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Energy Infrastructure Council and GPA Midstream Release First-Ever EIC/GPA Midstream ESG Reporting Template

(Washington, DC - December 2, 2020) – The Energy Infrastructure Council (EIC) and GPA Midstream Association today released the first-ever **EIC/GPA Midstream ESG Reporting Template** designed to help midstream energy infrastructure companies present their sustainability metrics in an accurate, timely, concise, and consistent manner to investors, policymakers, and the broader public.

The EIC recognized the growing importance of ESG reporting and the quickly evolving landscape. Therefore, in 2019, the EIC established a Board level ESG Working Group co-chaired by Alan Armstrong, President and CEO, The Williams Companies, Inc. and Bob Phillips, Chairman, President and CEO, Crestwood Equity Partners LP. The Working Group’s mission is to provide ESG best practices, guidance, and resources to assist member companies in their own ESG journeys. As part of this mission, the EIC ESG Working Group undertook an effort to develop an ESG Reporting Template to serve as the primary ESG reporting mechanism for midstream energy companies.

Almost a year in the making, this Reporting Template is the product of extensive review of best-practice ESG reporting among EIC member companies and the ESG reporting requirements from numerous critical stakeholders. This collaborative process, that included members from both EIC and GPA Midstream, involved significant participation from in-house ESG specialists and professionals with operational and technical expertise. Importantly, to ensure widespread adoption, the Working Group also received critical input and guidance from numerous investors.

“We are pleased at the steadfast support we received in developing this initiative from our co-chairs, the EIC Board, EIC and GPA Midstream member companies, and investors,” said Lori Ziebart, President and CEO of EIC. *“Given the current, disparate reporting environment, we believed it was critical to have a uniform set of reporting metrics for the midstream sector to provide clear, consistent, meaningful and quantitative data that could be used to accurately measure midstream company ESG contributions and progress.”*

“This is a game-changer for the midstream energy infrastructure sector,” said EIC ESG Working Group co-chair Bob Phillips. *“What the EIC Working Group has done, with support from GPA Midstream, will dramatically expand quantitative and qualitative ESG reporting by midstream companies, assist all of us on our ESG journeys, and provide metrics for investors to make apples-to-apples comparisons of companies rather than applying a one-size-fits-all approach that fails to recognize the nuances within the energy sector nor the advancements the midstream sector is making related to ESG.”*

Co-chair Alan Armstrong stated, *“As an industry, we are committed to demonstrating real and sustainable achievements in ESG reporting. This initiative by EIC, coupled with a comprehensive best practices toolkit and ongoing education of member companies, enables broad adoption of sound and meaningful ESG principles and metrics throughout the sector while highlighting the innovation and excellence of the midstream industry.”*

GPA Midstream President and CEO Joel Moxley echoed his support for the ESG Reporting Template. *"GPA Midstream was pleased to join the efforts of EIC to develop this template, and we believe collaborations like this one will underscore for all stakeholders that midstream companies are committed to measurable improvements in ESG,"* Moxley said. *"It's important for an organization like ours, which represents public and private companies alike, to participate in this effort so our members can report their results and their commitments to transparency in this space."*

In addition to working toward widespread company and investor adoption, the EIC and GPA Midstream are committed to engaging with the most important ESG rating agencies and standard setters to ensure alignment and consistency between the ESG Midstream Company Reporting Template and the various channels through which investors access ESG information for the midstream sector.

The EIC, together with GPA Midstream, is pleased to release the ESG Reporting Template for midstream companies. The Template certainly will advance over time to ensure it takes into account the evolving ESG landscape and the progression of midstream company ESG journeys so that it remains the primary reporting channel for ESG information relevant to midstream investors.

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The Energy Infrastructure Council (EIC) is a non-profit trade association dedicated to advancing the interests of companies that develop and operate energy infrastructure. EIC addresses core public policy issues critical to investment in America's energy infrastructure. Membership is comprised of traditional and renewable energy infrastructure companies irrespective of company form, including public and private C-corporations, LLCs, partnerships, MLPs, and infrastructure REITS. Members also include service providers, investors, and other businesses and individuals supporting the industry. For more information, visit www.eic.energy.

GPA Midstream Association represents more than 70 corporate members of all sizes. GPA Midstream members are engaged in the gathering and processing of natural gas into saleable pipeline gas, which are commonly referred to as midstream activities in the energy industry. As the primary advocates for the midstream industry, the association enhances the viability of natural gas, natural gas liquids and crude oil through research, technical, environmental, safety and advocacy activities. For more information, visit GPAMidstream.org.

STRONG INVESTOR SUPPORT FOR THE MIDSTREAM COMPANY ESG REPORTING TEMPLATE

Brookfield Asset Management: *“At Brookfield, sound ESG practices are integral to building resilient businesses and creating long-term value for our investors and stakeholders. We aspire to manage our investments with integrity, balancing economic goals with responsible citizenship. We fully support EIC’s recent ESG undertakings and the finalized template, as it aligns with our sustainable investing objectives,”* said Jeff Jorgensen, Managing Director and Portfolio Manager, Brookfield Public Securities Group.

ClearBridge Investments: *“At ClearBridge, ESG principles have been part of our investment process since 1987. Today, ESG is fully integrated into our fundamental research across all industry sectors and all investment strategies. The finalized ESG reporting template for EIC companies will greatly improve our ability to internally rate Energy Infrastructure companies on ESG practices, as we do with all investments. We applaud EIC for putting forth a template that offers investors broader and more uniform ESG disclosures. This will contribute to more informed and better investment decisions for our clients,”* said Terrence Murphy, CEO of ClearBridge Investments.

Cohen & Steers: *“As a leader in listed real assets and alternative income solutions committed to investment excellence, we integrate ESG considerations into our investment decisions as we believe companies that incorporate these factors into their strategic plans and operations can enhance long-term shareholder value and mitigate potential risks. Consistent with this objective, we support EIC’s initiative to develop a standard ESG reporting template as it promotes transparency of companies’ ESG initiatives and metrics to provide consistent and useful information to enable shareholders to make informed investment decisions,”* said Tyler Rosenlicht, Head of Midstream Energy and MLPs, Cohen & Steers.

Eagle Global: Michael Cerasoli, Co-Head of the Energy Infrastructure Team, Eagle Global said, *“We at Eagle Global have long incorporated governance into the risk mitigation component of our investment strategies, and for several years have also emphasized environmental and social factors. We believe these base concepts are the foundation to constructing high quality investment portfolios focused on long-term shareholder returns. We therefore welcome and applaud the EIC’s recent ESG initiatives that will provide both us and the general public with better visibility into the critical infrastructure our sector provides.”*

Goldman Sachs Asset Management: *“We were excited to provide input for the standardized ESG reporting template and applaud the EIC for coordinating this effort. It’s a critical first step towards increasing transparency for investors and setting long-term ESG priorities, the latter of which we believe is particularly important as companies focus on reducing their carbon footprint and investors mandate improved corporate governance in the form of management alignment with shareholders and more sustainable operating models. We strongly encourage all midstream companies to adopt this template and believe it should continue to evolve with stakeholder objectives,”* said Kyri Loupis, Head of Energy Infrastructure & Renewables, Goldman Sachs Asset Management.

Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors: *“At Kayne Anderson, ESG factors are an important component in our investment decision-making process. We encourage companies to adopt the EIC’s Reporting Template as it promotes transparency and helps standardize reporting of ESG metrics for energy infrastructure companies,”* said Jim Baker, Managing Partner, Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors.

TortoiseEcofin: Matt Sallee, President, Tortoise said, *“TortoiseEcofin has a long-standing commitment to corporate responsibility. As part of our mission to make an impact through essential asset investing, each of the firm’s business lines integrates the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (“PRI”), the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (“SDGs”) and other environmental, social, and governance (“ESG”) factors throughout the security selection and post investment monitoring processes. We fully support the EIC’s work creating a template that assists member entities in organizing and standardizing ESG disclosures. This initiative aligns with our active engagement approach with management teams through discussions and our published Essential Playbook for Midstream Management (<https://tortoiseecofin.com/media/3401/essential-playbook-for-midstream-management.pdf>). We encourage all midstream companies to adopt the EIC reporting template.”*