



eBrief

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Headlines:

[GPA submits comments to TCEQ on proposed rules implementing House Bill 788](#)

[Reminder to GPSA ORs: bylaws ballot](#)

[2014 GPA Convention registration is open](#)

[Online request form for 2014 GPA Convention hospitality space is open](#)

[GPA staff attends ASTM meetings](#)

[Technical Section B revises stain tube standards](#)

[GPA 2261: Analysis of Natural Gas and Similar Gaseous Mixtures by Gas Chromatography](#)

[PERC approves 2014 GPA and NPGA partnership agreement](#)

[Environmental Excellence Award deadline nears](#)

GPA submits comments to TCEQ on proposed rules implementing House Bill 788

Throughout the 2013 Texas legislative session, GPA strongly supported the passage of HB 788. GPA's president at the time, Mike Heim, Targa Resources, testified on the bill in the legislature. Heim shared with the members examples of the negative economic impact and competitive disadvantages felt by Texas businesses and the natural gas processing and transmission industry, in particular, with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) acting as the authority for sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Texas.

At any given time, there have been more than 50 projects pending at EPA awaiting action on air quality permit applications. Some of these projects have been delayed well over a year, and these delayed projects represent thousands of jobs, billions of dollars in capital investment for the state of Texas, and hundreds of millions of dollars in lost revenue for GPA members. Meanwhile, projects in neighboring states have been approved more swiftly, as those states are acting as permitting authorities themselves. By comparison, projects in other states have not had to undergo the federal cross-cutting reviews that projects in Texas have been subject to, and the staffs of those state agencies are experienced and savvy in issuing air quality permits as compared to the staff at EPA, who have not had to issue air quality permits for many years.

Moreover, a disproportionate percentage of the projects being delayed at EPA represent projects in the natural gas and liquids processing and transmission industry, such as new gas processing plants or compressor stations and ancillary facilities. Most of these projects represent minor sources of non-GHG emissions and can be authorized under TCEQ's minor source program by use of Permits by Rules (PBRs) or Standard Permits (SPs).

For Texas to maintain its leadership in the energy industry, GPA feels it is crucial that the current situation be remedied as soon as possible.

Reminder to GPSA ORs: bylaws ballot

Earlier this week, GPSA Official Representatives (ORs) received an electronic ballot for changes to the association's bylaws. Thank you to those who have already responded. For those who haven't, please cast your vote by the Jan. 15, 2014 deadline.

As a reminder, the bylaws revisions for GPSA consideration and voting include:

1. Minor formatting, consistency and administrative modifications (throughout)
2. Revised language to potentially increase the size of the board from 30 to 40 companies (Article IV).
3. Clarifying language to eliminate misunderstandings as to which district a director must run for election (Article VI).

4. New language that limits the amount of time a person can serve on the board (Article VI).

Contact GPSA with questions or for more information: (918) 493-3872.

2014 GPA Convention registration is open

April 13 – 16, Dallas, Texas
Omni Dallas Hotel

Online registration for the 2014 GPA Convention opened last week. Please keep the following deadlines in mind:

GPA & GPSA Members

By Feb. 14 - \$565
By March 14 - \$615
After March 14 - \$665

Non-Member Operators and Suppliers

By Feb. 14 - \$690
By March 14 - \$740
After March 14 - \$790

Information about the conference, including a link to register online, is available at www.GPAconvention.org. A complete schedule will be posted online in January, and in mid-January, the new GPA convention smart phone and tablet app will become available for download, putting all information right at registrants' fingertips. To those who have already registered, please keep an eye on your inbox in January for more information on how to download and make the most of the app.

We look forward to seeing you in Dallas!

Online request form for 2014 GPA Convention hospitality space is open

Company-hosted hospitalities are a popular activity at the GPA Convention, and companies interested in hosting a private suite or public hospitality must book the space through GPA. **The deadline to request hospitality space is Feb. 14, 2014.**

For more information about hospitalities and to make your space requests, visit www.GPAconvention.org/hospitality.

GPA staff attends ASTM meetings

GPA staff recently attended the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D02-H Liquid Petroleum Gases and D03 Gaseous Fuels Committee meetings. GPA reported on standard revisions from Technical Section B – Analysis and Test Methods, Section C – Product Specifications, and Section H – Measurement, Calculations and Handling of Hydrocarbon Fluids Including NGL and Natural Gas.

Items covered during the D02-H meeting included:

- The revision of ASTM D2713 - Test Method for Dryness of Propane (Valve Freeze Method) – the revision was the result of a user in Britain who was interpreting Note 2 in a manner that was not intended. ASTM clarified what was in the procedure but didn't change the procedure, and the ballot was approved.
 - New standard 01 - Specification for Dimethyl Ether for Fuel Purposes passed the ballot process through D02-H. However, some additional language will be added to include odorant and a cautionary statement for lubricity. During the D02-H meeting, the chair asked if anyone from the D02-H committee was willing to work on developing a standard for natural gasoline; D02-A will be investigating this issue.
 - New standards and revisions:
 - Test Method for Fluoride, Chloride and Sulfur in LPG by Oxidative Pyrohydrolytic Combustion Followed by Ion Chromatography Detection (Combustion Ion Chromatography)
 - Total Water in Liquefied Petroleum Gas by Liquefied Gas Vaporizer and Coulometric Karl Fischer Titration
 - Determination of Water Content of Liquefied Petroleum Gases Using Electronic Moisture Analyzers
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Technical Section B revises stain tube standards

A working group from Technical Section B - Analysis and Test Methods has completed revisions to three GPA standards:

- 2188 - Ethyl Mercaptan in LP Gas
- 2194 - Low Pressure Method-Ethyl Mercaptan in LP
- 2377 - H₂S and CO₂ in Natural Gas.

The most significant addition to the standards is a "cautionary statement." The intention of the statement is to inform the user that it is critical that manufacturer's instructions be followed implicitly. Each lot of stain tubes is tested by the manufacturer for compliance to stated accuracy, and each lot or box of stain tubes could be slightly different in terms of how they are to be used (i.e. exposure times, indicating colors or contaminants, etc.). Further, the manufacturer's instructions will state the exponent to be used for multiple or partial testing "pulls" of the pump or whether these are allowed at all. This information may vary from lot to lot and from one brand of tube to another.

Also of significance is the concept that if high accuracy and repeatability are required, and chromatography is not indicated or feasible, then there are many portable handheld electronic devices that offer these things, as well as low power usage and intrinsic safety. Therefore, the users should consider whether a length of stain tube is really the best commercially available option based on their situations and requirements.

GPA is balloting all three standards to Section B and the Technical Committee.

GPA 2261: Analysis of Natural Gas and Similar Gaseous Mixtures by Gas Chromatograph

GPA 2261 has been revised by Technical Section B - Analysis and Test Methods. The standard covers the determination of the chemical composition of natural gas and similar gaseous mixtures. The most significant change to the standard is the redefining of the precision statements to reflect the recently obtained round-robin precision data set. GPA 2261 may be referenced in custody transfer contracts, so companies should assess their own economic impact before implementing the revised standard. Due to the new precision statement, it may also be necessary to replace or repair instruments that fail to meet the standard precision.

PERC approves 2014 GPA and NPGA partnership agreement

GPA staff and Dr. Karl Gerdes, chair of GPA's Research Committee (Technical Section F), attended the recent Propane Education and Research Council (PERC) meeting and presented the recent results of GPA's research program and the new work proposed for 2014. The National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) also attended the meeting and presented the status of their partnership agreement results. Based on these presentations, the Council voted to once again approve the association's partnership agreements for 2014. For GPA this means PERC approved contributing \$300,000 of co-funding for GPA's 2014 research program. GPA and NPGA greatly appreciate this continued partnership with the Council.

Environmental Excellence Award deadline nears

As a reminder, the application deadline to be considered for GPA's Environmental Excellence Award is **Jan. 10, 2014**.

This project-based award acknowledges and honors companies' achievements in energy conservation and environmental support. The nomination process is open for companies to be considered for the 2014 award recognition at the GPA Convention, April 13 - 16, in Dallas. There, award winners will be able to display their projects so that other member companies may benefit from this knowledge and information.

The award categories have been expanded to two divisions. GPA member companies classified as 01 and 02 members will compete for the Division 1 award. All other GPA member companies, including international and associate members, will compete for the Division II award.

The winner of each division will receive a traveling trophy to display at its site for one year and will have the opportunity to present the trophy to the following year's winner at the GPA Convention. Winners in both divisions will also receive a plaque as a keepsake and will have the opportunity to purchase additional plaques.

[View full program details, examples of previously submitted projects and application forms.](#)

GPA/GPSA Calendar

April 13 – 16 – 93rd annual GPA Convention

Gas Processors Association

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