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**Vergennes Voters Endorse Addison Rutland Natural Gas Project**

**Vergennes, Vt.** – Voters in the City of Vergennes Tuesday overwhelmingly approved the City Council’s decision to support Vermont Gas’ proposal to provide more affordable, cleaner and safe natural gas to residents and businesses.

According to city officials, the final tally was 70 percent (345 votes) in favor of the natural gas expansion project and 29 percent (143 votes) against.

The Addison-Rutland Natural Gas Project will cut heating costs in half for homeowners and businesses, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 25 percent. Under the plan, Vermont Gas will make service available to over 98% of the homes and businesses in Vergennes.

“We are very grateful for the strong endorsement Vergennes voters have provided for the Addison Rutland Natural Gas Project. They’ve not only voted for cleaner, safer and more affordable natural gas, they’ve also acknowledged its role in having a stronger economy and a healthier environment” said Don Gilbert, president and CEO of Vermont Gas. “The people of Vergennes deserve the same energy choices and economic opportunities available in Chittenden County and we appreciate their support as we work to bring the significant economic and environmental benefits of natural gas to Vergennes, and to more homes and businesses in Addison and Rutland counties.”

Vermont Gas serves almost 50,000 customers in Franklin and Chittenden counties and is currently working to expand service into Addison and Rutland counties through the Addison-Rutland 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 current customers \$13 million annually for homes and businesses. For more information about the Addison-Rutland Natural Gas Project, visit [www.addisonrutlandnaturalgas.com](http://www.addisonrutlandnaturalgas.com).