

## AMERICAN GAS ASSOCIATION ANTITRUST COMPLIANCE GUIDELINES

### Introduction

The American Gas Association and its member companies are committed to full compliance with all laws and regulations, and to maintaining the highest ethical standards in the way we conduct our operations and activities. Our commitment includes strict compliance with federal and state antitrust laws, which are designed to protect this country's free competitive economy.

### Responsibility for Antitrust Compliance

Compliance with the antitrust laws is a serious business. Antitrust violations may result in heavy fines for corporations, and in fines and even imprisonment for individuals. While the General Counsel's Office provides guidance on antitrust matters, you bear the ultimate responsibility for assuring that your actions and the actions of any of those under your direction comply with the antitrust laws.

### Antitrust Guidelines

In all AGA operations and activities, you must avoid any discussions or conduct that might violate the antitrust laws or even raise an appearance of impropriety. The following guidelines will help you do that:

- **Do** consult counsel about any documents that touch on sensitive antitrust subjects such as pricing, market allocations, refusals to deal with any company, and the like.
- **Do** consult with counsel on any non-routine correspondence that requests an AGA member company to participate in projects or programs, submit data for such activities, or otherwise join other member companies in AGA actions.
- **Do** use an agenda and take accurate minutes at every meeting. Have counsel review the agenda and minutes before they are put into final form and circulated and request counsel to attend meetings where sensitive antitrust subjects may arise.
- **Do** provide these guidelines to all meeting participants.

- **Do not, without prior review by counsel,** have discussions with other member companies about:
  - ◆ your company's prices for products, assets or services, or prices charged by your competitors
  - ◆ costs, discounts, terms of sale, profit margins or anything else that might affect those prices
  - ◆ the resale prices your customers should charge for products or assets you sell them
  - ◆ allocating markets, customers, territories products or assets with your competitors
  - ◆ limiting production
  - ◆ whether or not to deal with any other company
  - ◆ any competitively sensitive information concerning your own company or a competitor's.
- **Do not** stay at a meeting, or any other gathering, if those kinds of discussions are taking place.
- **Do not** discuss any other sensitive antitrust subjects (such as price discrimination, reciprocal dealing, or exclusive dealing agreements) without first consulting counsel.
- **Do not** create any documents or other records that might be misinterpreted to suggest that AGA condones or is involved in anticompetitive behavior.

### We're Here to Help

Whenever you have any question about whether particular AGA activities might raise antitrust concerns, contact the General Counsel's Office, Ph: (202) 824-7072; E-mail: [GCO@aga.org](mailto:GCO@aga.org), or your legal counsel.

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### **VISION STATEMENT**

Committed to leveraging and utilizing America's abundant, domestic, affordable and clean natural gas to help meet the nation's energy and environmental needs.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The American Gas Association (AGA) represents companies delivering natural gas safely, reliably, and in an environmentally responsible way to help improve the quality of life for their customers every day. AGA's mission is to provide clear value to its membership and serve as the indispensable, leading voice and facilitator on its behalf in promoting the safe, reliable, and efficient delivery of natural gas to homes and businesses across the nation.

### **CORE STRENGTHS**

1. Conducts programs and develops standards to help enhance the safe delivery of natural gas to consumers;
2. Advocates for natural gas industry issues, regulatory constructs and business models that are priorities for the industry;
3. Promotes growth in the efficient use of natural gas by emphasizing before a variety of stakeholders the benefits of clean, abundant natural gas as part of the solution to the nation's energy and environmental goals;
4. Facilitates the exchange of information and improvement of performance metrics to help members achieve operational excellence;
5. Helps members manage and respond to the energy needs of customers, regulatory trends, natural gas or capital market issues and emerging technologies;
6. Collects, analyzes and disseminates information to opinion leaders, policy makers and consumers about the benefits provided by energy utilities and the natural gas industry;
7. Encourages the development, commercialization, and regulatory acceptance of natural gas end-use technologies; and
8. Delivers measurable value to AGA members.

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