Rebuilding Our Cities’ Aging Pipelines

California Methane Symposium
March 12, 2015

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A coalition of 10 of the country’s largest labor unions and 5 of America’s most influential environmental groups

BlueGreen Alliance unites more than 15M members and supporters working for a clean energy economy.

AFL-CIO representing 11M+ American workers
Rebuilding our Cities Aging Pipelines – RECAP

- Labor partners involved in pipeline installation, operations, maintenance, fabrication:
  - AFL-CIO
  - Pipefitters (UA)
  - Utility Workers (UWUA)
  - Steelworkers (USW)

- Steel industry partners deliver advanced materials for modern gas system – ArcelorMittal, EVRAZ N. America

- Environmental partners support emissions reductions and transition to cleaner economy

- Common priorities - economic vitality, job growth, worker/community health & safety
RECAP Goals

• Improve efficiency and resiliency of natural gas distribution
  • Reduce emissions to lower greenhouse gas/climate impact
  • Recapture lost natural gas costs to consumers/businesses – keep gas ‘in the system’
  • Create jobs and strengthen economy– accelerating rate of distribution repair/replacement from 10 to 30 years could create 300k jobs, $30B GDP benefit
Methane By The Numbers

• At least 28 times more powerful climate change agent than CO₂, pound for pound

• Natural gas distribution pipes lose 64 billion cubic feet of natural gas per year - equivalent to total gas use in the state of Maine.

• US consumers have paid for $21 billion in natural gas lost through distribution from 2000-2012

• Current fed proposal to cut methane emissions across energy sector up to 45 percent by 2025

• Recent studies suggest cuts up to 50 percent could be achieved w/ off-shelf technology at low cost (1 penny per MCF)
State Successes

- SB1371 – CA legislation signed into law in 2013, updates pipe repair/replacement policy, rate mechanisms to improve safety, reduce climate change

- Targeted Infrastructure Replacement Programs (TIRF) - 34 states engage in some form of TIRFs, allowing utilities to recover system investments outside typical rate case
  - IL SB2266 - TIRF for Chicago & statewide replacement of cast iron, wrought iron, and uncoated steel distribution pipe
  - Creation of 500 direct jobs incl. veterans hiring program
Workers are a key resource in defining and resolving issues in the natural gas pipeline system

- Problem – Prevalence of leak-prone pipe, significant emissions impact
- Solution – Improved repair/replacement policies coupled w/ investment/recovery mechanisms
  - Partner resources – membership across labor and enviro partners
  - Align partner efforts and motivate stakeholders – consumers/businesses, electeds, government agencies, public service commissioners, utilities
- Urgency – Employment creation/strengthen economy, avert impacts of climate change