finalizing the Scoping Plan.**

Thank you.

###