



December 3, 2020

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Council of State Governments  
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**To the National Organizations Representing State and Local Government Leaders:**

On behalf of the organizations we collectively represent, thank you for your leadership and for your work to help your members continue to respond to, and recover from, the COVID-19 pandemic. We assure you that our members—the nation's electric and natural gas utilities, independent power producers, and nuclear generators—also remain committed to keeping electricity and natural gas flowing and to helping our customers, communities, and employees stay safe and healthy.

With so many Americans now working and learning from home, the safe and reliable energy our members and federal electric utilities produce and deliver is more important than ever. Earlier this year, we asked your members to prioritize access to testing and personal protective

equipment (PPE) for a small subset of highly skilled, mission-essential energy workers. We appreciate the support you provided.

With COVID-19 vaccines now nearing final approval and release, we are asking that your members designate our mission-essential workers as high priority for voluntary access to initial inoculation. These employees are highly specialized and cannot work from home or in isolation from others on the job site. The work they perform is critical to public health and safety, as well as our economic and national security.

Prioritizing vaccination access for mission-essential workers is consistent with guidance contained in the October 2, 2020, “Framework for Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine” by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.<sup>i</sup> The final report recommends that critical infrastructure workers be considered for prioritization based upon their job function and exposure to risks.

Please encourage your members to reach out to their individual electric and natural gas utilities in their states to discuss vaccine prioritization for mission-essential workers who choose to receive a vaccination—those who operate power generation facilities, staff the control rooms that serve as the nerve centers for transmission and distribution networks, and maintain the system and do emergency repairs as well as maintenance during planned refueling and capital projects.<sup>ii</sup>  
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Thank you again for the work you are doing to prioritize health and safety and for your assistance with this urgent request. We all have an important role to play in helping our country continue to navigate through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

American Gas Association  
American Public Gas Association  
American Public Power Association  
Edison Electric Institute  
Electric Power Supply Association  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
North America's Building Trades Unions  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners

cc:

U.S. Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency,  
Acting Director Brandon Wales

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/a-framework-for-equitable-allocation-of-vaccine-for-the-novel-coronavirus>

<sup>ii</sup> [Mission-Essential Workforce - Testing and Protecting Mission-Essential Control Center and Generation Facility Personnel Is Fundamental – Updated April 2, 2020 \(www.electricitysubsector.org\)](https://www.electricitysubsector.org/Mission-Essential-Workforce-Testing-and-Protecting-Mission-Essential-Control-Center-and-Generation-Facility-Personnel-Is-Fundamental-Updated-April-2-2020)

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>