



## January 2015 eBrief Print Version

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### **GPA hires director of technical services**

GPA has hired Martin Erne ([merne@GPAGlobal.org](mailto:merne@GPAGlobal.org)) as our new director of technical services. Erne holds a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from Ohio State University and a Master of Science in engineering management from the University of Houston. He has more than 10 years of experience, having most recently worked as an engineering project manager for DCP Midstream, managing projects including custody transfer meter stations, pipeline laterals and connections. Prior to that, Erne worked in various engineering roles for Lamons, S&B Engineers and Constructors, Neptec USA and Jacobs Engineering.

He joined Jacobs Engineering in 2007 as a project engineer, where he was responsible for managing the design, construction, testing and certification of International Space Station (ISS) intravehicular activity hardware and providing real-time support for ISS flight crew equipment. Before that, he worked as a flight planner for the United Space Alliance where he provided real-time support of space shuttle missions for the Shuttle Mission Control Center.

We are happy to bring Erne's wide range of experience on board and are confident he will serve our member companies well in leading our research and technical activities. He will report to GPA on Feb. 17.

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### **EIA Form 915 update**

GPA continues to attempt to work with the Energy Information Administration (EIA) to obtain changes to the new proposed Form 915 – Monthly Gas Processing and Liquids Report. As a reminder, GPA commented extensively (albeit it was somewhat late in the process) on the draft form noting that midstream companies had serious concerns about providing so much data (some of it confidential to midstream operators) without what is known as Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA) protection of the data. Midstream operators and GPA

staff have held three separate meetings with EIA staff, with the latest one being Dec. 3. At that meeting, the following points were highlighted by EIA:

- The next step in the process is to forward the form on to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for its review.
- EIA is concerned about the impact CIPSEA protection might have on emergency response.
- EIA staff agreed to compare the data on EIA-915 and what is collected in its emergency response survey to determine the amount of overlap in the information.
- EIA staff noted that OMB will be interested in GPA's concerns regarding the need for CIPSEA protection of the data and will thoroughly question EIA on why CIPSEA protection was not provided.
- EIA will brief GPA on its final decision regarding Form 915 before it is sent to OMB.

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### **Honoring the life of Dr. Arthur Kidnay**

GPA is saddened to report the loss of Dr. Arthur Kidnay, another great industry contributor, who passed earlier this month.

In 2013, Dr. Kidnay was the 27th recipient of the GPA Donald L. Katz Award, one of GPA's most prestigious honors. For more than 35 years, Dr. Kidnay taught continuing education courses in gas processing to engineers and scientists from the natural gas industry.

He received his bachelor's and doctor of science degrees from the Colorado School of Mines, and his master's from the University of Colorado. He was a research engineer with the National Institute of Standards and Technology for nine years before joining the Colorado School of Mines in 1968. He conducted extensive research in the fields of vapor-liquid equilibria, physical adsorption and heat transfer.

Since becoming an educator, he guided more than 40 master's and doctorate students through their studies, and his name can be found on 70 technical papers, plus some books key to our industry, including "Fundamentals of Natural Gas Processing."

We extend our condolences to the Kidnay family and offer our sincere appreciation for his contributions to GPA and the industry.

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### **GPSA Safety Awards**

GPSA Official Representatives with U.S. operations were sent a request in January for company 2014 safety statistics. These statistics will be used to determine GPSA safety awards that will be presented at the GPA Convention in April. Companies must submit their safety statistics by Feb. 20 on the GPSA-specific forms. If you did not receive a form for your company, e-mail Johnny Dreyer, [jdreyer@GPAglobal.org](mailto:jdreyer@GPAglobal.org).

Companies can supplement the data on the form with additional information that would make a case for their respective companies to enhance their submittals. This would include outlining the activities a company has taken during the year to promote safety within the company for the industry (and explain the outstanding results accomplished) and a description of methods used to involve both management and employees in a proactive safety program.

The program is limited to U.S. companies, and data are based on OSHA recordable information. The following items will be used to judge outstanding accomplishments:

- Total recordable incident rate
- Incident rate days away from work cases
- Lost work severity rate
- EMR insurance rate
- Lost time accident rate
- Overall safety program

Since there is great diversity within GPSA member companies, Safety Committee members will segregate companies into similar groups/classifications depending on the submissions received. They will then decide how many awards are given based on the number of participants per division. Potential groups/classifications are:

- Pure engineering

- Engineering/construction
- Manufacturing-oriented
- Service-oriented
- Some combination of the above

Additionally, a "Most Improved" award may be given. Companies must complete three years of data on the submission form to be eligible for this award. GPSA wants to expand the safety award program, and increased participation is integral in making this happen. We strongly encourage companies to participate, but if you choose not to participate, we would like to know why so that we can alter the program to meet your member company's needs.

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### **GPA Safety Statistics**

Through the Safety Committee, GPA compiles and annually publishes safety statistics for the midstream industry. These statistics are useful in evaluating individual performance, identifying problem areas in individual company operations, and assisting with proposed legislation/regulation. The statistics are also used to determine GPA safety award recipients. To be eligible for a company award, GPA must receive company statistics no later than Feb. 20. The 2013 GPA safety statistics covered more than 53 million hours worked. Vehicle driving statistics are also collected, and 2013 statistics encompassed more than 350 million company vehicle miles traveled.

As a member benefit, current and historical safety statistics are available to member company employees. Go to the Account Login page for access to members-only information: <https://gpaglobal.org/login>

Members and non-members can access general award information here:

Company Safety Awards: <https://gpaglobal.org/awards/safety/company>

Facility Safety Awards: <https://gpaglobal.org/awards/safety/facility>

Perfect Record Awards: <https://gpaglobal.org/awards/safety/perfect-record>

E-mail Johnny Dreyer ([jdreyer@GPAglobal.org](mailto:jdreyer@GPAglobal.org)) if you did not receive a safety statistic request or if you would like to provide feedback to improve the process.

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### **Appalachian Basin GPA training scheduled for next month**

Appalachian Basin GPA's (ABGPA) first training course is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 18 in Cambridge, Ohio. Jeff Aldrich, Petroskills, will present *Shale Resources: From Reservoir to Wellhead*, which will detail several production topics from well bore and completions to wellhead, compression and lift to well decline and optimization. Breakfast and lunch are included, and the course will be eligible for continuing education credits. Following the course, interested attendees will visit an Eclipse Resources well pad to continue the training. Attendees must bring personal protective equipment and take part in a safety orientation to enter the site. Space will be limited, so register today to reserve your spot. This event as well as other chapter and training/educational opportunities are posted on our GPA online calendar: [www.GPAglobal.org/calendar](http://www.GPAglobal.org/calendar).

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### **GPA Environmental Committee and Natural Resources Subcommittee to meet in Denver next month**

Members of the GPA Environmental Committee and Natural Resources Subcommittee will meet in Denver, Feb. 4 – 5, to address the multitude of issues within their scope that affect GPA member companies. Meeting information has been sent to committee members, and time/location information is available on our GPA calendar: [www.GPAglobal.org/calendar](http://www.GPAglobal.org/calendar).

The Natural Resources group is a subcommittee of the Environmental Committee. The Environmental Committee is staffed by volunteers from GPA member companies to monitor/handle environmental issues, particularly those of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and equivalent state agencies where midstream operations are or could be affected. The committee frequently develops midstream industry positions and appropriate action plans on key industry issues. The Environmental Committee reports their activities to members of the Advocacy Steering Committee and seeks feedback from other committee leaders.

Along with handling industry issues, this committee:

- Administers the GPA Environmental Excellence Award, which is a project-based award that acknowledges and honors companies' achievements in energy conservation and environmental support. The award is presented each year at the GPA Convention.
- Organizes two forums/workshops at the GPA Convention to share important environmental related information with midstream representatives.
- Files comments with pertinent agencies on issues affecting GPA members. These comments are available for review/download in the GPA Knowledge Center: <https://gpaglobal.org/knowledge-center/comments>.

The committee leadership team of Chair Doug Jordan, Southwestern Energy, and Vice Chair Melanie Roberts, Targa Resources, encourages any member company not represented on the group to e-mail [GPA@GPAglobal.org](mailto:GPA@GPAglobal.org) to let the association know of interest in joining the group.

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### **GPA School of Gas Chromatography date change**

Due to renovations at the hosting University of Tulsa, the dates of the 2015 GPA School of Gas Chromatography have changed from the previously announced dates to Aug. 3 – 7. Registration for this year's school will open in March and will again be limited to 100 students, so we encourage those planning to attend to register early to secure a spot. For more information, visit <https://gpaglobal.org/education/gas-chromatography-school>.

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### **Midcontinent GPA makes plans to provide funding for school safe room**

The Midcontinent GPA (MCGPA) board of directors recently approved a \$15,000 donation to the Aline-Cleo school system in northwest Oklahoma to make a much needed storm shelter a reality for the grade school hosting about 80 children ranging from pre-K to 6th grade and its teaching staff. Support from the local chamber of commerce, energy producers in the area and MCGPA resulted in the project being approved by the school.

The projected start date for safe room construction is May or June 2015, with a projected finish date of August 2015.

GPA has six domestic chapter organizations that routinely provide support of this nature for activities and organizations in their respective regions. To learn more about GPA chapters and get involved, visit [www.GPAglobal.org/chapters/](http://www.GPAglobal.org/chapters/).

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### **Brazed Aluminum Heat Exchanger Subcommittee update**

Members from Technical Section A – Facilities Design & Optimization and Technical Section M – Operations & Maintenance continue to meet to develop a standard protocol to address problems experienced with brazed aluminum heat exchangers. The last meeting also included representatives from the manufacturers of the exchangers. The committee plans to have a document ready to present to the technical sections during the GPA Convention in April.

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### **Texas Railroad Commission rulemaking relating to pipeline T-4 permits**

The Texas Railroad Commission has unanimously adopted proposed amendments to 16 Tex.Admin.Code §3.70 relating to Pipeline T-4 Permits. All of the amendments were supported by GPA, Texas Oil and Gas Association and Texas Pipeline Association. Chair of GPA's Regulatory Committee Ron Mucci, ONEOK, reported that the revisions clarify that local distribution systems and production or flow lines that do not leave a lease are excluded from the rule, as well as operators of master metered systems and distribution systems. In addition, a sentence was added confirming that a previous pipeline classification will remain in place for extensions, replacements and relocations unless a different classification is requested by the pipeline operator. View the original proposal by the commission staff: <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/media/21682/prop-amend-3-70-sig-july8-2014.pdf>

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### **GPA Federal Affairs update**

#### **Northern Long Eared Bat update**

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is considering listing the Northern Long Eared Bat as threatened rather than endangered and recently published a proposed 4(d) rule in the Federal Register, linked below. The proposed 4 (d) rule will not cover tree clearing activity associated with development of new oil and gas/pipeline projects. FWS will be accepting comments for a 60-day period that ends March 17. It is important to note that this proposed rule does not guarantee that FWS will list the species as threatened.

GPA, along with the Marcellus Shale Coalition and the Independent Petroleum Association of America, are working on getting a U.S. Senate and a U.S. House of Representatives member-generated letters to FWS requesting an exemption for the oil and gas industry.

Federal Register link: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/01/16/2015-00644/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-listing-the-northern-long-eared-bat-with-a-rule-under>

### **GPA requests extension to the comment period for the proposed EPA Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule**

On Jan. 9, GPA formally requested an extension to the comment period for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed "Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule: 2015 Revisions and Confidentiality Determinations for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems" published in the Federal Register on Dec. 9, 2014 (79 FR 73148). GPA is requesting the comment period be extended 60 days beyond the current Feb. 9 comment period deadline. The proposed rule revisions expand the requirements of 40 CFR Part 98 Subpart W to "gathering and booster stations." As such, the proposed rule would have significant impact on GPA members because they own and operate a significant majority of the thousands of "gathering and booster stations" that would be subject to the rule.

Many of the same resources that are working to evaluate EPA's proposed expansion of Subpart W have been, and will continue to be, committed to these items, and it is only reasonable for EPA to extend the comment period for this significant rulemaking.

As proposed, this rule would have a significant financial and resource impact on GPA members. It is critical that enough time be allowed to thoroughly review the proposal, fully understand its impacts, and develop thoughtful comments and recommendations.

### **Obama Administration's Climate Action Plan to cut methane emissions from the oil and gas sector**

On Jan. 14, the Obama Administration released a plan to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector. Although GPA is still digesting the plan, it will involve a number of regulatory actions and has a number of moving parts. The plan did little to mention or highlight the efforts to date of industry to cut emissions.

View the White House Fact Sheet:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/01/14/fact-sheet-administration-takes-steps-forward-climate-action-plan-anno-1>

### **GPA files petition for review with EPA on revisions to *Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule, Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems***

On Jan. 23, GPA filed a petition for review in association with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) promulgation of revisions to 40 CFR Part 98, Subpart W (aka Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule, Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems). EPA posted the rule revisions in the Federal Register on Nov. 25, 2014 (see 79 FR 70352). The rule revision does not provide an option for ongoing Best Available Monitoring Methods (BAMM), nor does it include an emissions factor for compressor emissions. Prior to and during the proposed rule revisions, the GPA Environmental Committee had meetings, discussions, and filed comments with EPA regarding the need for ongoing BAMM and development of compressor emissions factors. GPA is filing the petition to initiate legal proceedings to address these issues. We anticipate that EPA will engage with GPA to address these issues as opposed to engaging in litigation. Other trade associations, such as the American Petroleum Institute and Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, have also filed similar petitions. Our hope is that by filing the petition, it will bring EPA back to the table.

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### **State vs. local ordinances: Texas and New Mexico**

In the states of Texas and New Mexico, bills have been introduced in response to local ordinances that would negatively impact the states' permitting processes.

#### **Texas**

- HB539 states that a municipality with authority to adopt an oil and gas measure may not adopt a measure unless it pays the Legislative Budget Board a fee to prepare a fiscal note and an education funding impact statement for the oil and gas measure.
- HB540 is an act that requires a municipality to submit a proposed measure to enact new ordinances (or repeal existing ordinances) to the attorney general's office. Before a municipality can vote on a new

ordinance, the attorney general's office must determine whether the proposed measure violates the Texas or federal constitution, a state statute, or a rule adopted as authorized by state statute.

- The city of Texas City has notified eight companies that it plans to increase the cost of using municipal right-of-ways. The increases could go up as much as \$80/rod, depending on the size of the pipeline.

### **New Mexico**

- SB184 enacts a new section of the severance tax bonding act to provide that no severance tax bonds shall be issued to benefit projects located in counties or municipalities that have enacted ordinances that would result in a 25 percent or more increase in costs to the extractive industries, and the state board of finance shall neither issue nor sell severance tax bonds to fund a project to be located within the offending jurisdiction.

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### **ASTM Natural Gasoline Specification update**

The proposed ASTM Specification for Natural Gasoline was balloted to ASTM's D02-H LPG Committee. Since the ballot received negative votes and comments, the chair has withdrawn the ballot for further consideration by the ASTM natural gasoline task force. The plans are to submit a concurrent ballot in the spring. GPA Technical Section C – Product Specifications will continue to work with the task force.

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### **GPA/GPSA Nominating Committees to meet**

It's the time of the year when GPA and GPSA organizations appoint individuals to serve on their respective 2015 Nominating Committees.

GPA's Nominating Committee will focus on nominating individuals to serve as officers of the organization, as well as nominating member companies to serve on the board of directors.

GPSA's Nominating Committee will meet to discuss individual companies to be placed on its directors ballot. This GPSA ballot should be distributed to the membership in late February.

Any member company of either organization that would like to be considered to serve on either board of directors should contact GPA/GPSA staff.

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### **GPA is accepting nominations/volunteers for Young Professionals Liaison positions**

Under the leadership of Young Professionals (YP) Chair Matt Moellers, Enterprise, and Vice Chair Cary Keen, Targa Resources, the YP Committee is accepting nominations and/or volunteers for several open YP Liaison positions.

A GPA Young Professional is loosely defined as a professional with less than 10 years of midstream industry experience. A number of committees listed in the document linked below have an opening for a YP Liaison. In this role, the liaisons will work directly with their committee chair and vice chair (or session chair/co-chair in the case of the Program Committee). Each committee chair and vice chair will serve as mentors to the YP Liaison, and during the annual YP Committee meeting in April at the GPA Convention, each YP Liaison will be responsible for providing a brief report to the YP committee about his/her specific role in the assigned committee, what the committee does, current projects/issues, etc.

Each YP Liaison will serve a 1-year term on a designated committee, running from April to April to fall in line with most GPA committee leaders' terms.

GPA is accepting nominations and YP volunteers; GPA will match YPs to appropriate committees based on the YP's job and the committee's requirements.

Our goal is to fill as many open YP Liaison positions as possible prior to the 2015 GPA Convention and have YP Liaisons attend their first committee meetings in San Antonio.

If you have a Young Professional in your organization that would benefit from a YP Liaison leadership role in a committee listed in the YP Liaisons document, please forward that person's name and contact information to Crystal Myers, GPA staff: [cmyers@GPAglobal.org](mailto:cmyers@GPAglobal.org). Young professionals interested in volunteering as a YP Liaison should also contact Myers.

View YP Liaison open positions and assignments: <https://gpaglobal.org/assets/gpa/pdf/2015-YP-Liaisons.pdf>

View GPA Committee descriptions: <https://gpaglobal.org/committees>

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## 2015 GPA Convention updates

**April 12 - 15 – San Antonio, Texas**  
**Midstream Momentum: Keep it moving!**

### Registration Information

Online registration for the 2015 GPA Convention opened earlier this month. Please keep the following registration deadlines in mind:

#### GPA & GPSA Members

By Feb. 13 - \$590  
By March 13 - \$640  
After March 13 - \$690

#### Non-Member Operators & Suppliers

By Feb. 13 - \$800  
By March 13 - \$850  
After March 13 - \$900

Before you register, we encourage you to check your company's membership status because GPA and GPSA members save on registration: <https://gpaconvention.org/membership/check>

The fastest, easiest way to register is online. Visit our convention registration page for detailed information about how to register online: <https://gpaconvention.org/register>

### Advertising opportunity

GPA is producing the show newspaper for the 2015 GPA Convention, which will be published Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (April 13, 14 and 15) and distributed on site at the conference. The issues will also be distributed electronically to GPA's entire database and within the new GPA app available to all registered attendees.

If you are interested in reserving ad space, please view pricing and availability in the GPA Show Daily media kit: <https://gpaglobal.org/assets/convention/pdf/2015/2015-Show-Daily-Media-Kit.pdf>

Advertising space is limited among the 12 pages in each issue, and the materials deadline is March 1.

If you have questions or would like to reserve space, contact [Crystal Myers](#).

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## GPA/GPSA Calendar

### February

4 - GPA Environmental Committee Meeting  
5 - GPA Natural Resources Subcommittee Meeting  
11 - Houston GPA Luncheon  
12 - GPA Europe Young Professional and Student Training  
17 - Appalachian Basin GPA Luncheon  
18 - Appalachian Basin GPA Wellhead Production Training Course  
20 - Houston GPA Sporting Clays Event  
25 - Rocky Mountain GPA Luncheon & Ski Bus

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### Gas Processors Association

6526 E. 60<sup>th</sup> St.  
Tulsa, OK 74128  
(918) 493-3872

[www.GPAGlobal.org](http://www.GPAGlobal.org)  
[GPA@GPAGlobal.org](mailto:GPA@GPAGlobal.org)

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