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D.C. circuit sets format for oral arguments in greenhouse gas litigation – climate issues

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit (D.C. Circuit) has set a format for oral argument in proceedings for judicial review of EPA's greenhouse gas (GHG) regulatory program. There are four related cases before the court: (1) a challenge to EPA's "Endangerment Finding;" (2) a consolidated challenge to EPA's "Timing" and "Tailoring" rules; (3) a challenge to EPA's "Tailpipe Rule;" and (4) a challenge to EPA's application of GHG permitting requirements to the existing federal PSD Program referred to as the "Grounds Arising After" case.

Briefing has been completed in all four cases, and the court scheduled oral argument in all four cases for Feb. 28-29.

The Endangerment Finding case and the Tailpipe Rule case will be heard on Tuesday, Feb. 28. The Endangerment Finding case will begin at 9:30 a.m. and has been allotted one hour and 30 minutes. It will be immediately followed by the Tailpipe Rule Case that has been allotted 40 minutes. The Grounds Arising After and Timing/Tailoring rule cases are scheduled for consolidated oral argument totaling two hours and 30 minutes on Feb. 29 at 9:30 a.m.

Propane supply/demand outlook: 2012-2016

A new propane study is now available. Underwritten by the Propane Education and Research Council (PERC) and directed by the GPA NGL Market Information Committee, this new study takes a close look at the propane supply/demand picture in North America over the next five years. The study was conducted by Dan Lippe with Petral Worldwide, Inc. (PWI).

The study's geographic focus included the United States and Canada, with emphasis on regional markets and supply/demand trends in the United States. PWI evaluated historic supply/demand trends and developed supply/demand forecasts for the following U.S. regions:

- PADD 1: East Coast markets
- PADD 2: Mid Continent markets
- PADD 3: Gulf Coast markets
- PADD 4: Rocky Mountain markets
- PADD 5: West Coast markets

PWI also evaluated historic trends and developed forecasts for propane consumption in all major consuming end uses for all regional markets including:

- residential
- commercial & resellers

- agriculture
- motor fuel
- industrial
- petrochemical

Lastly, PWI evaluated historic trends and developed forecasts for propane supply by region for all major supply sources, including:

- gas processing
- refining
- imports/exports

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of this report should contact Judy London, GPA: jlondon@GPAglobal.org.

OSUIT Natural Gas Compression Program Training Center nears reality

The long time GPA and GPSA-supported Natural Gas Compression Program on the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology (OSUIT) campus in Okmulgee (Okla.) broke ground earlier this month for a first-of-its-kind training center for the energy industry.

Named the Chesapeake Energy Natural Gas Compression Training Center in recognition of GPA member Chesapeake Energy Corporation's \$2 million gift toward its construction, the new 23,920 sq. ft. building will accommodate more students and equipment.

Alan D. Lavenue, president of Mid-Con Compression, L.P., a wholly owned subsidiary of Chesapeake, and Jerry Winchester, CEO, Chesapeake Oilfield Services, participated in the official groundbreaking ceremony along with OSUIT officials. Also attending were GPA technical director Kenny Wheat and past GPSA president Chris Lindenberg.

Natural gas compression classes have been offered at the school for nearly 20 years, but the program has elevated to the current level of prominence in more recent times. Students are taught to diagnose, service and maintain gas compression equipment, and graduates almost always have a job waiting upon graduation.

Currently, the program has the capabilities to accommodate around 40 students per year. With the new building, the program will be able to enroll up to 80 new students (freshmen) a year, for a total of 160 total students enrolled annually in the two-year program.

The total cost of the building is estimated to be \$4.9 million and the OSU Foundation is pursuing additional gifts to fund the Training Center.

GPA and GPSA have provided scholarships to OSUIT's Natural Gas Compression Program students over the years, and many of their respective member companies have assisted the program with in-kind contributions of equipment and services.

Since 2009, GPSA's and member-company donations have benefitted from matching funds available through the T. Boone Pickens Legacy Scholarship Match to ultimately total \$600,000 in contributions to the Oklahoma State University Foundation, with the entire amount being earmarked specifically for the OSUIT program.

GPSA Board of Directors ballot

Note to all GPSA member company Official Representatives:

Please be on the lookout for the 2012 GPSA Directors Ballot, which should be electronically delivered to your inbox soon (if it has not already arrived). These ballots are used to determine the GPSA companies that will serve two-year terms on the GPSA Board of Directors beginning at the close of the GPA Convention in New Orleans. We ask that all GPSA member companies exercise their right to determine the association's board representation and take a moment to complete and return the ballot. Any questions regarding the process can be directed to Mark Sutton, msutton@GPAglobal.org.

GPA Nominating Committee to meet

As authorized by the GPA by-laws, GPA President Mike Heim, Targa Resources, has appointed the 2012 GPA Nominating Committee. Terry Spencer, ONEOK, has agreed to chair the committee, and the other four individuals that will make up the rest of the committee will be appointed from the membership. The principal duties of the Nominating Committee are to nominate GPA representatives to serve as association officers and to recommend

member companies to serve various terms on the Board of Directors. The nominations will be announced and voted upon at the GPA Membership Meeting on April 17 in New Orleans.

NFPA 56 expected to apply to gas processing facilities

NFPA 56 – *Fire and Explosion Prevention During Cleaning and Purging of Flammable Gas Piping Systems*, was developed at the request of the U.S. Chemical Safety Board after an accident at the Kleen Energy Power Plant in Middletown, Conn. The natural gas power plants explosion was reportedly caused by unsafe practices in the construction of the plant, where published OSHA reports claim that construction employees were working up to 84 hours per week, as well as other safety violations totaling 371. The original request of NFPA was to publish a standard aimed toward safe practices of electric generating power plants fueled by natural gas. The document has since grown to encompass what is referred to as “institutional and commercial applications using piping,” which contains flammable gases.

At their fall meeting, GPA technical sections reviewed an earlier draft of the standard, not knowing whether it was meant to encompass natural gas processing plants. GPA Director of Technical Services Kenny Wheat took information from that meeting and sent NFPA a request during the document’s public comment period, stating gas processing facilities should be included in section 1.1.2, the Nonapplication of Standard section of NFPA 56. Wheat recently met with NFPA to discuss this request and inquire on the application intentions of the standard. The request was denied, and Wheat learned that NFPA had intended to include gas processing facilities, as well as all other facilities having “piping which contained flammable gases.” Wheat was directed to Annex A.1.1.1 of the standard:

A.1.1.1 Industrial applications encompass a wide variety of manufacturing and other operations such as, but not limited to, petroleum refining and petrochemical and chemical applications.

As far as how this affects GPA and GPSA members, according to NFPA, OSHA considers this a publicly available standard of which all industries falling under its scope of application should be aware. Wheat will share this new information in detail with a workgroup, including GPA Technical Committee and other appropriate GPA committees’ members soon. For more information, NFPA 56 is available in .pdf format at www.nfpa.org. Please contact Wheat with any questions or comments: kwheat@GPAglobal.org.

New GPSA Engineering Data Book edition coming soon

Thanks to the tireless efforts of the GPSA Editorial Review Board, the 13th Edition of the GPSA Engineering Data Book is expected to be available for purchase in April. While unforeseen circumstances could impact the release date, we feel confident that the book will be available starting April 15, the first day of the GPA Convention.

The new edition contains updates to all 26 sections from the 2004 edition, including:

- Major revisions to Section 5 (Relief Systems), Section 7 (Separation Equipment), Section 13 (Compressors and Expanders), Section 16 (Hydrocarbon Recovery), Section 20 (Dehydration), Section 21 (Hydrocarbon Treating), Section 23 (Physical Properties) and Section 25 (Phase Equilibria)
- Section 3 (Measurement) gets new sections for gas and flare measurements
- Section 4 (Instrumentation) has new topics dealing with safety instrumented systems and facility network and control systems
- Section 8 (Fired Equipment) includes expanded info on low NOx burners and NOx control, plus discussions on thermal efficiency for firetube heaters
- Section 11 (Cooling Towers) adds new topics addressing environmental factors, basin design considerations and saltwater cooling towers
- Section 12 (Pumps and Hydraulic Turbines) has a new and simplified pump efficiency chart with the most current data
- Section 22 (Sulfur Recovery) incorporates updates to the oligomer equilibrium chart, and has new sulfur thermodynamic data for tables, charts and sample calculation
- Section 24 (Thermodynamic Properties) includes new subject matter on acid gas, and rare gas enthalpy and entropy
- More new information, specifications and guidelines in other sections

Meet and greet luncheons for Texas Railroad Commission candidates

Kelly McBeth, GPA Texas Lobbyist, has coordinated with the Texas Pipeline Association (TPA) for GPA to co-host “Meet, Greet and Eat” luncheons for the Texas Railroad Commission candidates. The luncheons are scheduled for three consecutive Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.: Feb. 23, The Honorable Warren Chisum; March 1, Christi Craddic; and March 8, Roland Sledge. Each luncheon will be at the “Mansion on Judges’ Hill,” in Austin, Texas. The cost is \$20 per person, and these events are intended for those attending to meet the candidates; they are not fundraisers. Seating is limited so please RSVP to Angie Adams, TPA (texaspipelineassociation@yahoo.com or 512-478-2871), if

you would like to attend.

Chapter News

Permian Basin GPA

Please join the Permian Basin Chapter for their 2012 Training and Social, Amine Gas Treating and Happy Hour on March 6. The event will be held at the XTO Office from 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., and lunch will be provided.

\$50 – Member Cost

\$75 – Non-Member Cost

Please RSVP by March 2 with Quentin Mendenhall: gmendenhall@dcpmidstream.com.

For more information, visit <https://www.gpaglobal.org/chapters/permian/>.

2012 GPA Convention, "Mapping Midstream's Future" April 15 - 18, 2012 Hilton Riverside, New Orleans, Louisiana

Online registration is open for the 2012 GPA Convention. Please keep the following registration deadlines in mind:

GPA & GPSA Members

By March 17 - \$540

After March 17 - \$590

Non-Member Operators and Suppliers

By March 17 - \$665

After March 17 - \$715

Registration and Hotel Information

Before you register, we encourage you to [check your company's membership status](#) because GPA and GPSA members save on registration. The fastest, easiest way to register is online: www.GPAglobal.org/convention/register. Your credit card information is protected in our secure online registration form.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. The direct link to make hotel reservations online will appear after you have registered for the convention. To make reservations by phone, call the hotel directly and mention the Gas Processors Association to receive the conference hotel rates: toll free (800) HILTONS or (504) 556-3768.

We look forward to seeing you there!

GPA Environmental Excellence Award honoree to be announced in April

During the GPA Convention, the GPA Environmental Committee presents the Environmental Excellence Award. This is a project-based award, created to honor GPA member companies' achievement in energy conservation and environmental support. We received five nominations for judging. The awards will be given based on environmental projects in the following categories:

- United States
 - Division I: over 500,000 Operations Workhours
 - Division II: 100,000-499,999 Operations Workhours
 - Division III: less than 100,000 Operations Workhours
- International Projects
 - Division I: over 500,000 Operations Workhours
 - Division II: 100,000-499,999 Operations Workhours
 - Division III: less than 100,000 Operations Workhours

Four judges from the GPA Environmental Committee and a fifth from the GPA Advocacy Steering Committee review each project submitted and select the winners. The winning company will demonstrate its project at the Convention so that other GPA member companies may benefit from the knowledge and information.

GPA's School of Gas Chromatography

GPA will host its School of Gas Chromatography Aug. 6 – 10 at the University of Tulsa (Oklahoma). In its 39th year, this intensive one-week school has proven to be one of the best available worldwide, which explains why it has sold out almost every year. GPA will take up to 100 students this year, and GPA's Analysis and Test Methods Section (Technical Section B) will manage, direct and conduct the school as in past years.

Registration begins March 5 and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Those who register before July 12 will save \$100!

Early Bird Registration (by July 11)

\$525 – GPA / GPSA Members

\$800 – Non-Members

Standard Registration (after July 11)

\$625 – GPA / GPSA Members

\$900 – Non-Members

For more information, visit <https://www.GPAglobal.org/chromo/> or contact Judy London, jlondon@GPAglobal.org, (918) 493-3872.

GPA/GPSA Calendar

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

February

28-29 OSUIT Career Fair

March

5 Registration Begins for GPA School of Gas Chromatography
6 Permian Basin GPA 2012 Training and Social
7 Houston GPA Monthly JMC Education Session Luncheon

Gas Processors Association

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