System Density -- Natural Gas Customers per Mile of Main

- As a measure of system density, the ratio of natural gas customers per mile of main has declined about 25% since 1970, from roughly 70 to just over 50 in 2013.

- This indicates that connecting a customer to the natural gas system requires a longer length of main today than in the past, putting upward pressure on relative construction costs.

- However, it also indicates that gas utilities may be expanding their geographic footprint to more rural areas.

Natural Gas Utility System Density
Customers Per Mile of Main

Source: Gas Facts American Gas Association, various years

Note: Excludes services. System density is calculated: Total Number of Customers / Total Miles of Main

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