



The New England  
Gas Association

New York  
Gas Group



## NEWS RELEASE

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**For Release Upon Receipt**  
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### **NEW ENGLAND AND NEW YORK GAS ASSOCIATIONS JOIN TOGETHER TO FORM NORTHEAST GAS ASSOCIATION**

**Needham, MA and New York, NY - December 31, 2002** - In order to better serve the energy needs of 7 million natural gas customers in the Northeast region, The New England Gas Association (NEGA) and the New York Gas Group (NYGAS) will merge to become the Northeast Gas Association (NGA), effective January 1, 2003.

The new organization will represent the local distribution companies, interstate pipeline companies, LNG importers, and associate companies involved in supporting the natural gas industry in the seven-state region of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont.

The merged organization will provide its member companies with a broad array of services to meet the needs of a rapidly changing regional energy marketplace in a manner designed to enhance organizational efficiencies.

Craig Frew, NEGA chairman, and Ralph Tedesco, chairman of the NYGAS Executive Committee, said jointly: "The Northeast Gas Association will carry on the traditions, responsibilities and services provided with distinction by NEGA since its formation in 1926 and by NYGAS since its formation in 1973. We are excited and proud to join these two outstanding organizations into one group. Together we will provide a positive contribution to the growing natural gas community in the Northeast."

Ralph R. Tedesco, President and COO of New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG), will be the first chairman of NGA. Dennis E. Welch, President and COO of Yankee Gas Services Company, will be the vice chairman. Thomas M. Kiley, who has served as President of NEGA and Acting Executive Director of NYGAS, will be President of NGA.

The outstanding services that the two organizations have provided for decades to their member companies and to the industry will continue. Functions within the two organizations will be aligned and coordinated in the new NGA to the benefit of all members. These include: operations; technology research, development and deployment; gas supply planning; education and training; outreach and marketing; and financial and administrative matters.

NEGA and NYGAS first entered into an alliance in 2001, when they combined several administrative and management functions. The success of this alliance led the governing bodies of both organizations to affirmatively act on the merger of the two organizations. The merger will yield benefits for the member companies and the natural gas customers of the multi-state region. The formation of the NGA is consistent with the increasing consolidation of the natural gas industry in the Northeast.

The NGA will be administered at 75 Second Avenue, Suite 510, Needham, MA 02494, telephone: (781) 455-6800. A New York office will be located at 1515 Broadway, 43<sup>rd</sup> floor, New York, NY 10036, telephone: (212) 354-4790.