



eBrief

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## GPA MIDSTREAM CONVENTION

April 9 - 12, 2017

San Antonio, Texas

### **GPA Midstream Convention registration to open next month**

GPA Midstream will open online registration for the GPA Midstream Convention on Jan. 5, and our room block at the Marriott Rivercenter will open the same day. Look for an e-mail on Jan. 5 with more information on how to register for the convention. GPA Midstream and GPSA members will save on registration fees, and to simplify the process, your convention registration fee will automatically be selected based on your company's membership status as of Jan. 5.

#### **Early Bird Registration Rates** - before Feb. 10

GPA Midstream and GPSA Members - \$640

Non-Members - \$1,020

#### **Advance Registration Rates** - before March 10

GPA Midstream and GPSA Members - \$740

Non-Members - \$1,120

#### **On-Site Registration Rates** - after March 10

GPA Midstream and GPSA Members - \$840

Non-Members - \$1,220

Please join us in recognizing and thanking our [2017 convention sponsors](#). We greatly appreciate their support! If you are interested in sponsoring or advertising, contact [Crystal Myers](#) for more information.

We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio! For more information, visit [www.GPAconvention.org](http://www.GPAconvention.org).

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

### **PHMSA reschedules meeting focused on Gas Mega Rule**

PHMSA recently rescheduled its canceled meeting (previously scheduled for Dec. 5 - 6). The new meeting date for the Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee (GPAC) will take place on Jan. 11 - 12 in Arlington, Virginia. The meeting's focus will be on the "Gas Mega Rule," which is also referred to as the "Safety of Gas Transmission and Gathering Pipelines" rule. GPA Midstream Vice President of Government Affairs Matthew Hite will attend and requests that any GPA Midstream members

planning to attend the meeting to [send him an e-mail](#).

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## **GPA Midstream joins national trade association coalition in pushing back on EPA's soon-to-be-released RMP**

Earlier this month, GPA Midstream signed onto a national trade association coalition letter addressed to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) carefully evaluate revisions EPA has made to the Risk Management Program (RMP). GPA Midstream previously put together a work group consisting of its Environmental Committee and Safety Committee members to draft and submit comments earlier this year.

GPA Midstream feels that this proposed rule would impose significant (and unnecessary) new requirements on the midstream industry. More specifically, the proposed rule would impose significant new requirements on current facility risk management practices that would include costly third party audits. The proposed rule would also force companies to distribute potentially security-sensitive information to the public, which would increase security risks.

The coalition letter, led by the National Association of Manufacturers, states, "While safety is a top priority for all our members' operations, we remain concerned that the complexity and potential impact of the proposed rule on such a diverse array of affected entities has not been fully and properly evaluated by EPA, and the potential risks created by the rule may overwhelm its potential benefits. Accordingly, the undersigned associations believe that the proposal would clearly benefit from additional time, input, and discussion, and should be sent back for re-proposal."

GPA Midstream members believe EPA will try to publish the final rule in the Federal Register by the end of the year.

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## **Capitol Hill update**

The new Trump Administration is in full transition mode. While the inauguration is not until Jan. 20, President-Elect Donald Trump started announcing nominees this month. GPA Midstream will highlight some of the nominees of agencies/departments with whom we often interact:

- Scott Pruitt, Oklahoma Attorney General, is the nominee to head EPA
- Former Texas Governor Rick Perry is the nominee to head the Department of Energy
- Elaine Chao, former Bush labor Secretary, is the nominee to head the Department of Transportation
- Rex Tillerson, CEO of ExxonMobil, is the nominee to head the Department of State
- Ryan Zinke, the current congressman at large from Montana, is the nominee to head the Department of the Interior
- Vincent Viola, the former owner of Virtu Financial, is the nominee for secretary of the Army

In other news, Congress passed and the president signed a continuing resolution to fund the government through April 28, 2017. At GPA Midstream's December board meeting, we raised the concern that current funding was slated to expire around December 9, 2016, so this new continuing resolution will provide some temporary certainty.

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## **GPA Midstream joins coalition letter to U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan to push for regulatory reform next Congress**

GPA Midstream joined 380 other associations from 47 states representing a number of different industry sectors in a letter to U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan about the Regulatory Accountability Act, which GPA Midstream supported this Congress. The letter requests that it be a priority in the 115th Congress. The Regulatory Accountability Act would improve the transparency of regulations by requiring agencies to invest more effort earlier in the rulemaking process to gather data, evaluate alternatives and receive public input about the costs and benefits of its rules.

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## **GPA Midstream meets with OMB to convey midstream concerns with USACE proposal to reissue and modify nationwide permits**

GPA Midstream Vice President of Government Affairs Matthew Hite met with the Office of

Management and Budget (OMB) on Dec. 20 to convey GPA Midstream concerns on the Army Corps of Engineers' effort to reauthorize the Nationwide Permit (NWP) program. This is an important issue for midstream companies since they often use NWP 3 and NWP 12.

GPA Midstream Natural Resources Subcommittee Chair Jimmie Hammontree, Williams, led efforts on filing GPA Midstream's comments with the Army Corps of Engineers; Hammontree also helped script the GPA Midstream OMB meeting, which was successful.

GPA Midstream conveyed three major points to OMB. First, GPA Midstream highlighted the need to get the reauthorization completed sooner rather than later since a break in coverage would be disastrous for and would cause unnecessary economic hardship on the midstream industry. Second, GPA Midstream conveyed that all references to the 2015 Waters of the United States definition should be removed since it is currently tied up in litigation. Third, GPA Midstream conveyed that the compressed timeframe between the date that the Army Corps of Engineers publishes the draft and the pending 2012 Nationwide Permit expiration in March 2017 does not allow for significant changes to the program.

OMB seemed responsive to our comments, and while OMB does listen to stakeholders' concerns, it often does not divulge information nor the timing of the proposals they are reviewing.

## TECHNICAL/RESEARCH

### **Technical Section H provides clarification on GPA 2145-16**

Earlier this year Technical Section H - Measurement and Quality Determination completed revisions to GPA 2145 - Table of Physical Properties for Hydrocarbons and Other Compounds of Interest to the Natural Gas and Natural Gas Liquids Industries. The standard will take effect on January 1, 2017.

Technical Section H has provided the following clarification of the layout and the interpretation of the notes and certain physical properties contained in GPA 2145-16 that we recommend relaying to your company's measurement technicians:

As noted in the foreword to GPA 2145-16, the first part of the standard contains the same components (with the exception of air) and general layout as GPA 2145-09 in FPS units (pages 1-3), immediately followed by the additional components previously listed in GPA TP-17 (pages 4-27). The layout and format are then similarly repeated using SI units calculated at 15°C.

There are notes listed throughout the document explaining the derivation and/or basis of specific values. For example, on page 1 to the left of "Triple Point Temperature" there is "c" under notes. If the reader goes to the section "Notes For GPA Midstream Standard 2145-16," which begins on page 55, and looks for note "c" they will find the following clarifying note: "The triple point temperature is approximately the same as the melting point for most fluids."

These notes continue to appear wherever it was determined further explanation of a value was warranted. However, one formatting error that should be noted is that the notes on page 1 and page 28 which contain the properties for methane through n-pentane were not repeated on pages 2 and 3 for the FPS portion and pages 29 and 30 for the SI portion. All notes on page 1 are applicable to pages 2 and 3, and the notes on page 28 are likewise applicable to pages 29 and 30.

One last item requiring further clarification is that Ethylene's Density of Liquid value, which should be accompanied by note "d", shall not be used when performing any measurement related calculations and is listed here for reference only. Per note "d", the density of liquid for Ethylene is based on the normal boiling temperature at 14.696 psia (101.325 kPa) rather than 60°F (15°C) and saturation pressure; hence it is not on the same basis as the other hydrocarbon densities and will yield incorrect request when deriving properties or totals based on the liquid density of the components contained in a mixture for pure ethylene.

Contact GPA Midstream Director of Technical Services [Martin Erne](#) with questions.

### Midcontinent GPA Midstream 2016 community service recap

All GPA Midstream chapters are highly involved in their respective regions' communities, and Midcontinent GPA Midstream recently sent a recap of its 2016 community outreach. We commend them and all of our domestic chapters for providing community support through in-kind and cash donations, as well as by volunteering their time, to meet their communities' needs throughout the year.

#### MCGPA Midstream Lindsay, Okla., Park & Pool Project Donation

MCGPA Midstream donated \$10,000 to the city of Lindsay, Okla., to be used for walking paths around the newly revitalized Shady Grove Park, which includes a new pool and splash pad.

#### MCGPA Midstream Volunteer Fire Department Donations

MCGPA Midstream donated \$5,000 to each fire department named below, with each earmarking the funds for its own purposes. The chapter said these fire departments were chosen because they are all located among a significant amount of oil and gas activity, and the energy companies comprising the chapter organization spend a significant amount of time in these parts of Oklahoma. Each of the fire departments mentioned seeing company trucks travel their roads and said some companies have stopped by the stations to introduce themselves.

- The **Cashion, Oklahoma Fire Department** plans to use its \$5,000 donation for 4-way gas monitors and a foam inductor system.
- The **Fairview, Oklahoma Fire Department** plans to use its \$5,000 donation for foam and miscellaneous equipment and supplies.
- The **Covington, Oklahoma Fire Department** plans to use its \$5,000 donation for a Christmas dinner for the firemen, hosting a fire safety day at school, donations to people that lost belongings in a fire, a fire truck for a tech center, and for supplies and equipment that isn't covered through its operating budget.
- The **Rush Springs, Oklahoma Fire Department** plans to use its \$5,000 donation for three ventilation fans and five sets of full bunker gear.

## GPA MIDSTREAM/GPSA CALENDAR

### January

11 - Houston GPA Midstream Luncheon

[View details on events listed above](#)