**Public Hearings Statement**

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**Director, Regulatory**

Good afternoon, I’m Don Chahbazpour, making this statement on behalf of National Grid and I’m here to tell you there is a better way. I am one of the authors of Pathways to Carbon-Neutral NYC, a study that was commissioned by the NYC Mayor’s Office, Con Ed and National Grid that published in spring 2021.

National Grid operates electric and gas utilities throughout New York State. In all we provide energy to over 4.2 million customers. All told, our business in the state is approximately 70% electric and 30% gas distribution.

Winning the fight against climate change requires that we achieve emissions reductions across multiple sectors -- how we generate electricity, fuel our vehicles, and heat our buildings -- all while ensuring safety, security, reliability, equity, and affordability.

Electrification will play a crucial role, however we also need to offer a practical and diverse range of clean heating solutions so customers can choose what best addresses their needs for performance and cost, without endangering the climate goals we all believe in.

A **coordinated gas and electric** decarbonization strategy, utilizing a diverse set of technologies and strategies, is a **better way to manage the costs and feasibility risks** of decarbonization than relying almost exclusively on single technologies or strategies. **A hybrid pathway, where we decarbonize both electricity and gas networks, was not considered by the Climate Action Council.**

A **hybrid approach to heat decarbonization through an integrated clean gas and electric system** can more affordably and practically achieve net zero through:

1. **Widespread energy efficiency**
2. **Fossil Free Gas -** RNG and Green Hydrogen
3. **“Dual-fuel” heating -** Heat pumps and fossil free gas for the coldest periods .
4. **Targeted Electrification/Geothermal**

Much like we decarbonized the electricity network through the adoption of renewables, we can also decarbonize the gas system through adoption of clean fuels, like renewable natural gas and clean hydrogen. It important to recognize that 15 years ago, wind and solar were in their infancy—costs for such technologies were high and penetration was extremely low. Wind and solar generation technology is now cost competitive with traditional generation sources and is becoming commercially scaled. We expect the same type of advances from RNG and hydrogen in the next few years.

**New York should drive decarbonization of gas by establishing renewable gas procurement standards for utilities.**

Eliminating fossil fuels from our networks also includes a role for hydrogen produced from renewable electricity.

So in closing, I urge the CAC to model and consider a **hybrid pathway.** Thank you.

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