NARUC Summer Policy Summit

# Enhancing Natural Gas Safety: Gas Alarm Technology

## Staff Subcommittee on Gas

# Enhancing Natural Gas Safety
# Gas Alarm Technology Panel Discussion

## *Tools That Enable Adoption*

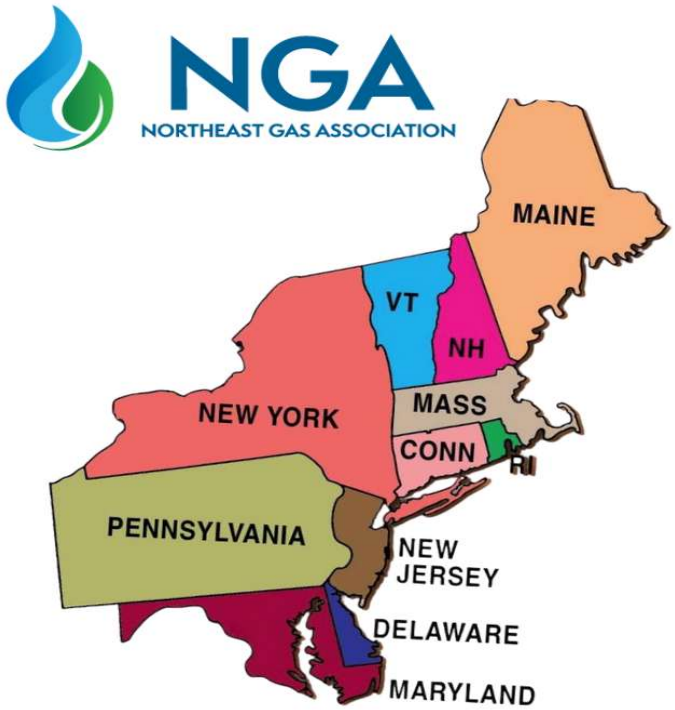
NARUC Summer Policy Summit

July 27-30, 2025
Boston, Massachusetts

NGA
NORTHEAST GAS ASSOCIATION

## Regional Trade Association Representing

- Local Distribution Companies
- Transmission Companies
- LNG Importers
- 250+ Associate Members
- +13 Million Customers



# Tools Enabling Adoption …..

## Comprehensive Industry Adoption Approach

- Evaluation of device response to varying levels of methane.
- Effects of common household chemicals on “false positive” detection and alarms including contaminants such as, hairspray, bleach and disinfectant spray.
- Impacts on performance from common household environmental changes such as temperature and humidity.
- Evaluation of proper placement to ensure detection if a release occurs - **NFPA 715 Developed !!**
- Evaluation of existing UL Standards and recommendations for improvements including lowering the detection threshold from 25%LEL to 10% LEL - **UL 1484 Updated !!**
- Consumer behavior studies and public awareness improvements.

NGA, NYSEARCH, Con Ed, GTI Energy, NFPA Fire Research Foundation, GEXCON & Fire & Risk Alliance LLC – ***Putting “science” around placement and detection thresholds***

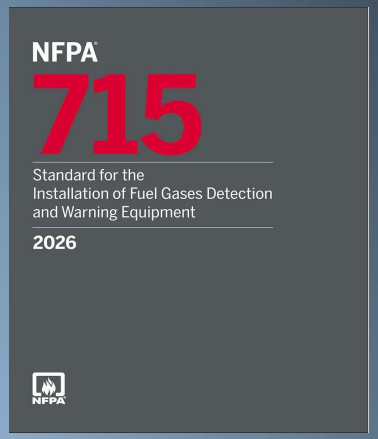
# FWE-AAA
# NFPA 715 TC


***Technical Committee Fuel Gases Warning Equipment***

NFPA

IT'S A BIG WORLD. LET'S PROTECT IT TOGETHER.®

# NFPA 715
## *Standard for the Installation of Fuel Gas Detection and Warning Equipment*




## The Evolution of NFPA 715

- This standard provides requirements for vital equipment intended to warn occupants of the presence of fuel gas in time to escape or take other action.
- The document addresses the selection, design, application, installation, location, performance, inspection, testing, and maintenance of fuel gas detection and warning equipment in buildings and structures.

***This new standard is essential for anyone concerned with helping to ensure safer fuel gas system installations and clears a path for LDC's to advocate use of residential methane detectors (RMD's) as another pipeline safety layer-of-protection.***

# UL 1484 Minimum Detection Threshold Updated


## UL's Collaborative Standards Development System (CSDS)

- UL is pleased to announce the adoption of ANSI/UL 1484-2022 as the American National Standard for *Residential Gas Detectors.* Each member of the STP who participated by voting and/or commenting is to be congratulated for their role in accomplishing this important achievement.

The following summarizes the milestones associated with this ANSI approval of UL 1484:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Announcements in Standards Action:** | **December 10, 2021** |
| **Date of Ballot:** | December 10, 2021 |
| **Notification of Right to Appeal for Continuing Objectors:** | January 27, 2022 |
| **Date of ANSI/UL Designation:** | February 23, 2022 |
| **Anticipated Publication of ANSI/UL Material:** | February 2022 |

***Detection Threshold Updated from 25% LEL min to 10% LEL min***

The Essential Elements to Improve Public Safety Through Widespread Use of Residential Fuel Gas Detectors are in Place

# A Three-Legged Stool

- We **NOW** have the essential elements required to advance widespread adoption of residential fuel gas detectors

✓ Performance standard – UL 1484

✓ Installation standard – NFPA 715

✓ Commercially available technology those conforming to those standards

**Its Starting to Work!**

- The NYC Department of Buildings just proposed rules to require of natural gas detecting devices in residential buildings
- Implements a Local Law passed in 2016 in the wake of fatal natural gas explosions in the NYC in 2014 and 2015
- NFPA 715 was the last leg needed to move forward in NYC
- NYC joins Maine as the only jurisdictions that require residential fuel gas detectors

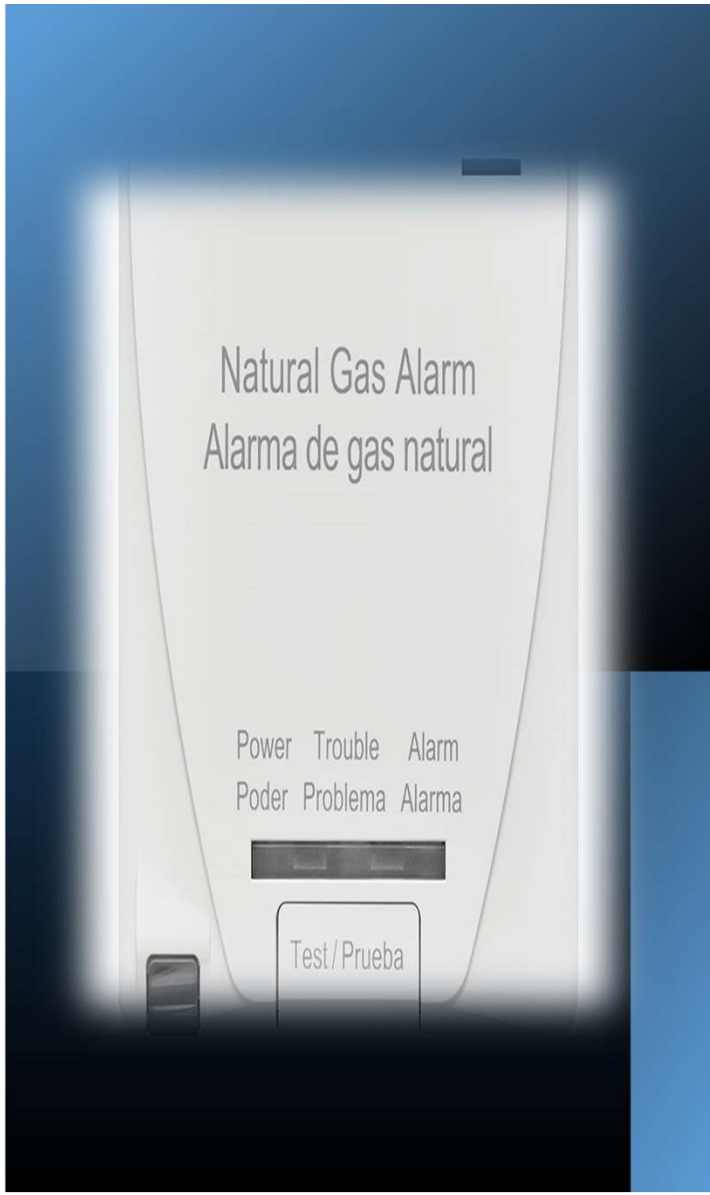
# Gas Detector Safety Legislation


**PASSED– Gas Detector Laws**

- New York City LL157
- Maine §2469

**PENDING**

- Connecticut
- Illinois
- Massachusetts
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Tennessee



# There is a Compelling Case for Widespread Use of Residential Fuel Gas Alarms

Its time to adopt an additional layer-of-protection approach *beyond the nose*……

Utilities, trade associations, legislators and regulators have an opportunity to take a leadership role in advancing widespread consumer adoption of an additional layer-of- protection to keep our homes, communities and loved ones safe…….. *We now have the technology & tools !!*

*Just like smoke and carbon monoxide detectors have been doing for decades*

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