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A Shout Out from the Public Service Commission to Natural Gas Utilities Workers

March 18, 2021 – ATLANTA – Natural gas is affordable, easy to use, much cleaner than coal, and abundant. From cooking supper on your gas stove to running a power plant that can generate enough electricity to light up a city, natural gas helps keep America running.

Today, March 18, is Natural Gas Utility Workers Day. The members of the Georgia Public Service Commission would like to salute all the gas utility workers who ensure natural gas is safely and efficiently transported to plants, homes and businesses across Georgia.

“Ensuring safety with natural gas service is one of the most important aspects of my job at the Public Service Commission,” said Commissioner Tim Echols. “We are blessed to have the most qualified utility workers in America on the job every day here in Georgia.”

“We appreciate all their efforts,” said Commissioner Lauren “Bubba” McDonald. “These men and women also go into homes and light the pilot lights on furnaces. These are the people who make sure everyone is safe.”

The American Public Gas Association says March 18 was chosen as Natural Gas Utility Workers Day in remembrance of an incident that happened on this date in 1937. A natural gas leak at a school in New London, Texas, caused an explosion that killed approximately 300 students and teachers on the four-acre campus.

Natural gas is colorless and odorless. No one knew about the leak until it was too late. Within weeks of the disaster, the Texas legislature mandated that suppliers add an odor to natural gas as a way to help detect leaks. The practice quickly spread worldwide and still helps keep natural gas a safe producer of energy.

The Georgia Public Service Commission is a five-member constitutional agency that exercises its authority and influence to ensure Georgia consumers receive safe, reliable and reasonably-priced telecommunications, electric and natural gas service from financially viable and technically competent companies.

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