When Hurricane Katrina impacted natural gas operators along the Gulf Coast in 2005 the lack of a formalized SGA mutual assistance agreement limited the ability of operators to send aid to those impacted by the storm and associated flooding. In response, the SGA Distribution Operations and Engineering Section Committee (DOES) developed an SGA Mutual Assistance Procedures and Guidelines Document in an effort to streamline the processes for rendering or receiving aid in times of need. Forty-five SGA member companies have signed these existing Procedures and Guidelines.

The magnitude of Superstorm Sandy in 2012 highlighted the need for an enhanced agreement that easily allowed the sharing of resources across traditional regional association boundaries. In late 2013, SGA staff presented a proposal from the Northeast Gas Association (NGA) to the SGA DOES committee to consolidate into one the mutual assistance agreements for the two associations. DOES saw value in this proposed consolidation and voted to support the work of the two associations to consolidate the agreements. This new agreement was distributed to member companies in late June 2015 and is ready for signature.

In early 2014, SGA took the lead on developing and executing a national mutual assistance mock drill involving members of all four regional gas associations and the AGA. One goal for that drill was testing the effectiveness of a Request for Assistance Form developed by the AGA to improve communication between operators regarding needed resources/skillsets in a mutual assistance scenario. The form worked well and has been enhanced based on lessons learned during the mock drill. This form will be used as part of our mutual assistance procedures as outlined in the attached NGA/SGA Procedures and Guidelines document that acts as Exhibit A to the new agreement.

Member companies are encouraged to execute the new agreement as soon as is possible. **SGA will continue to honor the historic SGA Procedures and Guidelines documents until October 31, 2015 after which only those members who have executed the new NGA/SGA Mutual Assistance Agreement will be members of the SGA Mutual Assistance Program.**