



March 21, 2020

Christopher C. Krebs
Director
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Stop 0380
Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane
Washington, D.C. 20528-0380

Director Krebs,

The Distribution Contractors Association (DCA) represents contractors, suppliers and manufacturers who provide distribution construction services including installation, replacement and rehabilitation of gas pipelines as well as fiber optic, cable and duct systems in communities across the country. As the nation continues to respond to the coronavirus pandemic, it is imperative that ensuring critical utility services continues to be a national priority.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) recently provided strategic guidance to promote a national effort to coordinate the overall federal effort to ensure the security and resilience of the Nation's critical infrastructure. In accordance with this mandate, CISA released an initial list of "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers" to help state and local officials as they work to protect their communities, while ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security.

DCA encourages you to include the gas distribution construction industry on this list. DCA members provide the manpower, equipment, and expertise to:

- Natural gas transmission and distribution pipelines, including compressor stations;
- Underground storage of natural gas;
- Natural gas processing plants;
- Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facilities;
- Natural gas security operations center, natural gas operations dispatch and control rooms/centers natural gas emergency response and customer emergencies, including natural gas leak calls;
- Drilling, and transporting natural gas for use as end-use fuels, feedstocks for chemical manufacturing, or use in electricity generation;
- Propane gas dispatch and control rooms and emergency response and customer emergencies, including propane leak calls; and Propane gas service maintenance and restoration, including call centers.

As the Federal Government continues to respond to this pandemic, it's important to recognize all facets of the construction industry, including contractors, manufacturers, and all service providers who collectively assure natural gas distribution infrastructure are considered essential service providers.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Darden", written over a horizontal line.

Rob Darden
Executive Vice President