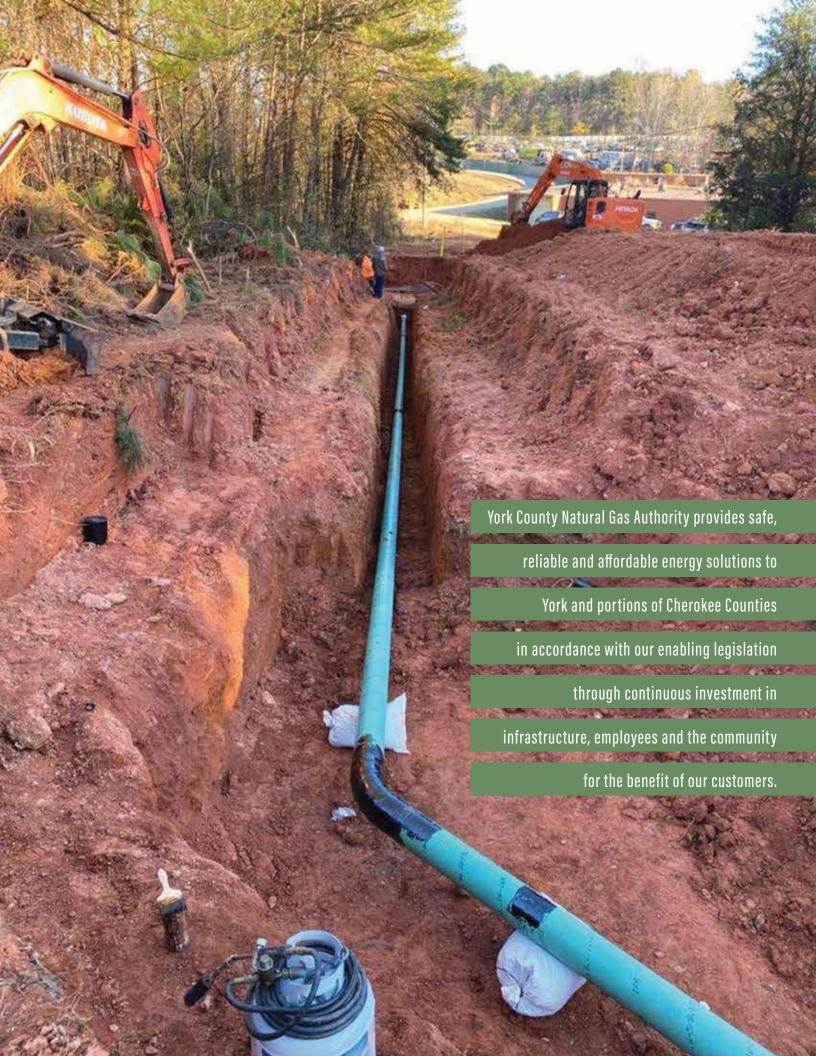


York County Natural Gas



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# **ON THE COVER**



# SECURING ENERGY RELIABILITY FOR FUTURE GROWTH

One of the crowning achievements of this fiscal year was the completion of the **Patriots Energy Group Compressor Station** located near Blacksburg, SC. The station, operated by York County Natural Gas Authority, will ensure reliable energy for years to come for the citizens of Cherokee, Chester, Lancaster, and York Counties.

As our area continues to see rapid growth due to increased development of residential housing, commercial businesses, and industry, natural gas consumption remains high, reaching record levels in FY 2023. Access to natural gas is a crucial factor in driving economic development projects that allow our region to grow and thrive. The operation of the new compressor station will allow for increased capacity critical to the future energy needs of the region.



Read more about Patriots Energy Group on page 16

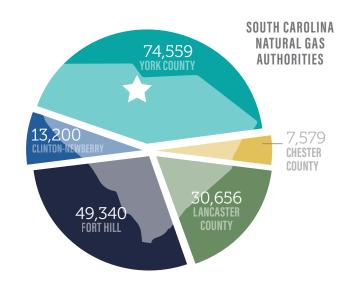


The York County Natural Gas Authority campus on West Main Street in Rock Hill, SC

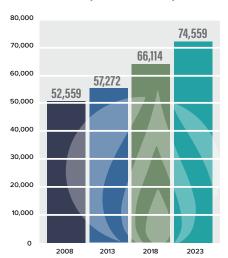
### THE AUTHORITY

York County Natural Gas Authority (Authority) is the largest public natural gas distribution system in the state and the 11th largest in the nation based on number of customers. Established in 1954 as a political subdivision of the State of South Carolina, the Authority's service territory includes York County and northeastern Cherokee County.

The Authority is governed by a ten-member Board of Directors representing York County (3), the City of Rock Hill (3), the Town of Fort Mill (1), the City of Tega Cay (1), the City of York (1) and the Town of Clover (1). The Authority has no taxing authority and operates solely based on revenues generated from the sale of natural gas. Despite the economic challenges of system expansion, the Authority continues to provide stable consumer rates, which are among the lowest in the Carolinas.



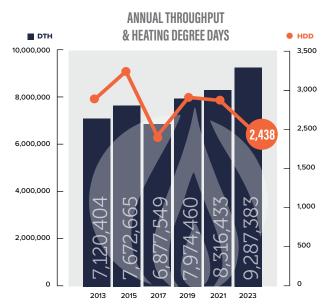
# HISTORICAL GROWTH (CUSTOMER COUNT)



The Authority achieved record throughputs (in dekatherms)

for **9 of the 12** months in FY 2023, underscoring our operational resilience and ability to meet the growing demands of our stakeholders

2



# PRESIDENT & CHAIRMAN'S NESSAGE Presenting the Annual Report for York County Natural Gas Authority's fiscal year 2023, a year marked by significant achievements that underscore our commitment to excellence, innovation, and the communities that we serve

(L-R) Authority Board Members Marc Howie and Michael Drummond, President and CEO JImmy Sprouse, PHMSA representative Damond Smith, Authority Board Members Steve Moore, Brian Hall, Billy Hagner, and Tom Goebel

### OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

On December 15, 2022, the Authority assumed 24/7 operations of gas control from Sempra, a strategic move that enhanced our operational efficiency and reinforced our dedication to delivering uninterrupted natural gas services to our valued customers. This move preceded a record–setting Christmas weekend, where the Authority established three of the top five all-time throughput records, including a new peak day of 79,229 dekatherms. Moreover, during the extreme cold of Christmas weekend, the Authority demonstrated exemplary service,

The Authority established

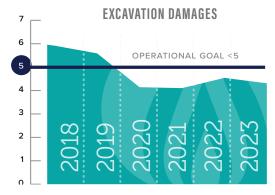
# 3 of the 5

all-time throughput records over Christmas weekend 2022 ensuring that our customers received the energy they needed during challenging weather conditions. This commitment to service excellence remains a cornerstone of our operational philosophy.

Closing the fiscal year on a high note, the Authority achieved record throughputs (in dekatherms) for nine of the twelve months, underscoring our operational

resilience and ability to meet the growing demands of our stakeholders. An all-time monthly record of 1,452,655 dekatherms was established in December 2022 and the fiscal year set an annual throughput record of 9,287,383 dekatherms.

A key index of damages per 1,000 tickets remained stable during the fiscal year at 4.31 occurrences. This is down significantly from a peak of 7.40 damages per 1,000 tickets in 2016.



# OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM FY 2023

- INSTALLATION OF 1,653 NEW SERVICES
- CUSTOMER BASE INCREASE TO 74,559 ACTIVE SERVICES
- OVERALL GROWTH RATE OF 1.8%
- UTILITY LOCATE REQUESTS TOTALED JUST OVER 45,000 TICKETS

# INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION & COMMUNITY IMPACT

In support of our commitment to community well-being, the Authority received a significant boost with a \$5.58 million Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Natural The Authority received a \$5,580,794
PHMSA Grant

Gas Distribution Infrastructure Modernization (NGDISM) Grant. The NGDISM grant program, established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021, provides funding to modernize municipally and community-owned natural gas distribution pipes, helping to enhance safety and mitigate methane emissions. This grant will support crucial upgrades to the Town of Blacksburg's distribution system, further ensuring the safety and reliability of our local infrastructure.

### FINANCIAL STRENGTH

Demonstrating financial acumen, the Authority, as a member of Patriots Energy Group Financing Agency, successfully completed a prepaid gas deal for 2023, securing an advantageous transaction valued at \$611,430,000 with Goldman Sachs. This initiative not only fortifies our financial stability but also translates to substantial savings of \$0.697 per dekatherm for the volumes related to the deal, exemplifying our commitment to optimizing cost structures.

Total 2023 Pre-Paid Gas Savings \$2,765,781 The Authority is currently repricing a 2018 prepaid gas deal with the Royal Bank of Canada. The anticipated savings is \$0.63 per dekatherm for this \$889,105,000 transaction, improving from our current position of \$0.456 per dekatherm. These two transactions combined translate into an annual additional savings of approximately \$1.5 million for our customers.

### ANNUAL PREPAY GAS SAVINGS

AUGUST \$ 2,765,781

AUGUST \$2,502,273

AUGUST \$2,376,405

AUGUST \$2,559,323



### FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

The completion of the Patriots Energy Group Compressor Station in Blacksburg, SC, a joint venture with Chester County Natural Gas Authority and Lancaster County Natural Gas Authority, stands as a testament to our commitment to collaborative infrastructure development. This facility will significantly increase capacity for all three counties, as well as part of Cherokee County, ensuring a more robust and reliable natural gas supply for our entire regional community.

In a related move, the Authority participated in a significant expansion project on Transcontinental Pipeline Company (Transco) that will secure capacity rights on the interstate pipeline that serves the Patriots Energy Group Compressor Station. This project, named Carolinas Market Link, will allow for the Authority to receive natural gas supplies from the Mountain Valley Pipeline project in West Virginia.

Patriots Energy Group Compressor Station

### INDUSTRY RECOGNITION & EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

The Authority received **5 APGA**Awards

We take pride in announcing that the Authority received five prestigious awards from the American Public Gas Association (APGA). The APGA, consisting of 730+ publicly-owned natural gas local distribution companies, represents the interests of public gas before Congress, federal agencies and other energy-related stakeholders.

The Authority's commitment to safety resulted in two accolades, including the Safety Management Excellence Award. The Authority's marketing efforts achieved two additional awards, including first place for the "Safe Digging Month" campaign. Finally, Amanda Gallagher received the Next Generation Employee Achievement Award, presented to an individual who is age thirty-five or younger and has made substantial contributions towards the goals of their utility, APGA, and the natural gas industry. These awards reflect the dedication and expertise of our team in delivering excellence across various facets of our operations.



Authority employees accepting APGA awards in Scottsdale, Arizona, July 2023 (L-R) Sherrie Long, Amy Cassidy, Amanda Gallagher, and Glen Boatwright

### IN CLOSING

As we reflect on these achievements, we extend our sincere gratitude to our shareholders, partners, and the entire Authority team. Your continued support is integral to our growth and success, and we eagerly anticipate the opportunities that lie ahead.

James T. Sprouse Jr. President & CEO

York County Natural Gas Authority

M. Brian Hall, III

Chairman

York County Natural Gas Authority Board of Directors

On behalf of the Authority's Board of

Directors and our employees, thank

you for the opportunity to serve this

wonderful community in which we live



James "Jimmy" Sprouse, Jr. President and CEO York County Natural Gas Authority

### YORK COUNTY NATURAL GAS AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS



M. Brian Hall, III CHAIRMAN Town of Clover



G. Stevens Moore, Jr.
VICE CHAIRMAN
City of Rock Hill



Michael S. Drummond TREASURER York County



Elizabeth S. Owen SECRETARY City of Rock Hill



**R. Marc Howie** Town of Fort Mill



Richard Heckerd
City of Rock Hill



Thomas Goebel City of Tega Cay



R. Grier Sandifer, Jr. City of York



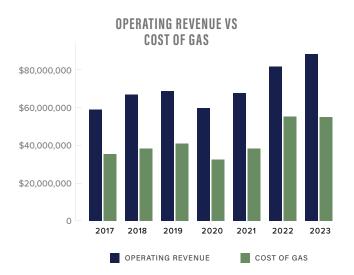
William J. Hagner York County

# **FINANCIALS**

Serving as financial stewards to responsibly cover

Authority expenses, safeguard reserves, and fund growth

while providing reasonable rates for customers



# PREFERRED RESIDENTIAL RATE 10



GAS - PER THERM COST INCLUDES COST OF GAS, TRANSPORTATION, OPERATING & CAPITAL COST

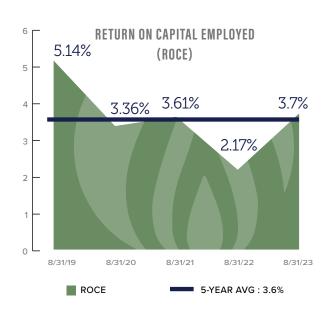
FY 2023
Residential Rate 10
\$1.13/therm

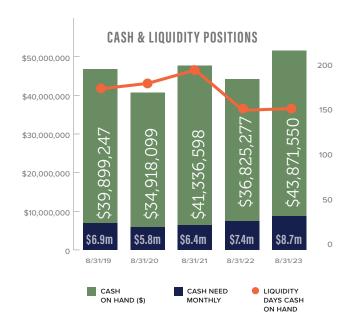
# STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

### ASSETS

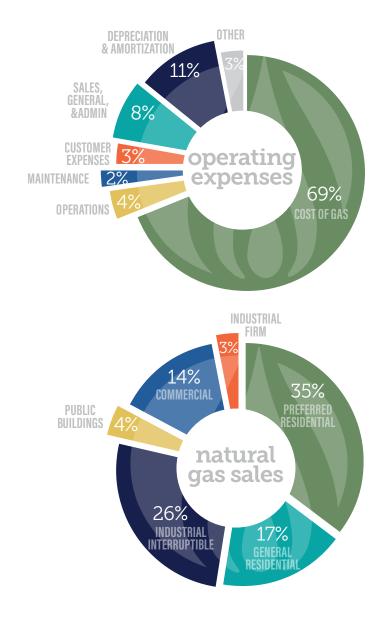
AS OF AUGUST 31

AS OF AUGUST 31	2023	2022
Utility Plant		
Gas Plant in Service Accumulated Depreciation	\$ 350,803,301 (126,927,217)	\$ 306,148,278 (118,815,535)
	223,876,084	187,332,743
Other Property and Investments	1 500 022	2 4 40 74 4
Prepaid Pension Costs Other	1,598,032 897,100	2,149,711
Otilei	2,495,132	897,100 3,046,811
	2,133,132	3,040,611
Current Assets Cash & Cash Equivalents	12.040.064	10 525 464
Investments - Operating & Maintenance	12,040,064	19,525,464
Investments - Renewal & Extension	10,678,273	7,896,546
Investments - Series 2017 Bond Proceeds	8,888,154 1,079,231	4,118,501 1,079,231
Investments - Series 2019 Bond Proceeds	1,079,231	3,150,045
Investments - Series 2022 Bond Proceeds	8,241,888	5,150,015
Investments - Capital Reserve Fund	2,943,939	1,055,490
Accounts Receivable (net)	4,404,327	8,043,818
Accrued Interest	2,329	1,874
Inventories	4,074,126	3,758,757
Prepaid Expenses	322,893	208,548
	52,675,224	48,838,274
Deferred Charges Intangibles, net of amortization	8,666,740	8,909,300
	0,000,710	0,303,300
<b>Deferred Outflows</b> Deferred Outflows Related to Pension	E E64 627	3 804 003
	5,564,637	3,804,992
TOTAL ASSETS & DEFERRED OUTFLOWS	\$ 293,277,817	\$ 251,932,120
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Long-Term Liabilities		
Bonds Payable	\$ 13,103,330	\$ 7,493,024
Post Retirement Benefit Obligation	2,960,667	1,527,043
Deferred Compensation	1,598,032	2,149,711
	17,662,029	11,169,778
Current Liabilities		
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt	2,389,670	2,389,670
Accounts Payable	3,907,337	8,497,834
Accrued Expenses	40,792,943	12,057,045
Deferred Compensation	350,000	350,000
Customer Deposits	2,165,775	2,196,937
	49,605,725	25,491,486
Deferred Inflows		
Deferred Inflows Related to Pension	23,425	745,437
Retained Earnings		
Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt	208,383,084	177,450,049
Unrestricted	17,603,554	37,075,370
	225,986,638	214,525,419
TOTAL LIABILITIES,		
DEFERRED INFLOWS, & NET POSITION	\$ 293,277,817	\$ 251,932,120





# STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES, & CHANGES IN NET POSITION



	2023	2022
OPERATING REVENUE	\$ 88,524,275	\$ 81,764,745
Operating Expenses		
Cost of Gas	54,986,805	55,228,565
Operations	3,555,168	2,611,921
Maintenance	1,544,970	1,496,348
Customer Expenses	2,390,776	2,522,762
Sales, General, and Administration	6,078,089	5,139,950
Depreciation & Amortization	8,383,075	7,797,802
Other	2,567,322	2,040,969
	79,506,205	76,838,317
Operating Income		
Before Interest Expense	9,018,070	4,926,428
Interest Expense	418,281	227,898
OPERATING INCOME	8,599,789	4,698,530
Non-Operating Income (Expense)	500 545	
Interest	566,545 589,600	160,110
Appliance Program Other	1,705,285	541,880 580,930
	1,703,203	
NET INCOME	\$ 11,461,219	\$ 5,981,450
Capital Improvements		
System Expansion	\$ 10,437,607	\$ 12,809,669
Vehicles	73,879	(18,940)
Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment	419,708	328,954
Land and Buildings	293,701	826,090
Construction in Progress - increase/(decrease)	33,430,130	13,865,400
Intangible asset (facility custody agreement)	44,655,025	27,811,173
NET CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 44,655,025	\$ 27,811,173

# NOTABLE PROJECTS

Providing safe, reliable, and

affordable energy solutions to our

customers through the continuous

investment in infrastructure



### **FORT MILL**

Carowinds Main Extension (pictured)

REVENUE GENERATING Project Investment: \$26,045

In August 2022, Carowinds began renovations in sections of the amusement park, opening up the opportunity for us to relocate a service line to Chick-Fil-A that was out of compliance. New natural gas regulations prevent splitting a service line more than once. The existing line had been split multiple times and needed to be replaced. Approximately 900 feet of 2-inch plastic pipe was installed, eliminating the split services and creating a natural gas loop throughout the park. This loop also provides more reliability and will serve future customers in the areas surrounding the park.

### YORK

Celanese Road from Fishing Creek to Mt Gallant SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT & STRENGTHENING

Project Investment: \$334,365

This project, which spanned two fiscal years and was completed in FY 2023, involved the installation of 4.6 miles of 4-inch plastic pipe connecting the eastern side of York near Fishing Creek to the western side of Rock Hill (Newport). The completion of this project provides an additional source of natural gas, adding an extra layer of reliability to the area and opening up opportunities for future customers along Celanese Road. The tie-in to the existing 4-inch plastic pipe also eliminated a cased crossing underneath an adjacent railroad, improving safety and ensuring smoother operations without disruptions caused by the crossing.

> MAIN PIPELINE PROJECTS INSTALLED FY 2023

4.92 miles steel **27.16** miles plastic

### **CLOVER/LAKE WYLIE**

Charlotte Highway -6" steel conversion to HP

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT & STRENGTHENING

Project Investment: \$715,316

In an effort to provide a stronger source of natural gas to support the continued growth in the Clover/Lake Wylie area, the project team worked to convert an existing 6-inch steel pipeline from a distribution pressure to high pressure. This project involves the new installation of over 4 miles of 2-inch and 4-inch plastic pipe, removing any service and main tie-ins to the existing 6-inch steel, and then tying those same services and mains into the newly installed infrastructure. Once the services have been eliminated, the existing 6-inch steel pipeline will be purged of natural gas and pressure tested to ensure safety. This is an ongoing project with an expected completion date in FY 2024.

\$293,701 LAND & BUILDINGS

CONSTRUC TRANSPOR'

\$436,

capital **EXPENDITURES** 

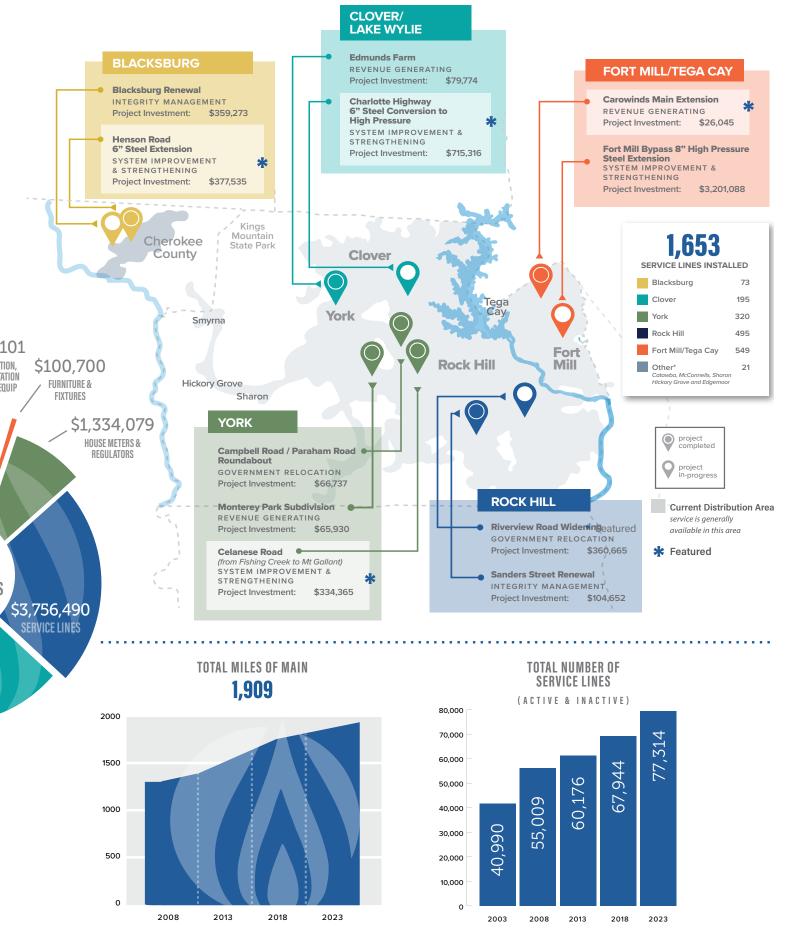
\$10,275,960 CAPITAL PROJECTS

### BLACKSBURG

Henson Road - 6" Steel Extension SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT & STRENGTHENING

Project Investment: \$377,535

Cherokee County Economic Development in Blacksburg has plans to establish a potential industrial park at the end of Henson Road. To accommodate the anticipated growth and development in the area, the project team decided to install an additional 6-inch steel pipeline that connects to the existing main on North Mountain Street. This infrastructure expansion extends approximately 6,600 feet to the boundaries of the potential industrial park, supporting the future needs of business and industry in the area and ensuring a reliable supply of resources for their operations.





Appliance Installation Team installs outdoor gas lanterns at customer's home in Fort Mill

97%
APPLIANCE INSTALL SURVEY

SATISFACTION RATING

Sales associates hosted over **1,100** Showroom visitors, followed up with **365** post-sale customers and handled over **9,150** phone calls from customers.



TOP 2 APPLIANCES SOLD

TANKLESS
WATER HEATER
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1054 quote orders 1082 install orders 1522 service orders





NOTABLE COMMERCIAL PROJECT

### **WINTHROP - MARGARET NANCE DORM**

In March of 2023, we completed our second large water heater project with the Facilities Management department at Winthrop University. The project required replacing the aged and leaking boiler system in the Margaret Nance dorm with a reliable and efficient water heater tank/tankless combination. The three new Rinnai Demand Duo units tied together provide almost 400 gallons of water to keep up with high peak demand. The units serve just over 50 bathrooms within the dorm and several office bathrooms in nearby buildings, providing energy-saving performance and abundant hot water.

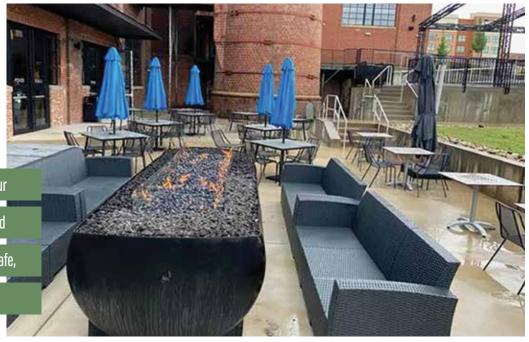
# **BUSINESS** DEVELOPMENT

Contributing to the economic growth of our

community by connecting commercial and

residential development projects with a safe,

affordable, and reliable source of energy



A 10-foot natural gas fire features serves as the outdoor centerpiece of the newly renovated Power House

During FY 2023, teams processed **54** new commercial service lines, **12** commercial and 12 residential main extension projects, 11 residential developer agreements servicing **788** new homes, and handled **711** residential customer requests.

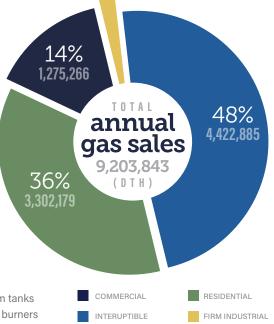
### THE POWER HOUSE

The Power House, located near downtown Rock Hill, is part of the City's ambitious renovation project in the Knowledge Park area. The Power House served the Rock Hill Printing and Finishing Company (The Bleachery) from 1929 to 1999 when the textile site closed its doors. (pictured: Power House before renovation)



For two years, the building went through an exhaustive demolition and remodel by the Sherbert Group. Recently completed, it is a mixed-use retail and residential property housing the Middle James Brewing Co., a barbershop, thirty-five upscale apartments, a food court, and outdoor amphitheater.

Business Development representatives worked closely with the developer to relocate the underground services to the rear of the building (out of site), and helped designed two outdoor fireplaces crafted from tanks found at the building site. Teams worked with an Authority vendor, The Outdoor Plus, to design custom burners for the 10-foot tanks. The converted tanks now provide a warm and welcome space for guests outside the brewery and the food court.



NOTABLE RESIDENTIAL

### **ELIZABETH SUBDIVISION** (Pictured left)

Natural gas was installed in April 2023 for the initial three phases of the Elizabeth Subdivision, a 1,300single-family and townhome community in Fort Mill developed by Lennar Carolinas, Inc. The first three phases included 228 single-family homes and 80 townhomes. The next two phases, totaling 193 single-family homes and 58 townhomes, is set to begin construction in early 2024.

# STONERIDGE HILLS SUBDIVISION

Natural gas was installed in July 2023 for Phase 1 of the Stoneridge Hills subdivision, a 322 single-family community in Rock Hill developed by LGI Homes, Inc. The initial phase included 160 single-family homes. Phase 2, which includes the final 162 single-family homes, is scheduled for installation in 2024.



# MARKETING &COMMUNICATIONS

Sharing the work of the Authority and the natural

gas industry with customers and key stakeholders to

promote safety, education, and trust



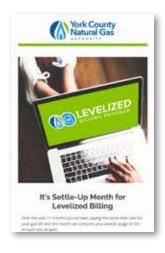




Filming a television commercial promoting the use of outdoor natural gas appliances

### **WEBSITE & EMAIL**

102,002 PAGE VIEWS 38,601 UNIQUE VISITORS



EMAIL

995,502 TOTAL MESSAGES SENT

4% CLICK-THRU RATE
(AVG ACROSS ALL INDUSTRIES: 1.33%)

48% EMAIL OPEN RATE (AVG ACROSS ALL INDUSTRIES: 34.46%)

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Communications that promote both the Authority and the natural gas industry play a crucial role in addressing concerns and educating customers about the benefits of using natural gas. In FY 2023 the gas industry weathered fluctuations in natural gas rates and accusations regarding the safety of gas stoves. Through our bi-annual newsletter, website posts, and monthly emails we are able to effectively communicate and educate customers on the efficiencies and reliability of natural gas. By providing accurate information and addressing any misconceptions, these communication channels empower customers to make informed decisions when it comes to choosing natural gas as their energy source.



1ST PLACE AWARD
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
SAFE DIGGING

The National Safe Digging Month campaign included an online contest featuring a cast of superhero dogs used to promote the use of the state one-call center, SC811 2ND PLACE AWARD
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
REAL ESTATE COMMERCIAL

This video promoted the efficiencies and affordability of a natural gas home, targeting new homebuyers, millennials, and real estate professionals.





Amy Cassidy

12



Coordinating with local first responders to ensure safe practices

### TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

### INTERNAL TRAINING

- . 48 SAFETY AND OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE TRAINING SESSIONS
- OVER **300** OPERATOR QUALIFICATION SESSIONS AND EVALUATIONS
- ADVANCED EMERGENCY RESPONSE TABLETOP EXERCISE
- COMBUSTIBLE GAS INDICATOR (CGI) TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS
- · RADIO COMMUNICATIONS AND COORDINATION WITH YORK COUNTY 911

### **EXTERNAL TRAINING**

- DEVELOPED 5 TABLETOP EXERCISES FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA PIPELINE EMERGENCY
  RESPONSE INITIATIVE (SCPERI) PROGRAM WHICH PROVIDES TRAINING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS
  IN THE STATE.
- PROVIDED TRAINING TO: YORK COUNTY HAZMAT TEAM, FORT MILL FIRE DEPARTMENT. HELD
  PIPELINE SAFETY SEMINARS FOR AREA RESPONDERS

### DAMAGE PREVENTION

Utility damage prevention is crucial in ensuring the safety and reliability of pipelines. Excavation is the primary cause of pipeline damage, making it essential for the Authority to prioritize damage prevention efforts and promote awareness of the state's one-call center, SC811. Training sessions were held with other utilities including the City of Rock Hill Operations and Comporium field technicians.

# EXCAVATION STATS DAMAGES ON MAINS & SERVICES

YEAR	MAIN	SERVICE	TOTAL	TICKETS	
2023	24	160	184	45,446	7
2022	38	192	231	50,549	
2021	42	164	206	49,978	
2020	25	170	195	46,872	
2019	35	161	260	46,385	

(\*) AS OF 11/30/23



### SAFETY MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE & SAFETY

The Authority was recognized for its comprehensive emergency management and response program, highlighting their commitment to consistently operate at the highest safety levels.

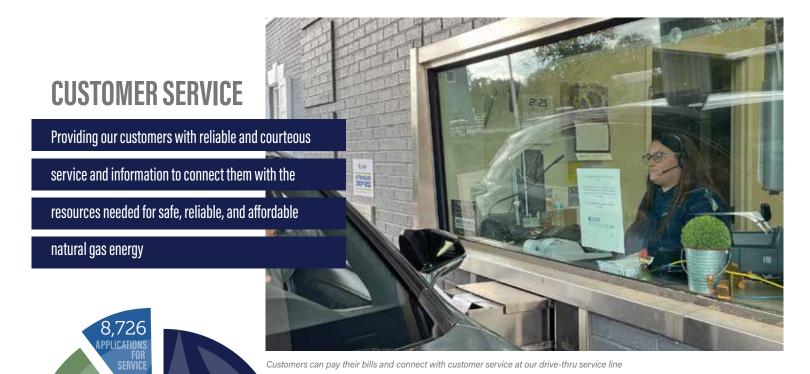
### SAFETY CONTEST AWARD (70,001+ MAN-HOURS)

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE & SAFETY

Recognizing the Authority for its dedication to keeping their employees safe every day on every job. The winner is determined by the number of man-hours worked compared to the number of recordable injuries.



Glen Boatwright



staff of 18

61,003

CALLS

customer

service

**4,243** calls per employee in FY 2023

averaged

### **EXPANDING OUR SUPPORT**

After Dispatch was integrated into Customer Service in 2022, a backup dispatcher was hired in 2023 for improved operational support. The Customer Service team now includes three remittance processors rotating between the cash room and customer service, with weekly rotations of cashiers from the team. These changes signify a strategic approach to enhance efficiency and provide comprehensive customer support.

# **COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIPS**

The Authority strives to develop relationships and partnerships that support the communities we serve. These purposeful partnerships impact and improve the quality of life for all, while ensuring our communities have the resources and support they need to thrive

### **NEF EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIP**

<u> 15,385</u>

Each year the Authority sponsors energy education materials for the classroom. These materials are provided free of charge and offer both online and classroom options for engagement. The Energy Safe Kids program created by the National Energy Foundation (NEF) educates students on the uses of natural gas and encourages important

safety practices to detect or prevent a leak.

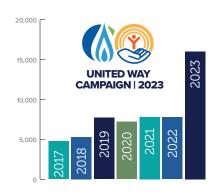
### YMCA SPONSORSHIP

Over 1,200 fourth-grade students in the Rock Hill School District participated in the YMCA Kicking with Confidence Swim Program, sponsored in part by the Authority. Students are provided with a report card that contains swimming safety tips, natural gas safety facts and other branded items.



### **UNITED WAY GIVING**

In 2023, Authority employees more than doubled their contribution to United Way of York County, supporting their goal of helping 3,000 families in York County achieve financial stability by 2030.



The Authority sponsored **26** events & programs across York County & Blacksburg in FY 2023

# **HUMAN RESOURCES & WORKFORCE**

Creating a work environment that values employees and

empowers them to bring the highest quality experience

to customers, Authority stakeholders, and one another



**760** candidates **94** interviews

### **INVESTING IN OUR GREATEST ASSETS**

Human Resources (HR) is essential for managing workforce operations, including recruitment, talent acquisition, and employee development. It plays a key role in ensuring compliance with industry regulations and labor laws while also administering benefits and fostering a positive workplace culture. Ultimately, the HR department contributes to the company's success by shaping and sustaining a skilled and motivated workforce in the dynamic energy sector.

### **IMPROVED BENEFIT GUIDANCE**

Creating a comprehensive step-by-step Health Reimbursement Account guide resulted in record participation by employees.



EDNA continues to service as a valuable resource hub for employees

# **ENGAGEMENT**

Employee engagement activities foster a positive, productive workplace culture, enhance safety, and builds strong team relationships. Investing in employee engagement contributes to a motivated and innovative workforce, ultimately driving organizational success.

### ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- MONTHLY BIRTHDAY BREAKFASTS
- **EMPLOYEE COOKOUTS & FOOD TRUCK CELEBRATIONS**
- RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
- SAFETY MONTH
- RED CROSS CPR/AED/FIRST AID TRAINING
- HOLIDAY MEALS & APPRECIATION EVENTS
- INDUSTRY TRIVIA GAMES WITH PRIZES
- REGULAR EMPLOYEE-ONLY NEWSLETTERS WITH UPDATES ABOUT THE COMPANY



Jimmy Sprouse presents a 25-year anniversary award





APGA NEXT GENERATION AWARD

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS UNDER 35

Amanda Gallagher, Director of Engineering, was recognized by the APGA for making substantial contributions towards the goals of the natural gas industry. The newly created Next Generation Award honors a young professional age 35 or under for their significant achievements and accomplishments.

# PATRIOTS ENERGY GROUP

& PATRIOTS ENERGY GROUP FINANCING AGENCY

Improving the affordability, capacity, and accessibility of natural gas for

customers across York, Chester, and Lancaster counties through strategic

financial partnerships and investment in infrastructure





The newly-completed Compressor Station will increase natural gas capacity across the region

Patriots Energy Group (PEG) is a joint action agency formed in 2001 to bring costeffective and reliable energy to residential, commercial, and industrial customers of Chester County Natural Gas Authority, Lancaster County Natural Gas Authority and York County Natural Gas Authority. The Patriots Energy Group Compressor Station and pipeline are operated and maintained by the employees of York County Natural Gas Authority.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

PATRIOTS ENERGY GROUP COMPRESSOR STATION

In 2019, PEG engaged an outside consulting firm to complete a gas load forecast study addressing the growth in the area and the future peak daily demand for the next 15-years.

THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY ILLUSTRATED THE NEED FOR **ADDITIONAL Infrastructure** to provide a steady and reliable supply of Natural gas to the area well into the future.

In FY 2021, PEG began planning for a compressor station to be constructed in Blacksburg, SC. Throughout FY 2022 & 2023, staff engaged in finalizing details for the station and meeting with key stakeholders about the planned project. The Patriots Energy Group Compressor Station officially broke ground in May of 2022 and physical construction began on October 2022. The Patriots Energy Group Compressor Station was substantially completed on August 31, 2023.

### WHOLESALE PRICES RETURN TO NORMAL

The annual average fiscal year price of gas for FY 2020 was \$2.008, which increased annually to a peak of \$6.122 in FY2022. Fortunately, the members of PEG locked in prices during the low price environment of 2020 (by hedging) and avoided large rate increases for residential and commercial customers. PEG also extended other contracts in 2020 for five years at favorable rates compared to market rates in 2023. Existing prepay transactions in place during FY 2023 also provided a discount to market price gas on a monthly basis. Another benefit to prices during this fiscal year was the ability to sell excess capacity into the marketplace, returning record revenue back to PEG members.

### **FISCAL YEAR HIGHLIGHTS**

COMPRESSOR STATION | CONSTRUCTION AND SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION

HIGH WHOLESALE GAS PRICES | MITIGATED EARLY IN THE FY 2023

DUE TO STRONG HEDGE POSITION

SC NATURAL GAS CONFERENCE | HELD IN GREENVILLE, SC

GAS CONTROL OPERATIONS | TRANSFERRED TO PEG FROM SEMPRA

PREPAY GAS DEAL | SOLIDIFIED THROUGH GOLDMAN SACHS AND COMPLETED

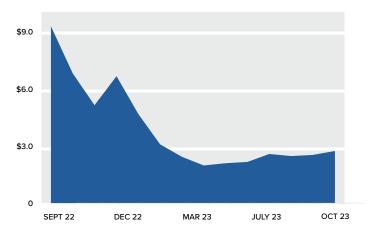
SHORTLY AFTER FY 2023 ENDED

CRITICAL DAYS EXPERIENCED OVER THE HOLIDAYS DECEMBER 23-26, 2022

LNG PLANT RECEIVED DUE DILIGENCE STUDY FROM CB&I

ADDITIONAL CAPACITY | OFFERED BY CAROLINAS MARKET LINK & SOUTHEASTERN ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

### PRICE OF MONTHLY NYMEX NATURAL GAS



16



Patriots Energy Group Financing Agency (PEGFA) is a separate South Carolina Joint Action Agency created in 2018 to secure prepaid gas supply arrangements for Chester, Lancaster, and York County Natural Gas Authorities.

### **COST SAVINGS**

### AVOIDED COSTS (AS OF AUGUST 31, 2023)

By locking in services during the low price environment of 2020, PEG avoided millions in costs for delivered and peaking services in FY 2023.

PEAKING SERVICES \$ 4,479,500
90 & 151 DAY DELIVERED SERVICES \$ 7,487,510

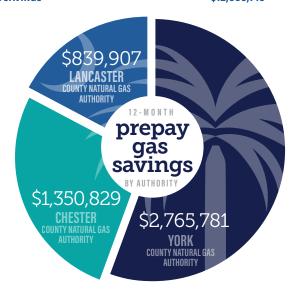
TOTAL COST AVOIDED \$ 11,967,010

### OTHER COST SAVINGS

There are many factors that affect natural gas prices, but the primary factors that drive prices include economic conditions, natural gas storage levels, weather, supply and demand balance, as well as the market's perception of these factors. PEG and its members mitigate exposure to the volatility of prices through hedging, long-term prepayment agreements, and capacity release.

CAROLINA GAS TRANSMISSION (CGT) CAPACITY RELEASE \$ 228,135
TRANSCO CAPACITY RELEASE \$ 8,874,005
HEDGING \$ 3,453,579

### TOTAL SAVINGS \$12,888,719



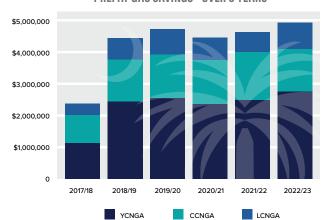
### **BREAKING THROUGHPUT RECORDS (DTS)**

	MONTHLY	12 - M O N T H
SEPTEMBER 2022	796,890	
OCTOBER 2022	1,156,259	
DECEMBER 2022	2,278,576	15,484,734
APRIL 2023	1,054,390	
MAY 2023	941,122	
JUNE 2023	874,265	
JULY 2023	802,866	
AUGUST 2023	873,208	

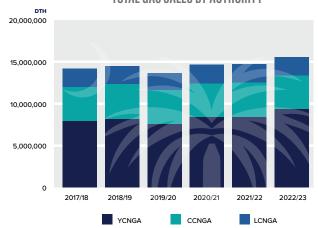
### FINANCING, SUPPLY MANAGEMENT, & SAVINGS

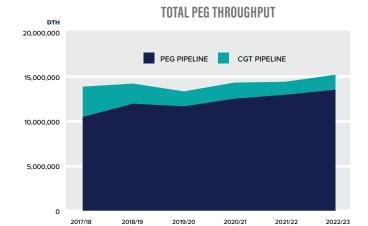
OCT 2022	PUBLIC GAS PARTNERS (PGP) POOL #4 REFUNDS (\$209,819)
NOV 2022	SIGNIFICANT CAPACITY RELEASE REVENUE
AUG 2023	CAROLINA MARKET LINK PROJECT APPROVAL
AUG 2023	PEGEA ADMINISTRATIVE EEES RETURNED (\$325 470)

### PREPAY GAS SAVINGS - OVER 6 YEARS



### TOTAL GAS SALES BY AUTHORITY







979 WEST MAIN STREET | ROCK HILL, SC | (803) 323-5304

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