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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 15, 2021

City of Rocky Mount celebrates Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day on March 18

Rocky Mount, N.C. – The city of Rocky Mount Energy Resources department will observe Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day on March 18, 2021. This day of recognition is a time when communities across the country recognize the employees who provide one of their most valuable assets—their natural gas utility.

Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day takes place on March 18 each year because that is the date of the 1937 school explosion in New London, Texas, that was caused by a natural gas leak. The tragic event led to the widespread odorization of natural gas and an increased emphasis on safety in the industry. Safety is a vital aspect to natural gas distribution and the employees of distribution companies endeavor to make natural gas delivery as safe as possible.

This annual nationwide event is intended to build public awareness about the hard work done by the employees of natural gas utilities. Our customers recognize the need to access reliable, affordable, safe energy and depend on the service of natural gas utility employees for that need.

The city of Rocky Mount Energy Resources department maintains the second largest gas system in North Carolina with 555 miles of natural gas distribution lines in Nash and Edgecombe counties. The Energy Resources department gas division includes management, engineering, dispatchers, compliance, maintenance, gas service technicians, gas meter technicians and the gas construction crews.

The city is a recipient of the Gold designation award in the American Public Gas Association's (APGA) prestigious System Operation Achievement Recognition (SOAR) program. SOAR awards are given to natural gas utilities that demonstrate excellence in worker safety, workforce development, system integrity and system improvement. The Gold designation is the SOAR award's highest level of recognition. The SOAR award is a testament to the city's commitment to safely providing natural gas service and the hard work of its natural gas workers.

“We are grateful for the opportunity each year to recognize our natural gas employees for their hard work and dedication to providing safe, reliable natural gas to our customers,” says Chris Beschler, director of Energy Resources.

The city of Rocky Mount looks forward to continuing to bring safe, reliable natural gas into your homes and businesses. We also hope you join us in supporting natural gas as a premier energy source for our country. As the cleanest burning fossil fuel, natural gas can help us achieve energy security and build a more competitive economy.

If you would like to learn more about the benefits of natural gas and how your natural gas system works, please visit www.rockymountnc.gov/departments/energy_resources/natural_gas. We invite the community to join us in celebrating our natural gas employees on March 18 by visiting the Energy Resources Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RockyMountEnergyResources.

About Rocky Mount

The city of Rocky Mount, located in the Coastal Plains of North Carolina, was incorporated in 1867 and lies in Edgecombe and Nash Counties. Rocky Mount is a two-time All-America City on the Tar River. Serving as the Gateway to Eastern North Carolina, the city's 875 employees serve approximately 58,000 residents daily.

The city's mission is to advance community well-being, safety and quality of life by delivering excellent public services and actively collaborating with the community toward a fulfilling and inspired future for its citizens. As a publicly owned utility, the city of Rocky Mount is committed to safe, reliable service for its customers and operates in Nash and Edgecombe counties, providing customers with electricity, natural gas, water, wastewater (sewer), refuse, recycling and/or stormwater services. To learn more, visit www.rockymountnc.gov for news and updates.

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