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**Utilities United Against Scams Presented with The Fraud Fighter Award for Protecting the Public from Fraudulent Activities and Impostor Utility Scams**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 7, 2018)** — Utilities United Against Scams (UUAS) recently was awarded the Toll-Free Industry’s Fraud Fighter Award in recognition of its advocacy and awareness campaign to stop scams that target electric, water, and natural gas companies’ customers. UUAS was presented the award on October 10 at the Toll-Free User Summit hosted by Somos, Inc., in Las Vegas.

UUAS, a consortium of more than 100 U.S. and Canadian electric, water, and natural gas companies, and their respective trade associations, works across the industry with regulators, law enforcement, and other telecommunications partners to stop scams targeting utility customers. UUAS and its member companies have helped to shut down more than 2,200 Toll-Free Numbers used by scammers against utility customers.

“Electric, water, and natural gas services are vital to our everyday lives, and we must be vigilant to ensure scammers are unable to take advantage of utility customers,” said National Grid’s Vice President of Regulatory and Customer Strategy and UUAS Executive Committee Vice Chair Sheri Givens. “UUAS will continue to help spread awareness of malicious and evolving tactics that scammers use to target customers. It is important for customers to reach out to their utilities directly to if they have any questions about the status of their accounts or law enforcement officials if they suspect any fraudulent activity.”

The Toll-Free Industry Awards were established to recognize individuals and companies that are at the forefront of innovation and thought leadership in the Toll-Free Industry. The Fraud Fighter Award is presented annually and is given to an individual or organization actively working to protect the public from fraudulent activities and scams.

Customers who suspect that they have been victims of fraud or who feel threatened during contact with one of these scammers should contact their utility company or local law enforcement authorities. If someone calls, texts, appears, or emails saying you have to pay your bill immediately to avoid disconnection, tell them you would like to verify that they are a legitimate utility company representative by calling a verified number for the utility company found on the utility’s website or on your monthly bill. The Federal Trade Commission’s website is also a good source of information about how to protect personal information and to educate yourself on the different types of impostor scams.

Visit [www.utilitiesunited.org](http://www.utilitiesunited.org) for more information and tips about how customers can protect themselves from impostor utility scams or follow along on social media: Twitter @U\_U\_A\_S and Facebook @UtilitiesUnited.

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*Utilities United Against Scams (UUAS) is a consortium of more than 100 U.S. and Canadian electric, water, and natural gas utilities (and their respective trade associations). UUAS is dedicated to combating impostor utility scams by providing a forum for utilities and trade associations to share data and best practices, in addition to working together to implement initiatives to inform and protect customers.*