



RESOLUTION 22.051

Recognizing the Role of Natural Gas Production in Ensuring Reliability of Our Electric Grid

WHEREAS, the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) is one of the oldest and largest interstate compacts in North America, formed by states with participation of international affiliates, and is widely viewed as the authority on domestic oil and gas issues and as a leading force in national oil and gas policy development; and

WHEREAS, the IOGCC has historically and routinely provided advice to our respective nations' leaders in an ongoing effort to wisely maximize our nations' oil and gas resources for the benefit of our economies and national security; and

WHEREAS, the IOGCC recognizes that recent grid failures occurring after major weather events, or as a response to other externalities, have created concerns for the IOGCC member states and provinces about the dire consequences that ensue if our nation's interconnected electric generation resources are not available when needed; and

WHEREAS, the United States Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports that the U.S. has enough natural gas resources available for supplies to last approximately 98 years¹; projects that over 100 gigawatts of North America's baseload electric generation facilities are scheduled to retire by 2039²; and indicates that less than 10 percent of power plant retirements are projected to be replaced with dispatchable baseload generation sources³; and

WHEREAS, over 1,694 terawatt hours are currently generated from natural gas in North America each year, accounting for over 35 percent of our electricity generation^{4,5} and natural gas is projected to account for 70 percent of our baseload electricity generation by 2050⁶; and

WHEREAS, both power generation fuel sources and transmission are deficient for projected demand growth and natural gas resources are needed to provide dispatchable power to balance announced baseload plant retirements; and

¹ U.S. Energy Information Administration. Assumptions to the Annual Energy Outlook 2022: Oil and Gas Supply Module, March 2022.

² U.S. Energy Information Administration. Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory, January 2022.

³ Ibid.

⁴ U.S. Energy Information Administration. Electric Power Annual 2020, revised March 10, 2022.

⁵ Canada Energy Regulator. Canada's Energy Future 2021, February 9, 2022.

⁶ Ibid.



WHEREAS, although natural gas resources exist in abundance, the United States natural gas infrastructure systems constrain transportation of the product in areas where infrastructure is lacking or areas where infrastructure exists but requires updates; and

WHEREAS, although the market share of intermittent sources continues to grow, natural gas, as a dependable and steady energy source, provides a remedy to shortages of dispatchable energy sources; and

WHEREAS, with proper infrastructure support, natural gas production may provide solutions for grid stabilization and overall function.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission hereby urges the Canada Energy Regulator, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, North American Regional Transmission Authorities, and Independent System Operators to consider natural gas's potential to strengthen grid reliability and resilience, to acknowledge and recognize the role of natural gas for reliability of our electric grid, to support investments in critical infrastructure, such as pipelines and power transmission lines, and to work with the IOGCC to better understand overall impact of natural gas across the energy industry and to ensure that the reliability of our electric grid remains the foremost priority in future energy planning.

I certify that this is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the Commission on May 17, 2022.

Voting yes: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

Voting no: New York

Abstaining and therefore considered not present: Colorado and Michigan.


Lori Wrotenbery
Executive Director
Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission

