



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, and municipal solid waste utility*

MEDIA ALERT – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2023

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Announcement of Federal Funding to Advance Natural Gas Infrastructure Improvements in Chambersburg to Occur on Tuesday, April 18, 2023

The Borough of Chambersburg cordially invites members of the media to attend the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) announcement of federal grant funding at Council Hall, First Floor, Utility Addition Building, 100 South Second St., Chambersburg, Pennsylvania at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

PHMSA will announce funding for the replacement of legacy cast iron pipelines in the Borough under the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program. Funding for this grant program was authorized under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, with competitive funds available for municipality- or community-owned utilities to repair, rehabilitate, or replace their natural gas distribution pipeline system or portions thereof, or to acquire equipment to reduce incidents and fatalities and avoid economic losses.

The Borough is one of only two municipalities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that owns and operates its own natural gas utility – the other being the City of Philadelphia. The Borough 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 roadways and in downtown areas.

The Borough's proposed 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 (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.

Representatives from PHMSA and local officials will be present at the announcement, which will include a summary of the funding program, comments from public officials and a ceremonial award of funding to the Borough's project. Questions regarding the event can be directed to John Leary, Director of Natural Gas Utility