



eBrief

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TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

July GPA Midstream GPSA Engineering Data Book Training Course

As a reminder, registration has opened for the five-day in-depth GPA Midstream GPSA Engineering Data Book training course to equip individuals with the fundamentals they need to put this valued industry resource to practical use. It is designed primarily for early career engineers and secondarily for senior operations, plant or maintenance personnel. The course is limited to 25 students and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. The summer training course is scheduled for July 25 - 29 at the Anadarko Training Center in Denver.

Another course is scheduled for October 10 - 14 at the Enterprise Training Facility in Mont Belvieu, Texas, and registration for this offering will open in August.

[View more course information and find the online registration form.](#)

GPA Midstream School of Gas Chromatography

GPA Midstream's School of Gas Chromatography is scheduled for Aug. 8 - 12 in Tulsa, Okla., and is directed toward chromatograph operators, measurement technicians and engineers involved with chromatography. The curriculum includes basic gas and gas liquid chromatography with an introduction to extended analysis and portable chromatographs.

Registration is open and limited to 100 students. The registration fee will increase by \$100 after July 11, so we encourage you to register now and save.

[View more information, including a link to online registration.](#)

GPA MIDSTREAM/GPSA LEADERSHIP

GPA Midstream sets 2016 - 2017 Executive & Finance Committee

The 2016 - 2017 GPA Midstream Executive and Finance Committee (E&F) has been set and will meet for the first time in conjunction with the August GPA Midstream board meeting. According to the bylaws, the E&F Committee consists of the association officers, the immediate past chair and five appointees made by the chairman. Members of the 2016 - 2017 E&F Committee are:

John Mollenkopf, MarkWest, GPA Midstream Chair

Wouter van Kempen, DCP Midstream, Chair-Elect
Joel Moxley, Southcross Energy, Past Chair
Paul Brewer, Enable Midstream Partners, Vice Chair
Robert Mitchell, Carrera Gas, Vice Chair
Bill Ordemann, Enterprise Products, Vice Chair
Mark Sutton, GPA Midstream, President
Johnny Dreyer, GPA Midstream, Corporate Secretary
Doug Coleman, Prism Midstream, Appointed Member
Mike Heim, Targa Resources, Appointed Member
Steve Spaulding, Energy Transfer, Appointed Member
Terry Spencer, ONEOK Partners, Appointed Member
Bill Ward, Superior Pipeline, Appointed Member

The service term for the GPA Midstream E&F Committee is one year.

GPSA sets its 2016 - 2017 Executive and Financial Advisory Committees

GPSA has also filled its 2016 - 2017 Executive and Financial Advisory (E&F) Committees roster. The two committees are made up of the association officers, immediate past president, GPSA staff and four presidential appointees. Individuals who will serve in this capacity for the 2016 - 2017 association year are:

Steve Tzap, ZAP Engineering & Construction, GPSA President
Richard Barber, Caterpillar, First Vice President
Chris Carter, J-W Power Company, Second Vice President
Mark Helm, Exterran, Treasurer
Mark Sutton, GPSA, Secretary
Chris Lindenberg, Western Filter, Appointed Member
David Mirdadian, Valerus, Appointed Member
Mark Ruff, Catalytic Combustion, Appointed Member
David Smoot, GE Oil & Gas, Appointed Member

The service term for the GPSA E&F Committees is one year.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

U.S. president signs Pipeline Reauthorization Bill

On June 22, U.S. President Barack Obama signed bipartisan legislation to reauthorize federal pipeline safety program through the year 2019. The previous reauthorization expired this past fall and still has more than a dozen legislative mandates that the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) still needs to fulfill. The new reauthorization increases reporting and oversight of PHMSA on completing those dozen mandates from the last reauthorization. The new reauthorization requires PHMSA to develop minimum safety standards for underground natural gas storage facilities. One of the more concerning provisions provides PHMSA with first-time emergency order authority to halt pipeline operations or take other actions if certain practices or situations creating an "imminent hazard" are detected. The new reauthorization requires a couple of studies, one on lost and unaccounted for gas and another on the feasibility of odorization of the entire natural gas stream. GPA Midstream sent letters in opposition to the odorization study to the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The House ultimately did not include the odorization study in either of the House Committee's respective versions. The Senate was successful in preserving the odorization study in the final version that went to the White House. GPA Midstream was successful in ensuring that gathering lines did not come under greater regulation. Contact GPA Midstream Vice President of Government Affairs [Matt Hite](#) with questions.

GPA Midstream requests second comment period extension for PHMSA gas mega rule

On June 17, GPA Midstream sent its second request for an extension of the comment period for PHMSA's Safety of Gas Transmission and Gathering Pipelines proposed rule. Currently PHMSA has a due date of July 7 for comments to be submitted. With a 500-plus page proposed rule, a

500-plus page regulatory impact analysis, and only within the past couple weeks, PHMSA released a class location document, GPA Midstream is concerned that there isn't enough time to adequately digest those documents in relation to their potential impact on midstream operations. Further proof is that PHMSA recently held a webinar on the rule that attracted close to 800 participants, and the webinar raised more questions and even confused PHMSA staff. GPA Midstream's request was for another 30-day extension.

GPA Midstream sends EPA extension request on Methane ICR and raises confidentiality concerns with ICR

On June 16, GPA Midstream sent a request to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a 30-day extension of the current comment period that ends on Aug. 2 for EPA's proposed Information Collection Request (ICR) for oil and gas facilities. The proposed collection request directly affects the midstream segment, and the supporting statement for the proposed ICR states EPA will send the request to 476 gathering facilities and 326 processing plants. As such, the proposed rule would have significant impact to the GPA Midstream membership.

GPA Midstream's extension request letter raised the issue that the requested info by EPA is highly sensitive in nature and clearly should qualify as confidential business information, in accordance with special rules governing information obtained under the Clean Air Act. In addition, the information requested by EPA meets the criteria for protection under the Confidential Information Protections and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA). GPA Midstream asserted claims for protection of the information provided and expect that the information will be used strictly for statistical purposes.

The GPA Midstream Environmental Committee has put together a work group to develop comments for the ICR. Contact GPA Midstream Vice President of Government Affairs [Matt Hite](#) if you are interested in joining the work group.

GPA Midstream presents Capitol update to Southern Gas Association

GPA Midstream Vice President of Government Affairs Matt Hite was invited to provide an "inside the beltway" update to the Southern Gas Association's (SGA) Environmental Committee at its recent meeting in Baltimore, Md. This was a great opportunity to learn more about SGA and discuss common issues that impact our respective memberships. SGA was founded in 1908 and is based in Dallas. They represent distribution, transmission and gas supply marketing and have 109 members that operate in 33 states.

GPA Midstream meets with EPA on the ICR in Raleigh, N.C.

On June 23, members of the GPA Midstream Environmental Committee traveled to Raleigh, N.C., to meet with EPA and discuss EPA's recent Information Collection Request (ICR) for methane emissions from the oil and gas industry. The ICR is the first step in EPA's regulatory process to develop a first-time regulation to regulate methane emission from existing sources. This regulation will have a significant impact on the midstream sector. The Environmental Committee has formed a work group that is focused on putting together regulatory comments in regard to the ICR. Contact GPA Midstream Vice President of Government Affairs [Matt Hite](#) if you are interested in joining the work group.

STATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

LOUISIANA

2016 regular session ended June 6

House Bill (HB) 900 was signed by Governor John Bel Edwards. The bill provides a significant fee increase for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and is expected to generate an additional \$24 million for the DEQ, which hasn't had a fee increase for years. The fees cover underground storage tanks, immovable property, ground water and hazardous waste. The GPA Midstream Environmental Committee anticipates slight fee increases from this bill across most DEQ

programs. The bill also gives DEQ the ability to increase fees in the future.

HB250 pertaining to the administration of underground utilities facilities also was signed by the governor. The bill was introduced to further protect underground utilities and pipelines by providing increased notification of digging. The bill amended the definition of excavation by adding language to remove the element of "intent" and included examples of circumstances of excavation/digging. The bill also included holidays to be observed by regional notification centers (Memorial Day and Christmas Eve).

HB469 was introduced to require fence-line monitoring systems at facilities, defined as any stationary source emitting one-half ton per year or more of hydrogen sulfide. There was much debate in committee, and as a compromise, it was amended to require the installation of fence-line monitoring to owners or operators of facilities whom were cited for three permit violations within a 24-month period. The amended bill passed out of the House Energy Committee but failed on the House floor. This is a victory for the midstream industry.

Second Extraordinary Session ended June 23

The state's Second Extraordinary Session was held to try to close the budget gap without cutting funds to K-12, higher education and other state services. The shortage was \$600 million. The legislature managed to come up with \$263 million through various bills, none of which impacted the midstream industry.

Senate Bill (SB) 6 was signed by the governor. The bill will raise \$17 million by eliminating tax rebates, but not tax credits taken by companies on their inventory taxes. It does, however, limit taxpayers who are eligible for ad valorem tax credits of more than \$1 million in a tax year to be refunded 75 percent of the first \$1 million and the remaining amount of the credit will be carried forward as a credit against subsequent tax liability for a period not to exceed five years.

OKLAHOMA

DEQ to revise general permit to construct/operate oil & gas facilities

Members of the GPA Midstream Environmental Committee have been meeting to provide informal comments to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on a Draft Minor Source General Permit for Oil and Gas Facilities (GP). Lance Lodes, Enable Midstream Partners, has taken the lead among GPA Midstream members to put together informal comments to provide to the DEQ by June 3. If you would like to provide informal comments, e-mail GPA Director of State Government Affairs [Debbie Beaver](#), and she will pass those along to Lance. An opportunity to file formal comments will arise once the official GP is published within the next few months. [View a link to the draft document.](#)

House Interim Studies

The Oklahoma legislature will hold meetings this summer to evaluate and study issues that could result in the introduction of legislation during the 2017 legislative session. Two interim studies have been requested by legislators in the House that industry should watch, one on guidelines for tax exemptions (ad valorem) and another on surcharges on rental equipment for the purposes. The Senate has not released its interim studies yet, but GPA Midstream is closely watching for interim studies on gathering, property rights and anything impacting taxes on the midstream industry. Contact [Debbie Beaver](#), GPA Midstream director of state government affairs, for updates.

PENNSYLVANIA

Bill for legislative oversight of state plan to regulate carbon dioxide emissions

SB1195 has been making its way through the Pennsylvania legislature. The bill requires the state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to send its carbon-cutting plan to the legislature for approval at least 100 days before the department sends it on to federal regulators, and it creates a new six-month public review period if either chamber of the legislature requires DEP to revise its plan. The House voted 147-41 to shift deadlines for DEP to submit its strategy for complying with new federal greenhouse gas reduction rules, and the Senate concurred with a vote of 38-11.

Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Resigns

Secretary John Quigley resigned from his position due to e-mails to environmental groups urging them to pressure lawmakers who opposed the DEP's priorities. During Quigley's reign, the DEP proposed tighter regulations on oil and gas operations. The DEP also set an early deadline for complying with the Clean Power Plan, which is intended to lower CO2 emissions from the electric generation industry. The Governor Tom Wolf has appointed Patrick McDonnell as the Acting Secretary. McDonnell was most recently the director of policy for the DEP, where he oversaw regulation and policy development processes, and he previously ran the State Energy Office.

TECHNICAL/RESEARCH

Section A's new Facilities Design Recommended Practices document now available

Technical Section A - Facilities Design & Optimization has completed its set of Recommended Practices for the design, engineering and construction of natural gas processing plants. This includes 20 piping specifications and 22 equipment/construction specifications and was quite the undertaking. It is available on GPAglobal.org in the Publications section under "Manuals, Checklists and Miscellaneous Publications". It is available for free download to GPA Midstream and GPSA members and for a nominal fee to non-members.

GPA MIDSTREAM/GPSA CALENDAR

July

- 7 - Permian Basin GPA Baseball Social
- 21 - 22 - GPA Midstream Chapter Leadership Meeting
- 25 - 29 - GPSA Engineering Data Book Instruction Course
- 29 - Rocky Mountain GPA Annual Summer Golf Tournament

[View details on events listed above](#)

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