



**For Release Upon Receipt**

**Northeast Gas Association Statement:  
MUTUAL AID RESPONSE TO NATURAL GAS SYSTEM INCIDENT IN  
NEWPORT COUNTY, RHODE ISLAND**

**January 22, 2019...** The safety of residents is the first priority and our thoughts are with all the people affected by the low pressure natural gas situation that occurred starting on January 21 in the towns of Middletown and Newport, on Aquidneck Island in Rhode Island.

National Grid, the local natural gas distribution company, notes that on Monday evening, January 21, "out of an abundance of caution, National Grid began suspending gas service to 7,100 gas customers in Newport and Middletown. This interruption in service is due to a low transmission supply issue." The system restoration process, including the relighting of meters, is expected to take multiple days.

The utility company has a web page on the incident and the steps involved in the restoration here:

<https://www.nationalgridus.com/Aquidneck-Island>

To assist the local utility with returning service as soon and safely as possible, a mutual aid request has gone out from the Northeast Gas Association to its member natural gas utilities in the region for assistance. The utilities are responding by providing service crews to assist in the system restoration.

The priority remains as always ensuring the safety of the communities served by natural gas utilities. Over 260,000 homes and businesses in Rhode Island utilize natural gas every day, and over 2.7 million in all of New England.

*NGA is a regional trade association that represents natural gas distribution companies, transmission companies, liquefied natural gas importers, and manufacturers and suppliers to the industry. These companies provide natural gas to approximately 13 million customers in nine states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont).*