



Borough of Chambersburg

A full service municipality in Franklin County celebrating over 65 years of consumer owned natural gas service over 120 years of community electric and a regional wastewater, water, storm sewer and municipal solid waste utility

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chambersburg Borough Gas Department Earns Top Honors - Utility Leaders Accept Awards at Conference

May 11, 2023 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Chambersburg Borough Gas Department earned two significant awards from the Gas Authority, a joint action agency in support of the Borough's public natural gas system. The first was an Operational Excellence award presented to Jeffrey Stonehill, Borough Manager and Director of Utilities. The second was an Outstanding Customer Service Award, for a significant increase in Borough gas customers, which was presented to the Director of the Gas Utility, John Leary.

The Chambersburg Gas Department has received the Customer Service Award several times, but the addition of the Operational Excellence award, was a result of the new program to replace aged gas lines recently funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) through a grant award. On April 18, 2023, PHMSA announced a \$5.2 million grant to the Borough of Chambersburg to replace cast iron pipes in the Borough; one of the largest grants ever awarded to Chambersburg.

The Borough is one of only two municipalities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that own and operate its own natural gas utility – the other being the City of Philadelphia. According to the Borough, it strives to generate benefits for its residents, providing customers with prompt, professional natural gas service and a reliable, safe system with affordable and stable rates. Since 2000, the Borough has replaced more than 21 of its 26 miles of cast iron pipes. Just less than five miles of legacy cast iron remain; however, these lines have been cost prohibitive to replace due to their location under state owned roadways and in downtown areas.

The Borough's award-winning project will reduce the risk of methane leaks from existing pipelines, create well-paying jobs, promote economic growth, and benefit disadvantaged rural and urban communities with the safe provision of natural gas. The continued supply of reliable natural gas is critical to maintain economic growth and promote development in the Borough, which is one of the fastest growing areas in Franklin County. It is estimated that the Gas Department injected nearly \$4 million into the local economy in 2021 (plus indirect benefits to the local economy of approximately \$8 million). Residents of the Borough pay some of the lowest gas prices in Pennsylvania — an estimated 44 percent lower than the average private utility customer. Finally, the proposed project is intended to provide natural gas service to several areas of the Borough that are classified as historically disadvantaged communities, ensuring that these communities are supplied affordable natural gas.

The Operational Excellence award recognized this outstanding project. The Customer Service award recognized the significant customer growth that the Chambersburg Gas Department has experienced in the past year.

"We couldn't be prouder to be honored with these awards," said Jeffrey Stonehill, Chambersburg Borough Manager and Director of Utilities. "This is the culmination of a lot of work from a lot of people who really care about providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy to our community. But these awards are not a final destination. We are committed to continuing to look for ways to improve our operations and service to our customers."

"I would like to especially give thanks to our Director of the Gas Utility John Leary, as well as his assistant Jon Mason and the Gas Crew Supervisor Roy Schweizer for these awards. Through their leadership, the Gas Department team has addressed infrastructure needs, safety requirements, all while maintaining the lowest residential natural gas rates in Pennsylvania. These awards are a recognition of the entire department's excellence," added Stonehill. "Chambersburg utilities are regularly recognized as some of the best public systems in the USA."

Chambersburg is the only municipality in Pennsylvania to operate all their own municipal utilities including electric, natural gas, water, sewer, and storm sewer systems. Chambersburg has the largest borough budget in Pennsylvania as result of these utilities but some of the lowest utility rates.

If you have any questions, please contact John Leary at jleary@chambersburgpa.gov.

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John Leary



Jeffrey Stonehill

About Chambersburg:

Chambersburg is a unique community. Chambersburg supplies more services than any other municipality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition to typical town functions, Chambersburg is Pennsylvania's only municipality providing electric and gas to residents and businesses. Chambersburg is 1 of 35 Boroughs to operate a municipal non-profit electric utility. Chambersburg is the largest municipal electric utility in the State, twice as large as the second largest, Ephrata, Lancaster County; and, the only one to operate multiple generation stations. Chambersburg is 1 of 2 municipalities in PA to operate a natural gas utility. The other is Philadelphia, which does not operate an electric utility. Nationally, Chambersburg is 1 of 2,000 communities to have its own electric system and 1 of 1,000 communities to have a natural gas system but 1 of only about 60 to operate both. Chambersburg manages a regional water system, a regional sanitary sewer system (not through an independent Authority), and a new storm sewer utility; one of the first storm sewer utilities to form under the new Federal mandate to regulate stormwater. Chambersburg has a famous Aquatic Center as well. Chambersburg, the County Seat of Franklin County, currently has 20,832 residents (2020).

About The Gas Authority:

The Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia (The Gas Authority) is the largest non-profit natural gas joint-action agency in the United States, serving 79 Members in Georgia, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Florida that meet the gas needs of more than 240,000 customers. In addition, the agency provides services to 16 other agencies and public systems referred to as "Municipal Customers". The Gas Authority also serves as the manager of both Public Gas Partners, Inc. (PGP) and Main Street Natural Gas, Inc. (Main Street), which acquire and provide economical natural gas reserves, in the case of PGP, and long-term prepaid natural gas supplies, in the case of Main Street, to The Gas Authority and other public systems.