



August 2015 eBrief Print Version

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GPSA board approves dues and billing cycle changes

As part of the GPA and GPSA partnership, GPSA is responsible for compensating GPA in several expense categories for shared services benefiting both organizations. Since 1973, GPSA has been responsible for 6 percent of overhead expenses, but a 2014 review of shared services determined the need for a substantial increase. In the October 2014 GPSA board meeting, a 24 percent overhead cost was proposed and discussed at length, and the board approved the increase and formation of a task force to review GPSA's existing dues structure and billing cycle and make appropriate recommendations to assist with the change.

After reviewing a GPSA membership demographics survey and a number of scenarios based on changes to the GPSA dues structure, the task force made the following recommendations, which were approved during the August board meeting and will go into effect in 2016:

- GPSA membership will be divided into three categories based on a company's employee count
- Effective Jan. 1, 2016, GPSA dues will change to the following structure:
 - o \$500 annual membership for a company with less than 25 employees
 - o \$1,250 annual membership for a company with 25 to 250 employees
 - o \$2,500 annual membership for a company with more than 250 employees
- The GPSA membership billing cycle will be adjusted to agree with the association's fiscal year, which is July 1 – June 30
- The \$100 membership initiation fee will no longer be collected for new members

As a first step toward this transition, GPSA official representatives (ORs) will receive more detailed information about the changes in the coming weeks. ORs that did not respond to the original membership survey issued in July will receive a simple electronic survey asking for their companies' employee count to facilitate the administration of dues changes.

We advise ORs to wait for the follow-up information, which should answer most questions that may not be covered here. If your question is urgent, please contact Mark Sutton, msutton@GPAglobal.org.

GPA/GPSA Engineering Data Book Training Course filling quickly

GPA and GPSA have developed a week-long Engineering Data Book training course to equip midstream industry engineers early in their careers, and also operators, plant personnel and technical sales personnel with the fundamentals they need to put this valued industry resource to practical use. Students will be tested on the information presented and, upon passing, will leave certified in the use of the GPSA Engineering Data Book.

The initial training course is scheduled for Oct. 19 - 23 at the Enterprise Training Center in Mont Belvieu, Texas, and only four open spots remain for the initial training class, which is limited to 24 students.

Registration is available on a first-come, first-served basis. [View more information and register here](#).

GPA's 2016 research and development program set

At its recent meeting in Santa Fe, N.M., the GPA board of directors approved the association's 2016 budget. In approving the budget, the board also approved \$290,000 (GPA membership support) of a total \$705,000 research and development program. This program was submitted by Technical Section F - Research and Technical Section B - Analysis & Test Methods, approved by the GPA Technical Committee and then the board, as is required in the association's bylaws.

The program includes \$250,000 for two continuing projects and \$430,000 in funding for four new projects. Full details of the program will be available in GPA's 2016 Research Brochure, which will become available in October.

GPA Convention speaking opportunities – deadline approaching

Are you interested in sharing your expertise with midstream industry decision makers? We're looking for speakers for the 2016 GPA Convention. Our open Call for Papers process brings some of the best industry experts to present at our conference each year, and that could be you! More information is below, and **please note that the deadline to [submit your abstract](#) is Oct. 22, 2015.**

What we're looking for

Midstream topics (gas processing, gas gathering, fractionation, storage and transportation) that are relevant, timely and informative, relating, but not limited, to these activities:

- Alternative energy
- Compliance
- Computer technology
- Environmental
- Facilities design
- Gas and product treating
- Legislative, regulatory & safety
- Liquefied natural gas
- Natural gas liquids business or market perspective
- Operations & maintenance
- Pipeline safety
- Project economics
- Research
- Technical data development
- Technology developments in gas processing
- Technology to improve operations
- Training
- Unconventional gas
- Worldwide developments

What we aren't looking for

The primary focus of the GPA Convention is sharing knowledge and best practices to benefit the midstream industry as a whole. With that in mind, we are not looking for overly commercial papers with regard to a specific company or service. We receive some great abstracts every year that contain valuable information but aren't selected because they are too commercial.

How topics/papers are selected

As abstracts come in, members of the GPA Program Committee review each one and select the most appropriate and relevant papers for each convention session. GPA Program Committee members represent more than 40 different midstream industry companies that face the same challenges and opportunities that you do.

How to be considered

All authors who send a 200-250 word abstract to GPA **by Oct. 22** will be considered as a potential presenter at the 2016 GPA Convention. **Abstracts submitted early will be given priority consideration.** [Please submit your abstract using our online form.](#)

GPA responds to gathering and processing methane study

Earlier this month, the Environmental Defense Fund released its "Methane Emissions from United States Natural Gas Gathering and Processing" study. View the study here: <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acs.est.5b02275>

GPA issued the following statement regarding the study:

"We are encouraged that this study shows much lower emissions on the processing side. The study shows that the processing sector has less emissions than EPA's Greenhouse Gas Inventory, which is the national inventory of greenhouse gas emissions that EPA conducts across industry segments," said GPA President and CEO Mark Sutton.

"On the gathering side, the report concludes that emissions from gathering are underestimated. It is important to note that EPA recently proposed to expand its Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule to include gathering and booster stations that would subject gathering and booster stations to new reporting criteria. GPA has been very active in that rulemaking and believes that rule, once finalized, would provide more clarity to the situation and a much more comprehensive view of emissions data."

Accepting nominations for GPA awards

The GPA awards program is one of the most visible means that GPA meets an obligation to more fully develop the midstream industry. These awards are tangible, public evidence of appreciation by the industry, the association, and industry colleagues to individuals and companies whom have contributed significantly to the advancement and development of the midstream industry. We encourage you to nominate someone for one of the awards listed below. The 2015 awards will be presented at the 2016 GPA Convention.

- [Citation for Service](#)
- [Committee Leader of the Year](#)
- [Committee Volunteer of the Year](#)
- [Hanlon](#)
- [Katz](#)
- [Recognition](#)

For questions or to nominate someone, contact Johnny Dreyer: jdreyer@GPAglobal.org.

Deadline nears: Vendor Night lottery enrollment

The GPA Convention doesn't have a traditional exhibit hall like many conferences do because our emphasis remains on the papers, presentations, forums and networking opportunities. We have one exhibit period called Vendor Night, consisting of a three-hour exhibit session with a restricted number of booth spaces available that is held in conjunction with a reception on the opening day of the convention (Sunday, April 10). We have 25 spaces available at our 2016 New Orleans venue, all 10 x 10 feet, at a space cost of \$2,500 for members and \$3,500 for non-members. These spaces will be delegated through a lottery system. Companies interested in applying for one of the 25 Vendor Night spaces for 2016 should make note of the following:

- The Vendor Night enrollment period opened on Aug. 24 at 8 a.m. and closes on Sept. 4 at 5 p.m. Central time. Absolutely no additional entries will be accepted after the enrollment period closes.
- All companies interested in a Vendor Night space must register for the lottery using the online sign-up form during the enrollment period - no sign-ups by phone, e-mail or fax will be accepted.
- All companies that sign up using the online form will receive one entry in the Vendor Night lottery; companies are eligible for up to 16 additional entries if they meet the criteria as outlined on

<https://GPAconvention.org/2016-lottery-info>

- The Vendor Night drawing will take place on Sept. 8 and 25 winners, as well as 5 alternates, will be announced that day. Companies awarded Vendor Night positions are required to pay in full within 30 days or the position will be awarded to an alternate.
- The 2016 GPA Promotional Opportunities packet outlining all sponsorship, advertising and hospitality options will become available for review on Sept. 8.
- Sponsorship registration will open Sept. 22, and opportunities will be awarded on a first-paid, first-served basis. Hospitality space registration will open in November.

[View detailed information about the Vendor Night lottery system.](#)

PHMSA Pipeline Advisory Committees Meeting report

On August 25 and 26, GPA Vice President of Government Affairs Matthew Hite attended the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) public meetings in Crystal City, Va., for the Pipeline Advisory Committees. PHMSA informally refers to the committees as the Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee (GPAC) and the Liquid Pipeline Advisory Committee (LPAC). When referenced together, the two are known as the Pipeline Advisory Committees (PAC). Below are notes from some of the many topics the committee addressed.

- PHMSA announced that it will create a new accident/investigations division.
- PHMSA recently hired 15 new inspectors in the southwest, and they are making an effort to recruit auditors and non-engineers for positions at PHMSA.
- PHMSA also indicated that they are trying to wrap up the Gas Transmission Integrity Management Rule this year, and some areas they are addressing include expansion of integrity management requirements beyond high consequence areas, assessment methods, corrosion control and gas gathering.
- The Hazardous Liquids Pipeline rule is also in the process of being wrapped up. PHMSA said they are looking at assessments beyond high consequence areas, leak detection beyond high consequence areas, repair criteria, pigability of lines and reporting requirements for gathering lines.
- One committee member reported that API is working on two storage standards, and one could potentially impact salt storage.
- Another committee member who represents the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) gave a presentation on methane and disclosed that EDF is working on a Google mapping effort for methane to raise the profile of the issue. Most of the EDF presentation focused on gathering line emissions and the fact that they don't have a good inventory of gathering infrastructure nor do they understand where it is and what condition it is in. EDF said that gathering infrastructure is an "area of focus" for them going forward. EDF has been working on a series of studies and should have them wrapped up in the next several months. They also are working on a Barnett Shale study and claim to have found that methane emissions are 50 percent higher than what EPA is estimating.
- The Department of Energy (DOE) also is a member of the committee. DOE presented on its Natural Gas Modernization Initiative, which is a top-down and bottom-up measurement for greenhouse gases that they are working on.
- PHMSA also had a presentation from a work group they put together that included a number of GPA member companies. The Delineation and Regulatory Oversight of "Processing" Oil and Gas Midstream Facilities group had the goal to provide clarity and ensure there are no gaps or overlaps in applied regulatory oversight of midstream processing facilities. This group addressed the "inside the fence" issue. PHMSA thanked all the members for their efforts and specifically mentioned Frances Foret, Targa Resources, who also serves as chair for the GPA Technical Committee, for his efforts.

State government affairs update

Oklahoma

Pipeline safety rule revisions

Revisions to subchapter 17 of the pipeline safety rules in Oklahoma became effective Aug. 27, which give the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) enforcement over third party excavators. The revised rules require excavators to immediately call/notify local emergency responders of any incident that results in an unintentional and uncontrolled release of flammable, toxic or corrosive gas or liquid from a pipeline or pipeline system.

The rules were the result of a task force formed by the governor in connection with the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement and Safety Act of 2006; the Pipeline Safety Regulatory Certainty and Job Creation Act of 2011 relating to the underground damage prevention programs; and any Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA) rules related to pipeline safety and prevention of excavation damage. The task force determined that in order to meet the federal standards, the OCC rules needed to be revised. The rules were adopted on March 10 and became effective Aug. 27. View the amended rules: <http://www.occeweb.com/rules/CH%2020%20Effective%208-27-15%20searchable.pdf>.

Pennsylvania

Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force update

The Pennsylvania governor's Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force had its kick-off meeting on July 22. The task force's goal is to provide a report to the governor in February 2016 recommending best practices for: (1) planning, siting and routing pipelines to avoid/reduce environmental impacts; (2) engaging public participation; (3) efficient permitting process; (4) construction methods that reduce environmental impact; and (5) developing plans to ensure pipeline safety and integrity.

GPA member companies with a seat on the task force include KinderMorgan, MarkWest, Shell and Williams.

Pipeline safety

A pipeline safety bill could be introduced for unconventional gathering pipelines by Sen. Lisa Baker. She sites regulation of other pipelines in the state by federal officials and points out that gathering lines located in rural areas of Pennsylvania are not regulated by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

New North Texas GPA web site

Congratulations to the North Texas chapter on the successful launch of its new web site. We encourage you to take a look: <https://ntgpa.org/>

Also take note that the chapter is hosting its annual North Texas/North Louisiana Shrimp Boil and Kickoff meeting on Sept. 17 and its annual East Texas/North Louisiana Shrimp Boil and Kickoff on Sept. 24. Visit the new web site linked above for more information.

U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation Pipeline Safety Reauthorization field hearing

The U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation will hold a field hearing in Montana on Sept. 18, with focus on Pipeline Safety Reauthorization and PHMSA's efficacy in overseeing and enforcing federal regulations. Senators Steve Daines (R-MT) and Deb Fisher (R-NE) requested the field hearing last month.

WOTUS injunction impacts several states

A federal judge has blocked the Obama administration's controversial rule defining the scope of Clean Water Act protections (Waters of the U.S.) from going into effect on Aug. 28, reported by Greenwire.

U.S. District Court Judge Ralph Erickson of North Dakota said the rule, which would expand the number of streams and wetlands that qualify for federal safeguards, appears legally suspect and issued a preliminary injunction halting the rule.

The Waters of the U.S. rule has been challenged in multiple courts across the country. Erickson ruled on a lawsuit brought by more than a dozen states led by North Dakota.

EPA emphasized in a statement that the injunction only affects the states involved in the case. Those states -- Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming -- are no longer subject to the new Waters of the U.S. rule but must still comply with previous regulations.

New PHMSA administrator confirmed

The U.S. Senate confirmed Marie Therese Dominguez's appointment as administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) by unanimous consent on Aug. 5. She had been the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) agency's deputy administrator since U.S. President Barack Obama nominated her in June. Before coming to PHMSA, Dominguez was principal deputy assistant secretary of the Army for Civil Works, where she oversaw U.S. Army Corps of Engineers programs. She previously worked at DOT as deputy chief of staff and counsel at the Federal Aviation Administration from 1998 to 2000. She also worked for the U.S. Postal Service and in the private sector.

GPA completes successful chromatography school

Seventy-five students attended GPA's School of Gas Chromatography, which was held earlier this month in Tulsa, Okla., at the University of Tulsa's Keplinger Hall. In its 42nd year, the 2015 school honored Mark Scripsick, who has served as an instructor at the school for 25 years. The school's head coordinator, Joe Landes, presented Mark with a plaque at the instructor and vendor dinner on Aug. 2. Feedback from student surveys indicated another successful year. Students appreciate the hands-on teaching style to learn about specific pieces and functions of the equipment.

GPA would once again like to thank all of the instructors and vendors and their companies. Without their involvement, the school wouldn't be possible.

Thank you to the following:

ABB - Totalflow
Agilent Technologies
Airgas Southwest
Air Liquide America Specialty Gases
Analytical Instruments Corp.
Cherokee Measurement & Control
Custom Solutions Group
DCP Midstream
Element Materials Technology
Emerson Process Management
Enbridge Inc.
EnLink Midstream
Enterprise Products
Gas Analytical Services
INFICON
M&D Controls
MarkWest Hydrocarbon
Perkin Elmer
Red Ball Technical Gas Services
Scientific Marketing
Scion Instruments
Shimadzu Scientific Instruments
Siemens
SPL Inc.
ThermoFisher Scientific
Total Systems and Controls
Welker Inc.

Three chapters hosting sporting clays events on Sept. 18

Midcontinent GPA (MCGPA), Permian Basin GPA (PBGPA) and Rocky Mountain GPA (RMGPA) are hosting respective sporting clays events on Sept. 18. For registration and sponsorship opportunities, visit the respective chapter web sites for more information.

MCGPA: <https://www.gpaglobal.org/chapters/midcontinent/>

PBGPA: <https://pbgpa.org/civcrm/event/info?reset=1&id=18>

RMGPA: <https://gparmc.org/civcrm/event/info?id=8>

Other events for chapters, such as the [North Texas Shrimp Boil and Kickoff](#) scheduled for Sept. 17, are available on the GPA/GPSA calendar: <https://GPAglobal.org/calendar/>.

Involved in a GPA Chapter? You should be!

GPA's chapter organizations have been instrumental in serving the midstream industry through a number of networking and educational events specific to their respective regions. Participating in chapter activities is an excellent way to learn what GPA can offer and get involved in your area. Each chapter has its own membership, bylaws and dues structure. Many chapters offer both individual and corporate members (our global GPA and GPSA organizations only offer corporate memberships, but once a company joins, any employee of that company may take advantage of membership benefits). We encourage midstream industry professionals to join and get involved at both chapter and national levels for maximum leadership and networking benefits. Learn more:

[Benefits of Chapter Membership](#)

[U.S. Chapters](#)

[International Chapters](#)

[International Affiliate](#)

GPA/GPSA Calendar

September

- 16 - 19** - GPA Europe Annual Conference
 - 17** - Houston GPA Shrimp Boil & Member Drive
 - 17** - North Texas GPA Shrimp Boil and Kickoff
 - 17** - Rocky Mountain GPA Luncheon
 - 18** - Midcontinent GPA Clay Shoot
 - 18** - Permian Basin GPA Clay Shoot
 - 18** - Rocky Mountain GPA Clay Shoot
 - 24** - North Texas GPA East Texas Shrimp Boil
-

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