



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

APGA Congratulates the Borough of Chambersburg Gas Department for Operational Excellence!

San Francisco, CA – At its 2017 Annual Conference, the American Public Gas Association (APGA) presented the Borough of Chambersburg Gas Department with the prestigious APGA System Operational Achievement Recognition (SOAR) Award for excellence in operating its natural gas utility. According to APGA, “public natural gas systems are entrusted by their customers to deliver clean and affordable natural gas through a safe and reliable distribution pipeline system. To accomplish this mission, a forward thinking natural gas utility constantly strives to improve its operating capabilities, overcome challenges and adapt to its changing environment.”

Jeffrey Stonehill, Borough Manager and Director of Utilities, was at the conference and accepted the SOAR Award. Chambersburg is one of only two municipal gas utilities in the State of Pennsylvania (the other being Philadelphia Gas Works) and the only municipality to operate a community owned non-profit natural gas, electric, water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer utility.

Out of over 700 APGA members, the Borough of Chambersburg was selected for SOAR level Gold by its peers on the APGA Operations and Safety Committee. The selection was based on demonstrated excellence in four areas: system integrity, system improvement, employee safety, and workforce development.

APGA President and CEO Bert Kalisch remarked, “The Borough of Chambersburg Gas Department was highly rated in all four areas that are required of SOAR. Chambersburg consistently demonstrates a commitment to providing natural gas safely and efficiently to all those in their community and as such, serves as a model for all other natural gas utilities in the country. APGA is proud to recognize the Borough of Chambersburg Gas Department and is confident in their continued success.”

Chambersburg joins Paris Henry County Public Utility District in Tennessee, Rocky Mount Public Utilities, in North Carolina, and the City of Tallahassee Gas Department, in Florida, as the only SOAR level Gold recipients in the United States.

The Borough of Chambersburg Gas Department was one of thirteen SOAR recipients recognized at the APGA Annual Conference in San Francisco on July 24, joining the 13 previous SOAR recipients. The system also received a plaque signifying Chambersburg’s commitment to and achievement in excellence in operating a natural gas utility system.

The Chambersburg system is managed by John Leary, Gas Department Superintendent and Jon Mason, Assistant Superintendent.

Jeffrey Stonehill said, in accepting the award, “that Chambersburg is also proud to provide the lowest natural gas rates in Pennsylvania in addition to our commitment to system integrity, efficiency and effectiveness, a safe and well maintained distribution network, an active safety program and workforce development, and finally a commitment to public education about clean burning safe natural gas. This would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the Borough staff and the leadership of John Leary.”

APGA is the national association of municipally and publicly-owned local natural gas distribution systems. There are about 1,000 public gas systems serving more than 5 million customers throughout the U.S. These public gas utilities are not-for-profit retail distribution entities that are owned by, and accountable to, the citizens they serve. They include municipal gas distribution systems, public utility districts, county districts, and other public agencies that have natural gas distribution facilities.

To learn more about the Chambersburg Gas Department, visit our website at <http://www.chambersburgpa.gov/government/gas.html>



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 supplying electric and gas. 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 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 800 communities to have a natural gas system but 1 of only about 50 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 currently has 20,508 residents (2013). www.chambersburgpa.gov