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Proposed settlement with EPA on RICE MACT

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reportedly agrees with GPA's suggested approach on our two primary RICE MACT issues: 1. to establish work practice standards rather than emissions limits for engines required to install catalysts, and 2. to use the DOT classification system to identify "remote" engines, which would not be required to install catalysts.

Attorneys at the Department of Justice are working on a draft settlement agreement that EPA plans to share with GPA soon. We likely will have the opportunity to review the draft proposed rule language on our issues in conjunction with negotiating the settlement. Once a settlement is reached, EPA will propose the rule amendments, take public comment and then issue a final rule. At this point, the final rule may not be issued until late summer of 2012. EPA knows that GPA is concerned with the compliance deadline and has expressed a willingness to talk about possible solutions. We plan to broach this topic during the settlement discussions, with the goal of having a solution included in the settlement agreement.

Contractors selected for new research projects

GPA's research committee, Technical Section F – Technical Data Development, has recently chosen contractors for two of its projects and will be choosing a third in the coming week.

GPA Research Project 084 - *Propane-Water-Methanol Mutual Solubility and Freeze Protection* has been awarded to LTP GmbH, Oldenburg. This is a follow up to the project, which has proven to be much more challenging than first expected. Project 084, chosen by the committee as a beneficial study for the Propane Education Research Council (PERC), will provide vapour-liquid-liquid equilibrium (VLLE) data of propane, water and methanol mixtures at varying concentrations and temperatures to provide accurate maximum allowable water content for LPG products, and the amount of methanol that may be used to prevent operating problems if excessive water is present. This information will improve the safety and reliability of LPG industry operations and provide valuable data for LPG producers and purchasers. The development of an equation of state model and marketer/user tool is to be completed under a separate project.

GPA Research Project 113 - *Mercury Partitioning in Gas Processing Systems* has been awarded to Wiltec Research Co. Project 113, a continuation of GPA Research Project 051 - Mercury in Gas Processing Plants, will address the mercury distribution in important systems not included in the previous work, focusing on less volatile systems such as natural gas liquids (NGLs), as well as selected glycols and amines. Based on this knowledge, appropriate removal facilities can be designed and installed to ensure safe and trouble free operation. Similarly, this project will assist the plant designer in ensuring that environmental mercury limitations on plant effluent streams are properly addressed.

GPA Research Project 112 – *CO2 Freezing in Cryogenic Processes* will be awarded to a contractor within the week. Much of newly discovered gas, including shale gas and coal bed methane, contains some level of CO2. A

fair amount of this gas also contains NGLs, which is often recovered using a cryogenic processes that can lead to CO2 freezing. Project 112 is intended to extend solubility and enthalpy measurements of solid CO2 in gaseous and liquid hydrocarbons at cryogenic conditions. The data will be used to improve simulations of cryogenic processes involving CO2-containing gases, including extractive distillation processes like Ryan-Holmes.

Deadline nears for Environmental Excellence Award applications

The Environmental Excellence Award is a project-based award honoring companies' achievements in energy conservation and environmental support. The self-nomination process is open for companies to be considered for the 2012 award recognition at the GPA Convention, April 15 - 18, in New Orleans, La. The award recipient will have an opportunity to demonstrate their projects so that other member companies may benefit from this knowledge and information. The application deadline is December 31, 2011. Visit <http://gpaglobal.org/awards/envexcellence/> for full program details and application forms.

Young Professionals events announced for the 2012 GPA Convention

The 2012 GPA Convention theme is "Mapping Midstream's Future," and there's no better time to get our industry's future involved in such an important midstream industry event. Planning for the GPA Young Professionals (YPs) activities is well underway. YPs can look forward to another fantastic Sunday networking event with opportunities to learn and network with their peers.

The session on Sunday, April 15, will feature a hands-on interactive forum with Ford Brett, president of Oil and Gas Consultants International and managing director of Petro Skills. The forum will be followed by dinner at Muriel's in Jackson Square.

On Monday, another interactive forum will present YPs with various case studies, allowing for some great discussion and interaction between the attendees and the John M. Campbell instructor.

Sponsorships for the Sunday YP event are still available. If interested, sign up [online](#) or contact Crystal Myers, Dollahon PR: (918) 894-4455, crystal@dollahonpr.com.

Chapter News

North Texas GPA

The North Texas GPA annual meeting was held on Nov. 3 and was a success, with nearly 90 in attendance. Keynote speaker Troy Vickers, Shaw Environmental, was well received at the lunch. Ty Henrich, Schwob Energy Services, was the master of ceremonies.

Thank you to the great speakers and their informative presentations in the morning and afternoon sessions:

- *Pipeline Safety in North Texas, Texas and Nationally* - John Jacobi, DOT
- *Environmental and Operational Advantages of Electric and New-Technology Pneumatic Natural Gas Controls* - Monte Pearson, Vinson Process
- *Become an Entrepreneur: What the Funders Look for and How They Evaluate Funding a New Midstream Venture* - Jim Benson, Energy Spectrum
- *Smart Pigs - Smart Pigging 101: Trap Design; Pigging Launch and Receive Procedure; Types of Smart Pigs/Types of Anomalies* - Lloyd A. Pirtle, TD Williamson Services, Inc.

Environmental Panel:

Moderator - Ernest Torres, Halff Associates

Panelists: Erin Badough, Exterran
Patricia Braddock, Fulbright and Jaworski
Rob Liles, Trinity Consultants
Joel Moxley, Crestwood Midstream Partners

2012 GPA Convention, "Mapping Midstream's Future"

April 15 - 18, 2012 * New Orleans, Louisiana * Hilton Riverside

As a reminder, for companies that sign up for at least \$1,000 in 2012 GPA Convention sponsorships by Nov. 28, GPA will include your company logo in the convention promotional brochure, which will be mailed to more than 10,000 midstream professionals in late December. A company must commit to a minimum of \$1,000

For the most updated list of available opportunities, click on the link that says "Download all 2012 GPA Convention Sponsorship Opportunities" in the right column of the GPA web site, www.GPAGlobal.org.

Registration and hotel information will be available next month, so please keep an eye on your inbox for that information.

GPA/GPSA Calendar

For event location and additional details about meetings listed below, visit: www.GPAglobal.org/calendar/

- 17 Rocky Mountain GPA Young Professionals Bowling Event
- 24 GPA Europe AGM and Technical Meeting
- 29-30 Gulf Cooperation Council 6th Specialized Technical Seminar

December

- 6 MidContinent GPA Christmas Party, Beacon Club, Oklahoma City
 - 7 North Texas GPA Lunch and Learn
-

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