

**NEWS RELEASE** 

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## HOUSTON'S FREEDOM CNG OPENS PUBLIC FUELING STATION AT HOUSTON DISTRIBUTING COMPANY

Compressed Natural Gas station to service new CNG fleet and Northwest Harris County

(Houston, Texas) Freedom CNG will open its second truck friendly fast fill compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station in Houston today in cooperation with Houston Distributing Company (HDC), CenterPoint Energy and the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC), further encouraging the local use of clean fuel vehicles in southeast Texas.

"Freedom CNG's vision for the future is to provide enough truck friendly fast-fill CNG fueling stations in the Houston area for fleets to have the confidence to adopt CNG as their fuel of choice," said Bill Winters, Managing Member of Freedom CNG. "When fleet owners believe they can fuel their vehicles in any area of the county, CNG adoption will occur rapidly and become widespread."

Winters said there are approximately 100,000 short haul diesel vehicles in the eight counties surrounding Houston and it has been estimated that replacing one 1990-era Class 8 diesel truck with a CNG powered truck is comparable to removing 65 trucks from service.

"Replacing older diesel vehicles with CNG power creates a significant clean air dividend for the entire community," added Winters.

The station is located across from HDC's facility at 7155 High Life Drive and will service the company's newest additions to its fleet - twenty-eight (12 liter) CNG powered Peterbilt tractors to transport product from Fort Worth to Houston.

"HDC is leading the industry in the use of alternative fuels," said Rick Roberts, General Manager. "As we diversify our fuel mix, we are proud to partner with Freedom CNG to promote a cleaner burning, cost effective fuel for our fleet and our neighbors in Northwest Harris County. We recognize the future risk of crude oil spikes and its potentially devastating effects on our business and have selected CNG to help mitigate that risk."

The station at HDC, like Freedom CNG's first station located at its headquarters in south Houston at 6002 Debbielou Gardens Drive, will serve third party users from passenger vehicles to tractor trailers, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

CNG is a fossil fuel substitute for gasoline, diesel fuel, or propane and is the cleanest burning alternative fuel available. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), CNG's combustion produces 20 percent less carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas), 70 percent less carbon monoxide, 89 percent less

volatile organic compounds and 87 percent less nitrogen oxide than petroleum-fueled vehicles. According to the American Natural Gas Association (ANGA), diesel exhaust includes more than 40 substances that are listed by the EPA as hazardous air pollutants. By embracing natural gas vehicles, Americans can take a very practical step to help clean the air in their communities.

"Natural gas is plentiful in Texas and can help reduce the country's reliance on foreign oil. In fact, Houston has an abundance of natural gas pipelines running through the area, and delivery of the product in the form of CNG to the consumer is both safe and clean," said Winters. "Transferring natural gas from the pipeline to the tank of an upfitted CNG vehicle is a relatively simple process."

CNG fueling stations can tap directly into midstream gas pipelines and the local distribution network which deliver pipeline quality gas to various end user locations. Pipeline companies work with fuel distributors like Freedom CNG to tap into the actual line, install a compressor station and dispensers and meter the natural gas to its customers.

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## ABOUT FREEDOM CNG

Freedom CNG was born out of an immediate need for a cleaner, affordable fuel for local wood recycler and products manufacturing company, NOVUS Wood Group LP, a leader in environmentally friendly processes and solutions. Freedom CNG is dedicated to developing a fueling infrastructure for NOVUS' fleet and for others interested in lowering fuel costs, playing a role in improving the air quality in Texas and reducing dependence on foreign oil. For more information about Freedom CNG, visit <u>www.freedomcng.com</u> or dial 281-484-3875