**Public Hearing Statement – Brookhaven**

**Phil DeCicco**

**General Counsel – New York**

**National Grid**

Good afternoon, my name is Phil DeCicco and I am the General Counsel for National Grid in New York. National Grid operates electric and gas networks throughout New York State that serve more than 4.2 million customers – including more than 600,000 customers here on Long Island.

Solving climate change requires sweeping emissions reductions across all sectors -- how we generate electricity, fuel our vehicles, and heat our homes -- while at the same time maintaining safe, reliable, and affordable energy for all. Electrification will play a crucial role in meeting our climate goals to be sure, **but the enormous challenge in front of us demands a range of practical and cost-effective solutions.** We must prioritize energy efficiency and weatherization to reduce demand and enable customer savings. And then deploy technologies to deliver cleaner fuels.

**Achieving meaningful decarbonization will require every tool in the toolbox.** It would be rash and imprudent to commit to a single approach that excludes other viable, sustainable, and economic options. **A coordinated gas and electric strategy,** that deploys a range of solutions and engages a broad coalition of private industry, government, labor, and other trusted partners, presents a better way to tackle the daunting affordability and customer adoption challenges of the clean energy transition**.**

**Leveraging existing networks – the assets we have already built over decades – simply makes sense for New Yorkers.** In the same way we are decarbonizing the electric network through adoption of renewables, **we will decarbonize the gas system with cleaner fuels, like renewable natural gas and hydrogen.**  Not long ago, renewable electricity was expensive, the technology was inefficient, and utilization was extremely low. Today, wind and solar are cost competitive and delivering an increasingly large share of our energy needs.

**We have the same opportunity to advance renewable natural gas and hydrogen in New York.** To reduce and ultimately eliminate fossil fuels from our energy networks, we must implement regulatory policies that encourage the development of renewable natural gas and hydrogen for customers by establishing fuel procurement standards for gas utilities.

As the provider of life-sustaining energy to more than four million customers in New York, we know that effective climate solutions must be affordable, safe, and reliable. **I urge the Climate Action Council to consider a pathway that utilizes our existing energy networks, and recommend the adoption of fuel standards to support fossil free gas in New York.**

Thank you.

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