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25 March, 2020

To: CyberSecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency
Department of Homeland Security
Via Email

From: Rob Thornton, President & CEO

Re: **District Energy Systems Addition to Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce List - Energy**

Dear CISA,

On behalf of the members of the International District Energy Association, we respectfully request that you add **“District Energy Systems Workforce” to the listing of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce** on <https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19>

District energy systems provide steam, hot water and chilled water from central plants through underground piping networks to provide space heating, domestic hot water, air conditioning and other processes to connected customer buildings in cities, communities, campuses, healthcare and institutional settings. The supply of thermal energy for heating, cooling, process, sterilization and other uses is of critical importance and represents essential infrastructure in our nation’s cities and other settings. Therefore, for safety and security reasons, it is vitally important that the workforce of these systems are able to travel without unnecessary restriction and are included in the CISA DHS listing of essential workforce for the energy industry. Currently the listing

Our members operate systems in large cities like New York City, Boston, San Francisco, Washington, DC, St. Louis, Chicago, Houston, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Chicago, New Orleans and frankly too many to list. Additionally, our members operate district energy systems on hundreds of college and university campuses that provide not only mission-critical service to the buildings on campus, but often are the primary supply of thermal energy to contiguous medical centers and hospitals. There are over 900 operating systems in the US. <https://www.districtenergy.org/resources/resources/system-maps>

Therefore, I am writing to ask that your listing on <https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19> - immediately be expanded to include **“District energy, district heating, district cooling and microgrid systems”** to ensure that our members can continue to provide critical life safety energy services, have access to streets and rights of way in order to perform needed maintenance, inspections and operations for our customers.

I appreciate your prompt consideration and am available at +1-508-254-7369 (mobile) or at rob.idea@districtenergy.org if you have any questions. Please visit www.districtenergy.org for more information on our industry and our member systems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert P. Thornton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert P. Thornton, President & CEO