



2026 APGA Update

Dave Schryver, President & CEO
American Public Gas Association

About APGA

Over 730 member utilities in 38 States. APGA is the only not-for-profit trade organization representing America's publicly owned natural gas local distribution companies.

APGA members stats:

- Serves approximately 5 Million Customers
- Members have approx. 21,000 Employees
- Members operate 120,000 Miles of Main
- Sizes range from 38 to 500,000+ meters

APGA & Minnesota

24

Out of the 33 Public
Gas System in
Minnesota are
APGA Members

**SOAR Award
Winners- Silver**

**Austin Utilities
Owatonna Public Utilities**

**Public Gas Policy
Council**

**Julie Standstede,
Hibbing Public Utilities
Commission**

“

**Public natural gas utilities
empowered to safely
provide sustainable,
reliable, and affordable
energy to their
communities.**

Vision

“

**To champion and support
publicly-owned natural
gas utilities through
advocacy, education,
collaboration, and
innovation.**

Mission

APGA Committees

Codes &
Standards
Committee

Communications
& Marketing
Committee

Damage
Prevention
Subcommittee
(O&S)

Environmental
Subcommittee
(O&S and Reg.)

Gas Supply
Subcommittee
(Reg.)

Legal Committee

Legislative
Committee

Operations &
Safety
Committee

Regulatory
Committee

Security
Subcommittee
(O&S)

Advocacy Strategies



LEGISLATIVE

Influencing policy makers to drive legislative action.



CONSENSUS STANDARDS

Participating and leading consensus standard development to influence regulatory change.



REGULATION

Advocating for effective, reasonable, scalable regulatory requirements.



LEGAL ENGAGEMENT

Engaging in legal challenges impacting APGA's members ability to affordably, reliably, and safely deliver natural gas to their end-use customers.





REPEAL OF THE WATER HEATER RULE –
CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT



RECONCILIATION - TAX-EXEMPT FINANCING



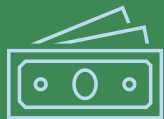
LIHEAP FUNDING



EPCA REFORM

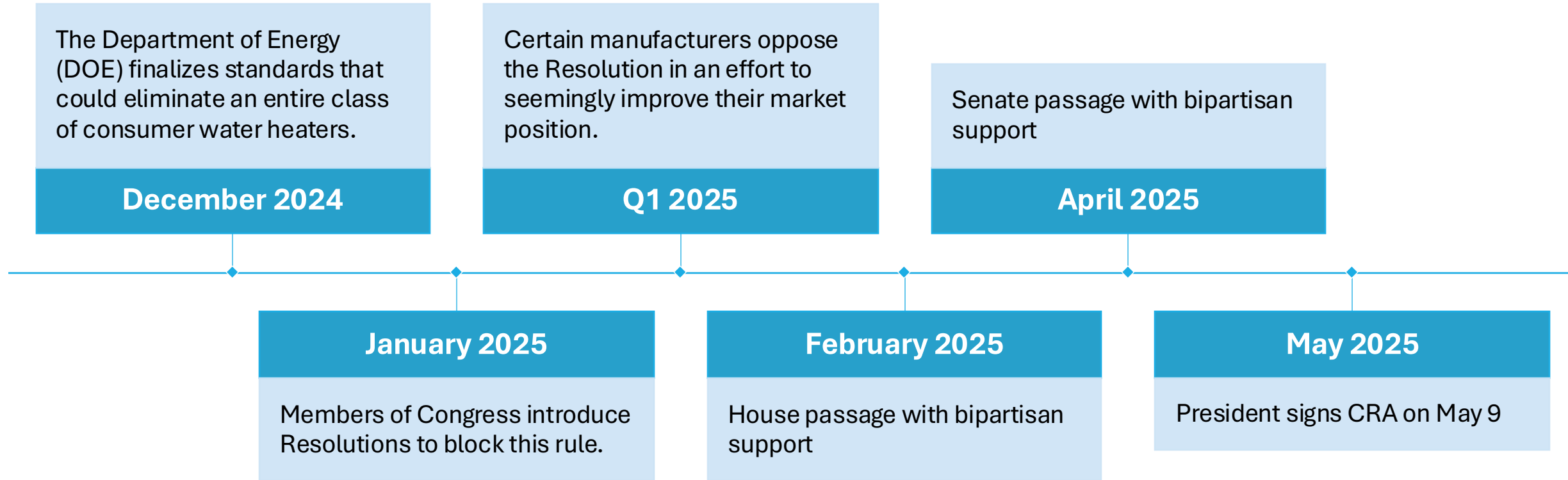


PERMITTING REFORM

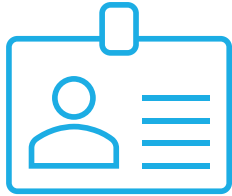


SECTION 5 NATURAL GAS ACT

Gas Instantaneous Water Heaters (GIWH)



Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)



STAFFING CUTS

Mass firing of 10,000 HHS employees, including the 20-25 federal staff responsible for the LIHEAP program. 19 states and Washington, D.C. have filed a lawsuit in federal court, arguing that the dismissals were unconstitutional.



FUNDING LEVELS

In FY2026, LIHEAP received \$4.045 billion in congressionally approved funding. Most of the funds were disbursed before the layoffs disrupted the program.



LIHEAP FUTURE FUNDING

The future of LIHEAP funding is unclear. There are also questions regarding the administration of the program with the staff vacancies.

APGA's 2026 Legislative Advocacy Priorities

Permitting Reform	- Predictability regarding scope and timeline for project reviews, including judicial review - Interagency coordination - Projects must have visibility into permitting milestones
Building & Appliance Efficiency	- Federal law should protect American consumers' right to choose their energy source - DOE appliance efficiency standards should not ban appliances commonly used in homes & businesses
Pipeline Safety & Infrastructure Replacement	- DOT PHMSA Grant Program for infrastructure replacement is moving the needle on pipeline safety - Congressional support for information gathering by PHMSA

Energy Permitting - What's the problem?

Under the current requirements, designing, permitting, and constructing a major natural gas pipeline project can **take several years**. Couple this with the potential for **protests & litigation** and you have a recipe for disaster.

Without appropriate pipeline capacity, it will be near impossible to meet the energy needs of American consumers as demand increases across the board.

Depending on the project, an interstate pipeline might need...

approval or
permits from



agencies or bureaus

to comply
with



laws

APGA's Permitting Reform Legislation Priorities

Set maximum timelines for permitting reviews, including two years for National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) reviews for major projects and one year for lower-impact projects.

Address excessive litigation delays by instituting a statute of limitations for court challenges, enforcing a reasonable schedule and deadline for court proceedings, and mandating the random assignment of cases seeking judicial review to judges in a manner to avoid the appearance of favoritism or bias.

Designate and **prioritize projects** of strategic national importance.

Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) Reform

01

*Increase
timelines
for
standards
review*

02

*Update test
procedures
timeline*

03

*Require
standards
for separate
product
classes*

04

*Prohibit use
of
proprietary
data*

05

*Peer review
of DOE
modeling*



Win at the Supreme Court

1

JANUARY 2026
The Petition

- Asked SCOTUS to hear the Furnace Rule case
- Secured 10 supportive briefs from appliance manufacturers, home builders, state AGs, consumer advocates, and more!

2

JUNE 8, 2026
The Ruling

- Granted APGA's petition for writ of cert
- Vacated the D.C. Circuit decision
- Remanded the case to the D.C. Circuit

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LOOKING FORWARD
The Impact

- A major win for public gas systems and their customers
- Removes bad case law and helps preserve consumer choice
- **Still more work to be done**

Furnace Rule Legal Challenge Update

Overview. APGA & other petitioners challenged final DOE appliance efficiency standards that would ban a popular technology in gas-fired appliances: non-condensing.

- Residential Non-Weatherized Gas-Fired Furnaces (*i.e.*, the Furnace Rule)
- Commercial Gas-Fired Water Heating Equipment
- DOE’s “Interpretive Rule” re: separate product classes based on venting category

On Nov. 4, 2025, in a 2-1 decision, the D.C. Circuit let the final rules remain in place.

Majority (Judge Wilkins, Judge Pillard):

- Found that DOE reasonably determined non-condensing furnaces and water heaters do not possess distinct “performance characteristics” within EPCA’s meaning, so they can be eliminated.
- Agreed with DOE that the new standards are “economically justified.”¹¹

Dissent (Judge Rao):

- “These standards run afoul of the careful balance Congress struck in the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (‘EPCA’) between improving energy efficiency and preserving consumer choice.”

Next Steps



JUDICIAL

Supreme Court vacated the D.C. Circuit ruling and remanded it back to the D.C. Circuit – motion to hold case in abeyance is pending



LEGISLATIVE

EPCA reform is well-socialized this Congress
H.R. 4626 – Home Appliance Protection and Affordability Act
Senate – Energy Efficiency Reform Act of 2026



ADMINISTRATIVE

Working with the Administration / Department of Energy to help ensure consumer choice and energy affordability

APGA Advocacy: PHMSA's Infrastructure Grant Program

November 15, 2021	Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) signed into law – contains \$1B in infrastructure replacement grants for publicly owned gas utilities.
FY22, FY23, & FY24	PHMSA awarded ~\$800M of IIJA appropriated funds for NGDISM.
September 17, 2025	House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee passes bill. Includes authorization for 3-years, \$150M per year.
October 21, 2025	Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation passes bill. Includes authorization for 3-years, \$75M per year with 50% cost-sharing requirement.
May 22, 2026	FY 2026 NOFO Applications Due - \$98M available. 197 Systems applied for \$1.17 Billion.
July 21, 2026	House Energy & Commerce Committee passes bill. Includes authorization for 3-years, \$65M per year.

Section 5 Reform and Protecting Gas Consumers



Bipartisan legislation introduced in the House and Senate



Reforms Section 5 of the Natural Gas Act to give FERC the authority to order refunds when pipelines over-collect



Provides consumers same protection from over-collections that electricity consumers have under the Federal Power Act

Save the Dates for Upcoming APGA Events





Questions?

Great to talk to you!