

Downstream Natural Gas Initiative Statement on DOE's Methane Roundtable Capstone Meeting

For Immediate Release

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Today John Podesta, Counselor to the President and Department of Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz hosted the capstone Methane Roundtable meeting highlighting what has been learned through the Department of Energy's (DOE) Methane Roundtables and what actions will be taken going forward as part of the strategy to reduce methane emissions under the Administration's Climate Action Plan.

The members of the Downstream Natural Gas Initiative appreciate the significant engagement DOE undertook over the last several months leading up to the capstone roundtable today. "We are committed to working with the Administration, federal and state regulators, and other stakeholders to accelerate safety-driven pipeline replacement and modernization programs and achieve additional methane emissions reductions from the distribution segment," said Robert LaCount, Executive Vice President at MJB&A. "We look forward to advancing opportunities that can substantially reduce methane emissions and support safe, reliable, and cost-effective service."

"While natural gas utility companies have made progress over the years to reduce methane emissions, members of the Downstream Initiative are committed to taking a leadership role and doing more to modernize infrastructure going forward to realize the safety, economic, environmental, and health benefits that natural gas provides to LDC customers," said LaCount. "Pipeline replacement and modernization programs offer the most meaningful opportunities to reduce methane emissions from the distribution segment, however these programs require significant investments and a skilled workforce. Member companies look forward to engaging with DOE and other stakeholders to share experiences and lessons learned, and address challenges to support accelerated investments in infrastructure and promote outstanding operations."

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The Downstream Natural Gas Initiative is made up of a group of leading natural gas utilities collaborating to address key technical, regulatory, and workforce challenges affecting methane emission reduction opportunities from the natural gas distribution segment. Members include Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc., National Grid, Pacific Gas & Electric, Public Service Electric & Gas, and Xcel Energy.