



eBrief

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GPA responds to EIA proposed data collection changes

At its recent meeting in Dallas, GPA's NGL Market Information Committee reported to the GPA board of directors that the Energy Information Administration (EIA) has proposed some significant changes to its gas plant data collection efforts. EIA has proposed combining two older forms into one new form (EIA Form 915) which is much more intensive and may prove quite a bit more burdensome to the midstream industry. While the NGL Market Information Committee had been aware of the proposed changes since EIA published its intent in the Federal Register back in August of 2012, it was unaware that EIA had intended to release the data to the public on a plant-by-plant basis with a short lag time of only six months. After the board meeting, a high-level ad hoc task force was formed to develop a formal response to EIA before they submit the form to the Office of Management and Budget. Key points that the task force is likely to focus on in its response are the confidentiality of the contracts between gas plant and producers, the competitive nature of the business and the additional burden to gas plant personnel to collect this additional data. Many companies have also indicated they will be submitting individual comments. Comments to EIA are due by May 1.

GPA Safety Awards

GPA member companies were honored for their outstanding midstream industry safety records at the 2014 GPA Convention earlier this month in Dallas.

The GPA Safety Awards Program recognizes GPA member companies for outstanding safety performance in comparison among similar companies within the association's membership. U.S.-based and non-U.S. midstream operating companies compete and are recognized separately for the safety honors.

The four award divisions are determined by a range of midstream operational workhours, from less than 50,000 to more than one million. The top two entries in each division are selected according to lowest "total cases incidence rate" (TCR), lowest "fatalities plus lost workdays incidence rate" (LTR) and highest "number of workhours reported."

Congratulations to the following 2013 GPA Safety Award recipients:

UNITED STATES FACILITIES

Division I (1 million or more midstream operational workhours)

1st ExxonMobil U.S. Production
2nd Anadarko Petroleum Corp.

Division II (200,000 - 999,999 midstream operational workhours)

1st Chevron
2nd Hiland Partners

Division III (50,000 – 199,999 midstream operational workhours)

1st Superior Pipeline Co.
2nd Azure Midstream Energy

Division IV (less than 50,000 midstream operational workhours)

1st Eagle Chief Midstream
2nd Elkhorn Energy (Operating)

INTERNATIONAL FACILITIES

Division I (1 million or more midstream operational workhours)

1st Saudi Aramco Gas Plants
2nd United Gas Derivatives Co.

Division II (200,000 - 999,999 midstream operational workhours)

1st Bahrain National Gas Co.
2nd Phoenix Park Gas Processors Ltd.

Division III (50,000 – 199,999 midstream operational workhours)

No companies qualified

Division IV (less than 50,000 midstream operational workhours)

1st Aitken Creek Gas Storage
2nd No companies qualified

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD FOR SAFETY IMPROVEMENT

Anadarko Petroleum Corp.
Devon Energy
Enable Midstream Partners
ExxonMobil U.S. Production

GPSA Safety Awards

GPSA awards are based on companies' 2013 Occupational Safety and Health Administration records, plus a three-year history of active safety programs promoting safety and displaying safety improvement.

Congratulations to the following GPSA companies receiving safety honors:

Cimation
Fisher Controls/Emerson Process Management
Saxon Construction
S & B Engineers and Constructors
United Shutdown Safety

GPSA Safety Improvement Award

Enerflex Energy Systems

Environmental Excellence Awards

The GPA Awards for Environmental Excellence were presented to MarkWest Liberty Bluestone (Evans City, Pa.) and Saudi Arabian Oil Co. (Dhahran, Saudi Arabia). The project-based award recognizes companies demonstrating initiatives, and/or leadership, in managing their environmental affairs in midstream sector activities.

MarkWest Liberty Bluestone was honored for its facility modification projects that incorporated environmental best management practices and construction design standards to their 2012 acquisitions of the Bluestone and Sarsen natural gas processing facilities and a compressor station in Butler County, Pa.

Through installation of vapor recovery units and air fuel ratio emission controls on engines, and the addition of acoustical sound barrier dens at the Bluestone facility, emissions and noise reductions were achieved.

Saudi Arabian Oil Co. earned the distinction for a Flare Gas Recovery System, the first of its kind among Saudi Aramco facilities, initiated at its Shedgum Gas Plant in the eastern region of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The installation of three liquid seal drums for each of the existing flare gas, and two identical compression trains to recycle the flared gases to the plant sour gas header for further processing, resulted in a total flare reduction of 6 million standard cubic feet per day.

Impact Award

The GPA Impact Award recognizes companies whose contributions have resulted in major improvements to the midstream industry over the past year.

Although the contributions may be made over several years, the award will be bestowed for the year in which the impact occurs. Congratulations to GPA's two Impact Award recipients:

Enterprise Products Partners
MarkWest Energy Partners

Individual Recognitions

Congratulations to the following award recipients honored for their contributions to the midstream industry at the 2014 GPA Convention:

Hanlon Award

Kelcy Warren, Energy Transfer Equity

Katz Award

Dr. William R. Parrish

Lifetime Achievement Award

Carl Hefley

Citation for Service Award

Chris Root, DCP Midstream
Mark Scripsick, Enbridge

Leadership Award

Dean Graves, Devon Energy
Bruce Gillick, MarkWest Energy Partners
Doug Jordon, Southwestern Energy

Volunteer of the Year Award

Matt Norton, Crestwood Midstream Partners
Laura Weber, DCP Midstream
Ron Carnahan, MarkWest Energy Partners

New Permian Basin GPA web site

Congratulations to the Permian Basin chapter on the successful launch of its new web site. We encourage you to take a look: <http://pbgpa.org/>

GPA Convention recap

The 2014 GPA Convention in Dallas hosted 2,600 attendees representing 636 companies and 24 countries. This year's attendance showed a 10.2 percent increase compared to 2013, a 20.7 percent increase compared to 2012 and a 34.4 percent increase compared to 2011 attendance numbers.

Countries represented included:

Argentina
Australia
Bahrain
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
Germany
Denmark
Egypt
France
India
Japan
Korea
Mexico
Holland
Norway
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
Thailand
Trinidad
United Emirates
United Kingdom
United States

GPA will issue a survey next month to all who attended to give everyone the option of providing candid comments anonymously. We greatly value all feedback and hope those who attended will take time to complete the survey.

Papers and presentations that we have received from authors/presenters will be posted in the GPA app and on the app's web-based version for download. The app is available to registered convention attendees only; look for access information in a post-convention e-mail coming soon.

If you weren't able to attend, we encourage you to download the 2014 GPA Show Daily issues as a recap of events:

Monday, April 14 Issue
Tuesday, April 15 Issue
Wednesday, April 16 Issue

Save the dates for next year's GPA Convention, which is scheduled for April 12 - 15, 2015 in San Antonio, Texas. Additionally, all contracted future GPA Convention dates can be found on our convention web site: <https://gpaconvention.org/future-dates>

Interested in presenting a paper next year? Information on how to submit an abstract will be posted under "Speaking Opportunities" on <https://www.GPAconvention.org> next month.

Thanks to all who attended and participated, including speakers, committee members, sponsors and, last but not least, those on the Program Committee who made this conference the success that it was.

2014 – 2015 GPA Officers

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NFPA 56 presentation

Members of GPA Technical Section M - Operations and Maintenance, Brett Wheelock and Scott Neal, gave an excellent presentation at the GPA Convention regarding NFPA 56 - Standard for Fire and Explosion Prevention During Cleaning and Purging of Flammable Gas Piping Systems, a standard that was revised as the result of an explosion at an electric facility during the cleaning of the plant's fuel gas line with natural gas. As written, NFPA 56 could cause problems for the midstream business. Since Wheelock has been involved with NFPA, they have formed a subcommittee to address problems surrounding requirements under NFPA 56 for gathering, processing and process safety management (PSM). Wheelock and Neal have been working to educate the subcommittee members about midstream facilities, the PSMs in place, the control risks in midstream facilities and a chart of inconsistencies. Wheelock and Neal are hopeful that their efforts have given the NFPA task group members a better understanding of how the current NFPA 56 could negatively impact the midstream business with no real benefits. More updates will come in the future as they are working on the 2016 revision cycle.

Technical Section updates

Technical Section A - Facilities Design & Optimization: ballots and new projects

Technical Section A has three documents out for ballot:

1. Facilities Design Recommended Practices
2. Survey of Recent Plant Spacing Recommendations
3. Training Resources List

The ballots have gone out to voting members of Section A. This section has also identified four new projects, and a chairman has been selected for each:

1. Offshore Gas Processing Design
2. Remote Control Plants
3. Water Conservation and Re-Use
4. Vapor Design Recovery Design Guidelines – Vapor Recovery Units Specification.

Section B - Analysis & Test Methods: updating standards

Technical Section B members have been busy revising various standards that are out for ballot. Three are stain tube standards, and two are updates to precision data. During the GPA Convention, Section B Chair Joe Landes reported

that API is looking to revise their standards on “wet gas.” GPA 2166 is GPA’s sampling method for “wet gas,” and Landes reported that Section B would like to jointly participate in the API process. API does not have a process set yet, but Section B will be asking to participate.

Section C - Product Specifications: working with ASTM on natural gasoline specification leads to questions from EPA

As reported in previous GPA eBriefs, Technical Section C has been working with an ASTM taskforce to develop a natural gasoline specification for ethanol fuel blends for flexible fuel automotive spark-ignition engines, as well as a standard to be used as a denaturant for ethanol blending with gasolines for automotive spark-ignition engines. During discussions with the EPA, there has been an indication that sulfur levels for the final blends may have to meet Tier 3 limits of 10 ppm. Under the direction of Technical Section C Chair Steve Voss, GPA will be conducting an informal survey of GPA member companies of sulfur ranges in our midstream natural gasoline product to understand the feasibility of using it as a blend component in biofuels. Companies will be contacted within the next few weeks.

Section H - Measurement, Calculations and Handling of Hydrocarbon Fluids Including NGL and Natural Gas: updating standards

Technical Section H Chair Dean Graves reported during the GPA Convention that Keith Fry will take the lead in updating GPA 8173 – Method for Converting Mass natural Gas Liquids and Vapor to Equivalent Liquid Volumes. The standard has not been updated since 1984, so we could see quite a few revisions.

GPA 8186 – Measurement of Liquid Hydrocarbon by Truck Scales, with Eric Estrada taking the lead, will be finalized soon and sent out for ballot to Section H members.

Texas state elected officials attended 2014 GPA Convention

GPA members received a special “Texas Welcome” from Texas Speaker of the House of Representatives Joe Straus to start the General Session of our convention this year. Straus commented on the importance natural gas has played in the Texas economy, and the importance GPA members have played in the natural gas industry.

We were also privileged to have Texas Railroad Commissioner Christi Craddick address GPA members at the Tuesday night GPSA dinner. State Senator Kelly Hancock and state representatives Bennett Ratliff, Dan Branch, Cindy Burkett, Kenneth Sheets and Helen Giddings also attended the dinner.

“This effort was part of our goal to increase GPA’s visibility, and strengthen relationships, with our elected officials both on the federal level and within the states our members operate,” said Jeff Applekamp, GPA vice president of government affairs. “Each of the members attending commented on how impressed they were with the size of our crowd and event. Since our 2015 convention is scheduled while the Texas Legislature is in session, our plan is to extend invitations to federal Senate and Representative Offices, and city and county officials, to join us in San Antonio.”

GPA/GPSA Calendar

May

- 7 - MidContinent GPA Scholarship Golf Tournament
- 8 - MidContinent GPA Annual Meeting
- 15 - Appalachian Basin GPA Chapter Luncheon
- 16 - Appalachian Basin GPA 2nd Annual Golf Tournament
- 16 - MidContinent GPA Spring Clay Shoot
- 22 - Permian Basin GPA Annual Meeting
- 22 - Permian Basin GPSA Shrimp Boil
- 23 - Permian Basin GPA Scholarship Golf Tournament

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