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*Via Electronic Delivery Alone to HSigouin-Plasse@GazMetro.com*

January 22, 2014

Hugo Sigouin-Plasse  
Senior Legal counsel  
Tel. 514 598-3767 Fax 514 598-3839  
Email: HSigouin-Plasse@GazMetro.com

*Re: Data Request from Utility Commission for AGA documents currently in GazMetro's custody and control:*

- *Best Practices Benchmarking, Leak Management – Leak Survey, 2011 Questionnaire – Response Summary, June 2011(Xcel spreadsheet)*
- *Best Practices Benchmarking, Leak Management – Leak Repair, 2011 Questionnaire – Response Summary, June 2011 (Xcel spreadsheet)*

Dear Mr. Sigouin-Plasse,

You have asked us for permission to distribute the AGA documents listed above in response to a specific request for the documents or to which the documents are responsive that you have received via a regulatory process with direct oversight over you. All of the documents were created by AGA within its AGA Best Practices Benchmarking Program.

### **AGA Best Practices Benchmarking Program**

The AGA Best Practices Benchmarking Program is a means for individual AGA members to survey other members on how they may address a specific operational issue and evaluate themselves internally. Rather than audit or normalize the data, the Program includes surveys and meetings where the facts underlying the data are discussed and members delve into how they may increase their own performance metrics.

Each operator serves a unique and defined geographic area and their system infrastructures vary widely based on a multitude of factors, including, condition, engineering practices and materials. Each operator will need to evaluate the profiled

practices in light of system variables. Not all highlighted practices will be applicable to all operators due to the unique set of circumstances that are attendant to their specific systems. Each operator needs to evaluate the actions in light of system variables. The benchmarking results are not standards or necessarily the best practice for any particular company.

### **Confidential and Proprietary**

As you are aware as an AGA member, AGA is a nonprofit tax-exempt 501(c)(6) membership organization that is incorporated and conducts business at Suite 450, 400 N. Capitol St., N.W., Washington, DC, 20001.

One of AGA's purposes as an association is to serve its members' collective interests and not the interests of any single member. As such, many documents are aimed, among other things, at improving operational excellence, safety, security and efficiency throughout the natural gas distribution industry. These publications are copyrighted and a valued benefit of membership in the association.

Certain AGA documents are for public distribution while others are confidential and proprietary and distributed through the password-protected members only side of the AGA web site at [www.aga.org](http://www.aga.org), a third party contractor's password protected website, or limited hard copy or email distribution and/or subject to a confidentiality agreement among the members participating in the development of the document. The documents or data you request to share with your regular are of the confidential and proprietary type and AGA uses the measures noted to safeguard that confidentiality.

The release of confidential and proprietary information in a public forum jeopardizes the integrity and usefulness of AGA activities. One benefit of membership in AGA is the use of data received from other members on a confidential basis and for internal member company use alone. Members participate in information exchanges based on these assumptions and rely on the confidential nature of the documents when submitting data.

If members see confidential and proprietary information used in an unintended and unexpected venue, many will cease participating in AGA programs or participate in a more general manner. This not only harms AGA (because it reduces participation) but harms members and the general public because, among other reasons, members often cannot effectively increase their safety and efficiency and lower their costs without the knowledge and experience of others striving for the same goal.

### **Limited Permission to Distribute**

For the reasons stated above and because the documents are confidential and propriety to AGA, distributed solely to AGA members, copyrighted to AGA, and subject to a confidentiality agreement between the AGA members and AGA, AGA grants limited permission to provide this letter and the referenced documents in the regulatory forum noted, provided:

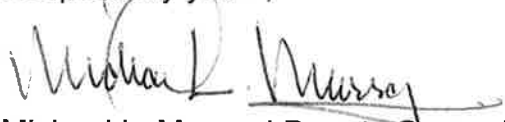
- The documents and data are submitted in confidential form and under a confidentiality order, written agreement or regulation, and only to those

parties who have signed a confidentiality agreement or are bound by the order or regulation;

- No member other AGA member company identifying information or the identity of AGA member companies participating in the development of the information in the documents or data is provided, i.e., provide identifying information concerning PSE&G; and
- The following statement: "Copyright American Gas Association. All rights reserved. Confidential and Proprietary" accompanies the documents.

Please let us know if this addresses fully addresses your request or if you have any further questions.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael L. Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end.

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