



Distrigas

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**Citizens Energy/Distrigas Heat Assistance Program Created
to Help Natural Gas Customers in Need**

\$1 Million Yearly Commitment from Distrigas Will Sustain Massachusetts Program

EVERETT, Mass. January 25, 2005 - Citizens Energy Corporation today announced a partnership with Distrigas of Massachusetts to create a program to help natural gas customers in need pay their heating bills. Under the leadership of Joseph P. Kennedy II, Citizens Energy has already successfully implemented a similar initiative for residential customers using home heating oil.

Distrigas is donating \$250,000 to start the Citizens Energy/Distrigas Heat Assistance Program (CEDHAP) and plans to commit approximately \$1 million in calendar year 2005 and each year going forward from the proceeds of every liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargo delivered to its terminal in Everett. Natural gas customers who have either exhausted their federal fuel assistance benefits or who are ineligible to receive them but are still struggling to pay heating bills will be the direct recipients of this program.

"As these people face higher and higher energy bills, we feel we have a responsibility to help them stay warm," said Rick Grant, president and CEO of Distrigas.

The partnership was announced at the Everett home of Joe Murphy, a World War II veteran who has faced increasing difficulties paying his energy bills during the cold winter months. "It's become tougher and tougher to heat my house as costs have gone up and temperatures have gone down," said Murphy. "This new program will make a real difference in my household budget."

Demand for natural gas has been and is expected to continue growing faster than that for any other single fuel in New England. The Everett terminal's part in the region's aggregate energy picture is significant. The terminal currently meets approximately 20% of New England's annual natural gas demand - but that percentage can climb much higher on the coldest days of the year.

"We're proud to work with Distrigas to provide a helping hand to families in need," said Kennedy. "When energy costs skyrocket, the most vulnerable households in our region face a real crisis, especially in the cold winter months. We believe that fuel assistance is an essential part of helping our communities build a secure future."

The program is designed to assist natural gas users who are either ineligible to receive federal fuel assistance but are still struggling to pay heating bills or who have exhausted their governmental fuel assistance allotments and need further help. Callers to a new Citizens Energy hotline can receive a \$150 credit on their gas utility bills this year in a simple two-step process:

1. Leave their name and address on the hotline, and an application form will be mailed to the household within 24 hours
2. Applicants will fill out the form and return it to Citizens Energy along with a copy of their gas utility bill. The program will then credit the household's gas account.

Households who believe they may qualify for assistance through this program are encouraged to call: 1-866-GAS-9918.

Citizens Energy Corporation exists to help make life's basic needs more accessible and affordable. Beginning in 1979 with oil-trading ventures in Latin America and Africa, Citizens has used revenues from commercial enterprises to channel millions of dollars into charitable programs in the U.S. and abroad. Whether heating the homes of the elderly and poor in Massachusetts, lowering the cost of healthcare for millions of Americans, or starting solar heating projects in Jamaica and Venezuela, Citizens creates social ventures as innovative as the businesses that finance them. At the same time, Citizens Energy is constantly on the lookout to use market opportunities to help the poor and needy. At Citizens Energy, we believe no one should be left out in the cold.

More than 30 years ago, the management of Distrigas of Massachusetts saw a future in liquefied natural gas (LNG). As the United States' longest-operating LNG importer, the company has been a driving force in the adoption of this safe, clean-burning fuel in New England and other parts of the United States. The company's import terminal in Everett currently meets approximately 20% of New England's annual gas demand by serving almost every gas utility in the region and key power producers, including a neighboring 1,550 MW power plant able to generate enough electricity for approximately 1.5 million homes in Greater Boston. In addition, the company imports LNG to fill a network of more than 40 local, customer-owned LNG storage tanks around the region. Together with LNG from the Everett terminal, this LNG is capable of meeting about 35-40% of the region's gas demand on very cold winter days.

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