



RESOLUTION 16-1
Supporting State Programs to Regulate Underground
Natural Gas Storage Well Safety

WHEREAS, the underground storage of natural gas within states is a vital process to ensure efficient development and production of domestic resources; and

WHEREAS, for decades public utilities and natural gas transportation companies have integrated underground natural gas storage into their interstate and intrastate pipeline operations to increase deliverability and decrease overall costs; and

WHEREAS, there are over 400 active underground storage facilities in 30 states, with a combined storage capacity of over nine trillion cubic feet – about 35 percent of the annual natural gas consumption in the United States.

WHEREAS, many states have adopted rules and regulations regarding the operation of underground natural gas storage facilities for the purposes of public health and safety, and environmental protection, and these rules and regulations are currently implemented under state authority; and

WHEREAS, member states of the Ground Water Protection Council have trained personnel to actively and effectively regulate underground storage of natural gas; and

WHEREAS, a federal court ruling in Kansas has brought into question the authority of states to regulate certain underground natural gas storage facilities associated with the interstate transmission of natural gas; and

WHEREAS, legislation by Congress will serve to clarify underground natural gas storage facilities safety regulation;

WHEREAS, the Ground Water Protection Council and the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, acting on behalf of states through the States First Initiative, have agreed to assemble a multi-constituency task force to encourage continuous improvement in state underground storage regulations and procedures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ground Water Protection Council hereby declares its support for legislation that clarifies that states are not preempted from regulating the subsurface portion of underground natural gas storage facilities, including wells, wellheads and storage reservoirs, for the purposes of public health and safety, and environmental protection.

Certified To and Attested By: Corporate Seal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "m. Paque", written in a cursive style.

Michel J. Paque
Secretary
Ground Water Protection Council