



## July 2011 eBrief Print Version

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#### TECH TALK

##### Ballots to look for

##### Section B – Analysis and Test Methods

**GPA 2177 - Analysis of Natural Gas Liquid Mixtures Containing Nitrogen and Carbon Dioxide by Gas Chromatography** and **GPA 2261 - Analysis for Natural Gas and Similar Gaseous Mixtures by Gas Chromatography** will soon be ready for ballot after we address some minor comments from the working groups. Both standards will reflect accuracy and precision data, which was collected under GPA Research Project 033 and published as Research Report RR-188.

##### Section H – Product Measurement and Handling

**GPA 8182 – Standard for Mass Measurement of Natural Gas Liquids** has been revised and is ready for ballot.

**GPA 8173 - Method for Converting Mass Natural Gas Liquids and Vapor to Equivalent Liquid Volumes** has been reviewed and deemed up-to-date with no need for revision. The document will be balloted for reaffirmation.

##### **GPA Technical Section C – Product Specifications to hold working group meeting to finalize new specification**

The section plans to wrap up years of work, which started as an idea to publish common property limits of demethanized mix product. The document, first published as GPA 2107 and soon after withdrawn to add more content, will now cover limits on demethanized mix as well as fractionation grade NGLs. A title has yet to be determined, but the document will retain the original standard number 2107. The section will meet at the Enterprise offices in Houston next week.

##### **GPA to benefit from new analysis method for LPG residues**

Last month during ASTM's subcommittee on LPG (subcommittee D02-0H), DaVinici Europe presented the subcommittee with its preliminary precision data surrounding a method that will be the first of its kind. The method, which is currently written around the use of their machine only, proposes the use of new chromatography technology in which the LPG sample is injected directly onto the column. The preliminary results are promising, and they expect to have a more formal method ready for balloting by the next meeting in December.

As these machines become more commonplace and technology is proven, GPA membership can expect Technical Section B – Analysis and Test Methods, to run their own round robin testing with the intent of developing a GPA method around the technology.

### **Is a Propane/Dimethyl Ether Blend around the corner for LPG service?**

Andre Boehman, International DME Association (IDA), spoke at ASTM's D02-0H meeting in Baltimore recently regarding the use of DME (Dimethyl Ether Blend) as a blend stock to propane. Mr. Boehman explained that not only is DME readily available, inexpensive and has properties similar to propane, but it has also been proven as a fuel that can be produced from biomass with minimal energy used in the conversion process. This would likely earn DME the advantages from the United States government for renewable fuels. Propane was recently denied the label of "renewable" even with evidence presented that it could be produced from a number of different waste products. IDA hopes a relationship can be built between DME manufacturers and the LPG industry, and in turn, the blend may give propane another opportunity to earn this renewable label.

Boehman also presented facts about the disadvantages of DME, such as its tendency to dissolve gaskets and o-rings and its low viscosity leading to worn piston rings and greater potential for leaks.

As an industry that produces LPG, we are left with the following question: do we see this as an opportunity or a potential threat from competing industry products?

GPA will update information on this issue as it becomes available.

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### **What a difference 90 years can make!**

#### ***A reminder from Technical Director Kenny Wheat about GPA's technical importance***

In today's political climate where, often times, the focus remains on topics with "shock value," it is easy to overlook the day-to-day activities, as well as the great history at the core of our industry and GPA itself. The hot topics of the day have abbreviations like RICE MACT and RICE NESHAP or titles such as Subpart W and Quad Z. While these are extremely important topics with potentially harmful outcomes to our industry, it has become far too easy to forget why and how this highly successful and prosperous industry came to be.

In the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when crude oil was starting to make men wealthy, the casinghead gas or natural gasoline that accompanied it was most often seen as a hindrance or a worthless by-product. The refiners soon found that if this "stuff" was distilled, it would form a liquid that would boil off at somewhat higher temperatures and could effectively power many of the internal combustion engines within the refining operations. Around 1910, the refiners discovered that this distillate could actually be blended into gasoline and worked quite well in certain quantities. This couldn't have happened soon enough, as the demand for gasoline was on the rise to fuel the ever-increasing numbers of automobiles, and a few years later, to fuel the machines used in World War I.

Then, the first truly profitable use of NGLs was discovered. With the product being abundant and inexpensive, it found its way onto rail cars and other means of pressure vessel transportation to be used in other parts of the country. In the heat of the summer, these pressure vessels would often create leaks, rupture, and at times, cause catastrophic accidents. The knowledge of NGLs' value was there, but the characteristics of the products were not. Out of this need, GPA was born, first developing vapor pressure limits and other specifications for natural gasolines and later developing and growing a fledgling industry of gas processing into what we now know today.

While groundbreaking discoveries may now be few and far between (can you really make more of a jump from JT technology to turbo expansion?), the need and purpose for our technical activities is still ever present. Take one look at one of your pipeline contracts and the evidence is very clear. Without the knowledge collectively gained from past work and current updating with new information from the sharing of best practices, process technology improvements and GPA research, our industry would never be where it is today and couldn't grow into tomorrow.

GPA is where we are today because of collective knowledge gained from past work experience, coupled with the sharing of best practices from many of you. We will continue to look to the future by focusing on technology

improvements and research. Please don't forget where we started, where we have been and how we got here. Without the technical activities of this organization, would there ever have been a gas processing industry?

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### **Advocacy Steering Committee holds its first meeting**

Joel Moxley, Crestwood, presided over the inaugural meeting of the newly formed GPA Advocacy Steering Committee last month.

A few of the current hot topics addressed were EPA's proposed rule to reduce RVP and sulfur limits, the potential need for amicus brief filings and pipeline safety legislation. Each of these issues crosses over and affects various GPA committees.

The Advocacy Steering Committee was formed after the GPA board of directors approved a reorganization plan for the former Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee and Environmental, Health & Safety Committees.

The new committee consists of leaders of the GPA advocacy committees: Environmental, Legal, Legislative, Pipeline Safety, Regulatory and Safety. Moxley will serve as chair for the Advocacy Steering Committee, and Al Fatica, Enterprise Products, will serve as vice chair.

The focus of the Advocacy Steering Committee is to identify GPA issues that crossed over GPA's traditional committees, coordinate GPA resources to address these issues and formulate an action plan between affected committees for the success of GPA and our member companies.

If you would like to serve on any of these six advocacy committees, please contact Jeff Applekamp, [japplekamp@gpaglobal.org](mailto:japplekamp@gpaglobal.org).

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### **Congressman Dan Boren will not seek reelection**

Congressman Dan Boren, Oklahoma's 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District, serves on the House Resources Committee, which provides oversight on American energy production. He is also a leader on the Natural Gas Caucus and has always been willing to work with GPA on our many matters before Congress. Boren has decided to not seek reelection next year for another term in Congress. He said, "It was based on the demands of constant campaigning, and most importantly, spending too much time away from family, which includes two very young children". We will miss him and wish him much success in his future ventures.

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### **GPA's School of Gas Chromatography is full**

GPA's School of Gas Chromatography has sold out once again. If you would like to be placed on the waiting list, contact Judy London, [jlondon@GPAglobal.org](mailto:jlondon@GPAglobal.org). Registrations received after the school is full will automatically be placed on a waiting list. If a cancellation occurs, we will fill the vacant spot from this list in the order in which the registrations were received.

For those already registered, student packets will be sent to you soon.

For additional information about the school, please contact [Judy London](#) or [Kenny Wheat](#).

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### **SAVE THE DATE for the 2012 GPA Convention**

The 2012 event will be held April 15-18 in New Orleans. A preliminary information page is available: <http://gpaglobal.org/convention/2012/>

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### **Call for Papers - 2012 GPA Convention**

The convention planning committee is already developing the program for the 2012 GPA Convention and invites you to share your knowledge at the premier midstream industry event, April 15-18, in New Orleans.

**Requested midstream topics include:** International developments- Legislative and regulatory issues/impacts- Safety - Environmental- Pipeline Safety - Product quality and specifications- Operational and maintenance issues- Reliability - Business/Commercial - NGL Activities - Technical developments - Marketing and downstream issues- Applications of thermodynamics and phase equilibria- Shared practices- LNG- Computer technology- Research and data development

All authors/companies that send a 200-250 word abstract (with full contact information) to GPA by Oct. 7 will be considered for a presentation slot at the 2012 convention. Abstracts submitted early will be given priority consideration. Even if your midstream topic/paper does not match the descriptions, we encourage you to go ahead and send in your abstract by the deadline for consideration as additional forums may be added. Presenters

receive complimentary registration to the event.

Please send abstracts to Johnny Dreyer: [jdreyer@GPAglobal.org](mailto:jdreyer@GPAglobal.org).

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### **Dates for GPA chapters' fall annual meetings**

Sept. 8 Rocky Mountain GPA Annual Meeting  
Oct. 11 Houston GPA Annual Meeting and Golf Tournament  
Nov. 3 North Texas GPA Annual Meeting

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### **GPA/GPSA Calendar**

For event location and additional details about meetings listed below, visit: [www.GPAglobal.org/calendar/](http://www.GPAglobal.org/calendar/)

#### July

13 GPAC Stampede Breakfast  
13-14 GPA Chapter Leadership Meeting  
18 GPAC Jim Belding Memorial Golf Classic 2011  
21 GPA NGL Market Information Committee

#### August

3-4 GPSA Editorial Review Board  
8-12 38th School of Gas Chromatography  
10 North Texas GPA Lunch and Learn

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### **Gas Processors Association**

[www.GPAglobal.org](http://www.GPAglobal.org)

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