

**Revised Memorandum of Understanding Establishing  
The Western States and Tribal Nations Natural Gas Initiative (WSTN) Between Utah Governor's Office of  
Energy Development, the Ute Indian Tribe, the Secretariat of Economic Development of Baja California  
Mexico, the Colorado counties of Garfield, Mesa, Moffat and Rio Blanco, the Wyoming Energy Authority, and  
the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department**

**This Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of the Western States Rural Natural Gas Initiative (WSRNGI)** is made this 18th day of November 2019, and includes the Utah Governor's Office of Energy Development, the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uinta and Ouray Reservation ("Ute Indian Tribe"), the Secretariat of Economic Development of Baja California Mexico, the Colorado counties of Garfield, Mesa, Moffat, and Rio Blanco, Wyoming Energy Authority, and New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, which are collectively referred to as the "Parties" and individually as "Party".

WHEREAS, the Ute Indian Tribe is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, and possesses sovereign authority to regulate Tribal economic affairs, and to safeguard and promote the peace, safety, morals and general welfare of the Ute Indian Tribe by regulating the conduct of trade and the use and disposition of property, including natural resources, within the Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the Western States Rural Natural Gas Initiative ("Initiative") began as a collaboration between State Energy Offices, including the Colorado Energy Office and Utah Governor's Office of Energy Development; the Initiative's mission is to promote rural economic development by supporting development of markets for natural gas produced from the Uinta Basin, Piceance Basin, and Green River Basin (collectively "Basins"); and

WHEREAS, with the additional of new Parties, the Initiative has expanded to also promote the development of markets for natural gas produced from the San Juan Basin and the Permian Basin in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Initiative has conducted a comprehensive study, "**Western States Rural Natural Gas Initiative (WSNRGI): Natural Gas Market Enhancement and Infrastructure Initiative**" (the "Report"), and the Signatory Offices commissioned the Report with the recognition that Eastern Utah, Southern Wyoming, Western Colorado, and Northwestern and Southeastern New Mexico share economic opportunities with vast, world-class reserves of natural gas. These energy products have potential to influence geopolitics, reduce global emissions, enhance American manufacturing, contribute to North America's energy security, rejuvenate and diversify rural economies in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Report, issued in April 2019, demonstrates that there are abundant energy resources in the Basins, the development of which would enhance the gas economy in the Uinta Basin for the collective benefit of the Ute Indian Tribe, its members, and other interest-holders in the Uinta Basin; and

WHEREAS, the Initiative, as planned, would utilize the Uinta Basin's natural resources, which invokes the sovereign interests of the Tribe and authority of the Tribe to promote the development of its natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Report's recommended next steps for the unique partnership between the Signatory Offices include initiating a process of collaborative exploration of new end markets through a western state and tribal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). In recognition of this process, it is recommended that the name created for the Report's release - **Western States Rural Natural Gas Initiative (WSRNGI)** transition to a formal, non-profit entity called **Western States and Tribal Nations Natural Gas Initiative (WSTN)**; and

WHEREAS, the Report recommends that Western States and Tribal Nations (WSTN) establish itself as a 501(c)(4) non-profit entity with accompanying articles of incorporation, bylaws, and such documents as necessary to effectuate this MOU, that will outline the vision/mission/values of the group and provide structure to the organization; and

WHEREAS, Western States and Tribal Nations (WSTN) will establish a Board of Directors to serve on the 501(c)(4) consisting of qualified individuals with unique expertise nominated by the participating state energy offices, counties, and tribal organizations to provide governance and strategic direction of the organization.

WHEREAS, this process will develop a proactive framework for facilitating conversations between a diverse group of stakeholders including the natural gas industry, LNG exporters, conservation groups, outdoor recreation groups and other relevant stakeholders. This framework will provide the blueprint for establishment of WSTN and will cover three primary areas of focus:

- Education: Build a platform of engagement for policymakers, public officials and the general public to better understand the full resource potential of the Basins, domestic and international energy markets, geopolitics, economic expansion and in addressing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions;
- Advocacy: Communicate the opportunity and benefits of providing natural gas, produced under the highest regulatory standards, for domestic and international markets;
- Collaboration & Engagement: Develop a framework for stakeholder engagement where interest groups and stakeholders can convene, provide input and help steer the WSTN process; and

WHEREAS, WSTN issues an invitation to the Ute Indian Tribe to join the Signatory Offices, and nominate an individual expert to serve in Board capacity and provide direction and governance for the organization.

WHEREAS, WSTN extends an invitation to the Colorado counties of Garfield, Mesa, Moffat, and Rio Blanco to join as a signatory to the MOU, nominate an individual expert to serve in a Board capacity and provide direction and governance for the organization

WHEREAS, WSTN extends an invitation to the Wyoming Energy Authority to join as a signatory to the

MOU, nominate an individual expert to serve in a Board capacity and provide direction and governance for the organization.

WHEREAS, WSTN extends an invitation for the State of New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department to join as a signatory to this MOU to focus on promotion of the development of markets for natural gas produced from the San Juan Basin and the Permian Basin in New Mexico and nominate an individual expert to serve in a Board capacity to provide direction and governance for the organization.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Directors and Advisors of the Signatory Offices and the Ute Indian Tribe we express our mutual understanding and cooperative relationship as follows:

1. OVERALL COMMITMENT

- a. The Parties agree to coordinate actions and support the successful completion and delivery of the Report to the respective States, Counties, and Tribal Officials of the Signatory Offices States by undertaking the actions outlined herein.

2. KEY STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION

- a. Where appropriate, the Parties will engage and collaborate with relevant WSTN stakeholders including but not limited to, universities, natural gas producers and developers, natural gas midstream companies, energy consumer groups, county commissioners and economic development offices.

3. SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS

- a. Any Party may terminate participation in this MOU at any time and by its sole discretion through a written statement submitted to the other Parties.
- b. Other states, counties, and tribal nations committed to the conditions and activities described above may sign on to this Memorandum to become a Party.
- c. This Memorandum may be amended through the collective agreement of the authorized representatives of the Parties.
- d. The establishment of WSTN as a 501c4 will be dependent upon securing funding.
- e. Parties commit to meeting on a quarterly basis in order to review the progress on the WSTN.

4. NONBINDING AGREEMENT

- a. This Memorandum is only a statement of the Parties' mutual intentions and is not a legally binding agreement. This Memorandum does not create a contract or other legally enforceable commitments. It is mutually understood that the Parties may, at any time at its sole discretion, discontinue participation in this Memorandum, reject, or deviate from any proposals developed by the Parties.

This Memorandum Addendum establishing **Western States and Tribal Nations Natural Gas Initiative** recognizes the commitment of the Signatory Offices (**Utah Office of Energy Development, Ute Indian Tribe, the Secretariat of Economic Development of Baja California Mexico, Colorado counties of Garfield, Mesa, Moffat, and Rio Blanco, Wyoming Energy Authority, New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department**) for the support, development and implementation of the **r e c o m m e n d a t i o n s** by **Western States Rural Natural Gas Initiative: Natural Gas Market Enhancement and Infrastructure Initiative**.

**Ute Indian Tribe**



**Utah Governor's Office of Energy Development**



**Secretariat of Economic Development of Baja California**



**Wyoming Energy Authority**



**Moffat County, Colorado**



**Mesa County, Colorado**



**Rio Blanco County, Colorado**



**Garfield County, Colorado**



**New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department**

