



**For Immediate Release**

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**ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION AND  
VERMONT GAS REACH AGREEMENT**

*Natural gas service to Addison County will bring lower cost, cleaner energy for homes, businesses*

**Middlebury, VT.** – The Addison County Regional Planning Commission has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Vermont Gas for the first phase of construction of a natural gas transmission in Addison County. The Addison Natural Gas Project will bring natural gas service to Vergennes, Monkton, New Haven, Middlebury, Bristol, and St. George.

The agreement, signed on August 13, 2013, addresses service to communities, energy efficiency, public safety, community engagement and conditions of construction – including protection of environmentally sensitive areas. The agreement was filed with the Public Service Board as part of the State of Vermont’s regulatory proceedings.

“This is an important milestone in the ongoing efforts to provide natural gas and energy efficiency services to Addison County and eventually Rutland,” said Don Gilbert, president and CEO of Vermont Gas. “The Commission’s hard work and guidance has strengthened this project and increased its benefits to the county. With their leadership we were able to reach agreement on the issues most important to the community and enhance the economic and environmental advantages of this important project.”

“ACRPC is pleased to enter a Memorandum of Understanding with Vermont Gas supporting the construction of the Addison Natural Gas Project, subject to the conditions contained in the Memorandum,” said Adam Lougee, Executive Director for the commission. “We believe the conditions in the MOU address nearly all the concerns raised by the Addison Regional Commission concerning the project. We are especially pleased that Vermont Gas has chosen to provide service to the village areas of each of the towns through which Phase I of the Transmission line passes.”

“The natural gas distribution infrastructure will help our villages to develop in accordance with the regional plan and state planning goals calling for compact villages surrounded by rural countryside,” Lougee added.

Other provisions provide for increased training for the region’s emergency responders, employment opportunities for the region’s workers, educational opportunities for the regional technical education center and a dedicated liaison during construction to address the concerns of residents and businesses.

Vermont Gas customers converting from oil or propane can often reduce heating bills by as much as 50%, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 25%. Vermont Gas currently serves more than 45,000 customers in Franklin and Chittenden counties and is currently working to expand service into Addison and Rutland counties through the Addison Natural Gas Project. The company’s long heritage for safe and reliable operations includes its award-winning energy-efficiency programs, which reduce energy use while saving \$13 million annually for homes and businesses. For more information about the Addison Natural Gas Project, visit [www.addisonnaturalgas.com](http://www.addisonnaturalgas.com).

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