



MIDSTREAM'S GREATEST RESOURCE

eBrief

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Deadline for convention speaking opportunities nears

If you are interested in presenting at the 2015 GPA Convention, please note that the deadline to submit your abstract for consideration is Oct. 22. Our convention speakers receive complimentary registration, not to mention a tremendous amount of midstream industry exposure and recognition. The GPA Convention web site has a convenient online form that makes uploading your abstract fast and simple.

Please take a look at our information about speaking opportunities prior to sending your abstract to become familiar with our guidelines.

For more information:

Speaking opportunities: www.GPAconvention.org/2015-call-for-papers

Submit your abstract: www.GPAconvention.org/submit-abstract

For questions, please e-mail [Johnny Dreyer, jdreyer@GPAGlobal.org](mailto:Johnny.Dreyer.jdreyer@GPAGlobal.org).

GPA sends letter to President Obama in response to the "Climate Action Plan Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions"

GPA submitted a letter to President Obama in response to the "Climate Action Plan to Reduce Methane Emissions" released in March 2014 and ongoing deliberation by the White House, Department of Interior, Department of Energy, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the need to reduce methane emissions either voluntarily or

mandatorily. In our letter, GPA explains that we understand that these parties are having considerable discussions to move forward with methane regulations, and we recommended that they not act in haste and issue regulations without considering current regulations, methane emissions studies, and voluntary initiatives.

GPA lists multiple examples of recent federal regulations which have been enacted and are in the process of being implemented, and which target reducing emissions from oil and gas operations. In addition to these federal regulations, several states have implemented regulations targeting additional emission reductions. Due to the infancy of these regulations, the full effect has not been observed.

We also point out several methane measurement studies recently published, or underway, focusing on methane emissions from the oil and gas sector. These studies include the University of Texas natural gas production sector studies, the Colorado State University gathering and processing sector study, and the Colorado State University transmission and storage sector study, as well as others being pursued by state agencies. We believe these studies will provide the White House, and agencies, with the information needed to determine whether regulations are warranted.

Finally, the Climate Action Plan acknowledges voluntary programs as a means of achieving necessary reductions. GPA has been an "endorser" member of the EPA Natural Gas STAR program since 1993. Many of our members participate in this program, which to date reports methane reductions of 1.15 Tcf, demonstrating that voluntary programs can be effective in achieving reductions. GPA encourages pursuit and promotion of voluntary programs in response to the Climate Action Plan and continued evaluation of recent federal and state regulations prior to making decisions to pursue further regulatory emission reduction strategies.

GPA filed comments with EPA: managing emissions on tribal land

Editor's note: United States Code, Title 18, defines "Indian country" as follows:

"Except as otherwise provided in sections 1154 and 1156 of this title, the term 'Indian country,' as used in this chapter, means (a) all land within the limits of any Indian reservation under the jurisdiction of the United States Government, notwithstanding the issuance of any patent, and, including rights-of-way running through the reservation, (b) all dependent Indian communities within the borders of the United States whether within the original or subsequently acquired territory thereof, and whether within or without the limits of a state, and (c) all Indian allotments, the Indian titles to which have not been extinguished, including rights-of-way running through the same."

GPA filed comments with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Aug. 20 in response to an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking on minor New Source Review (NSR) permitting in Indian country (see the legal definition of "Indian country" above). GPA members have significant natural gas operations located within Indian country covered by this future rulemaking.

In May, EPA issued two separate rules. The first was a final rule to extend the deadline where true minor sources in the oil and natural gas production sector are required to obtain a pre-construction air permit from September 2014 to March 2016. This additional 18-month timeline will allow EPA to develop a minor NSR program to allow a streamlined and quicker permitting mechanism for oil and natural gas production sources in Indian country.

On Sept. 5, five members of the Environmental Committee Indian Country Work Group, led by Vice Chair Melanie Roberts, Targa Resources, met with EPA to educate the rule writers on the natural gas midstream sector and the necessity of a quick and predictable permitting program for the continued development of natural gas infrastructure on Indian lands.

The work group has focused on the following:

- Providing a short permitting timeline that gives industry a reasonable and predictable air permitting timeline.
- Providing a streamlined process that reduces the burden on the permitting agency since the oil and natural gas industry consists of a large number of sources with similar operating equipment and emission sources.
- Allowing sources to request site-specific emission reductions by pollutant. This means requesting a tank throughput limitation or establish catalytic controlled emission rates for natural gas fired compressor engines to reduce emissions below longer permitting programs.
- Including natural gas plants in the streamlined permitting option, as their emission sources are similar to compressor stations.

- Discussing that the natural gas midstream sector is already well regulated under several air programs including New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP).
- Discussing state oil and gas permitting program elements that work well by giving industry a short and predictable permitting timeline and reducing the review burden of the state agency.

The Indian Country Work Group will continue to work with EPA on development of the minor source air permitting program.

Get recognized for environmental excellence: application deadline is Jan. 10

GPA's Environmental Committee Chair Doug Jordan encourages GPA members to submit applications for this project-based award that acknowledges and honors companies' achievements in energy conservation and environmental support. The nomination process is open for companies to be considered for the 2014 award recognition at the GPA Convention, April 12 - 15, 2015, in San Antonio, Texas. There, award winners will be able to display their projects so that other member companies may benefit from this knowledge and information.

To encourage more participation in our Environmental Excellence Award program, we have expanded the award categories to two divisions. GPA member companies classified as 01 and 02 members will compete for the Division 1 award. All other GPA member companies, including international and associate members, will compete for the Division II award.

The winner of each division will receive a traveling trophy (Stanley Cup style) to display at its site for one year and will have the opportunity to present the trophy to the following year's winner at the GPA Convention. Winners in both divisions will also receive a plaque as a keepsake and will have the opportunity to purchase additional plaques.

MarkWest Liberty Bluestone was honored with a 2013 Environmental Excellence Award 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.

Saudi Arabian Oil Co. earned the 2013 award 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 application deadline is January 10, 2015. Contact Jeff Applekamp for more information and an application form: japplekamp@GPAglobal.org

2015 GPA Convention sponsorship deadline reminder

For companies interested in GPA Convention sponsorships, please note that companies spending at least \$1,500 on sponsorships (does not include Vendor Night) will be recognized as a "convention partner" by company logo in our promotional brochure that mails to more than 10,000 midstream industry professionals. The deadline to sign up for logo placement in the brochure is Nov. 14. Visit www.GPAconvention.org/sponsor-2015 to view available opportunities.

Contact Crystal Myers with questions about sponsorships: cmyers@GPAglobal.org.

Midcontinent GPA, GPSA celebrate new OSUIT Pipeline Integrity Technology program

GPA and GPSA representatives attended a ribbon cutting ceremony and dedication ceremony of the newly renovated GPA/GPSA Midcontinent Chapter Classroom in the OSU Institute of Technology's (OSUIT) new Pipeline Integrity Technology program.

The need for skilled engineering technologists that install, operate, maintain, repair and manage the integrity and security of pipelines is on the rise, and the OSUIT program enables students to develop the skills necessary to be successful in the pipeline industry. Major topics of study include safety, assessing pipeline damage and risk, corrosion control, design and integrity management. Midcontinent GPA donated \$25,000 toward classroom improvements for the program.

The renovated classroom includes new teaching tools, technology and equipment, as well as classroom supplies and furniture. This most recent contribution, combined with other scholarship and excellence funds donated to the

school, brings a cumulative amount of \$100,000 donated by the GPA/GPSA Midcontinent Chapter to OSUIT since last summer.

The Pipeline Integrity program started in the fall of 2013 with nine students. One year later, the program is full with 20 students and nearly 100 more inquiries into the program so far.

The program began at OSUIT after industry leaders came to the university asking for a training program to help meet the need of skilled technicians in the pipeline field. The program always welcomes donations from GPA and GPSA member companies such as teaching posters, samples, equipment (any old beat up pipe, valves or other equipment). If interested in the program or wanting to provide donations, contact Joe Bartlett: joe.bartlett@okstate.edu or (918) 284-7804.

GPA Research Project Requests for Proposal

RFP for Research Project 111 – *Comparison of GPA Data to Simulator Predictions:*

Subgroup 2 of the GPA Technical Research committee has completed an RFP for research Project 111. The RFP was sent out to 8 laboratories requesting a bid to compare the ability of commercially available simulators, which are widely used in the oil and gas industry to predict high quality laboratory scale data. The scope includes but is not limited to data contained in GPA research reports. The scope also includes single phase mixtures, two phase systems and three phase systems. Bids are due Dec. 15.

RFP for Research Project 143 – *Acid Gas Transport Properties Near Critical Phase Envelope:*

Subgroup 2 of the GPA Technical Research Committee has completed a revised RFP for research Project 143. The RFP was sent out to 9 laboratories requesting a bid to measure heat capacity, density, and viscosity for predefined mixtures of hydrogen sulfide, carbon dioxide, and methane. An aromatic compound will be added to determine the impact on the transport properties. The project has been awarded to LTP GmbH Oldenburg.

Request for Proposal (RFP) for Research Project 151 – *Mercaptan Vapor Liquid Equilibrium in TEG and EG:*

Subgroup 1 of the GPA Technical Research committee has completed an RFP for research Project 151. The RFP was sent out to 8 laboratories requesting a bid to generate experimental data for mercaptan solubility in glycol and glycol-water solutions. These data will allow for the prediction of mercaptan distribution in glycol units used in natural gas treating. Once the RFP is awarded, this will be a two-year project. This information will help designers and operators to predict mercaptan absorption in glycol systems and is also important for predicting sulfur and VOC emissions from gas treating operations. Bids are due Nov. 18.

Technical Section A to submit comments to NFPA

In response to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 56 – *Standard for Fire and Explosion Prevention During Cleaning and Purging of Flammable Gas Piping Systems*, Technical Section A – Facilities Design & Optimization will discuss the findings of an NFPA 56 Committee Task Force Report – *Assessment of Oil & Gas Industry Issues Including Gathering Lines*, prepared by John R. Puskar and Scott Neil, DCP Midstream, at the Oct. 22 meeting.

The report sets out the findings of a task force authorized by the NFPA 56 committee to review NFPA 56 requirements related to onshore oil and gas industry issues, including gathering lines and well drilling exploration and development activities, and sought to determine how NFPA 56 might impact the oil and gas industry and if gathering lines should remain within the scope.

GPA will file comments to support the task force recommendations to remove gathering lines from NFPA 56, and requesting process safety management facilities be removed from NFPA 56 applicability since they already have approved procedures and processes to purge piping. GPA will discuss this issue and preparation of comments at the Oct. 22 Section A meeting. GPA comments are due Jan. 5, 2015.

Technical Section B standards revisions

Technical Section B – Analysis & Test Methods has revised and published the following GPA standards:

- **GPA 2186-14 – Method for the Extended Analysis of Hydrocarbon Liquid Mixtures Containing Nitrogen and Carbon Dioxide by Temperature Programmed Gas Chromatography** – revisions include the removal of reference(s) to obsolete industry practices, the removal of calculations that utilize GPA 2145 and GPA 2172, and updates to the standard to maintain consistency with current technologies. The quality assurance and quality control related material previously included has been removed and referenced to GPA 2198.
- **GPA 2188-14 – Method for the Determination of Ethyl Mercaptan in LP-Gas Using Length of Stain Tubes** – revisions include updates to some materials used in stain tube procedures which by today's best practices would be found obsolete in terms of what industry uses to collect or transport a sample to the stain tube. The most significant addition is a "cautionary statement" to inform the user that it is critical that manufacturer's instructions be followed implicitly.
- **GPA 2286-14 – Method for the Extended Analysis of Natural Gas and Similar Gaseous Mixtures by Temperature Program Gas Chromatography** – revisions include the removal of reference(s) to obsolete industry practices and the removal of calculations that utilize GPA 2145 and GPA 2172.
- **GPA 2194-14 – Low-Pressure Field Method for Determining Ethyl Odorant in LP-Gas Using Length of Stain Tubes** – revisions include updates to some materials used in stain tube procedures which by today's best practices would be found obsolete in terms of what industry uses to collect or transport a sample to the stain tube. The most significant addition is a "cautionary statement" to inform the user that it is critical that manufacturer's instructions be followed implicitly.

Technical Section C standards revisions

GPA 3132 – Natural Gasoline Specifications and Test Methods – A ballot was sent to voting members of Technical Section C – Product Specifications on Sept. 25 asking for approval to archive the standard due to obsolescence. "Archive" means the standard will no longer be supported by GPA or its technical committees. Responses to the ballot are due Oct. 31. If the ballot is approved by 60 percent of the Section C voting members, a ballot will then be presented to the Technical Committee members for their approval.

GPA 2108 – GPA Fractionation Grade Product Specifications – revisions include an upgrade and expansion of the existing fractionation grade specifications to include a demethanized mix specification which is based on a least restrictive survey of existing specifications and the addition of limits for impurities which most/all fractionators cannot treat. The expansion also includes a non-specification portion showing typical compositional ranges based on a survey to aid new industry professionals.

Technical Section H standard revisions

GPA 8173 – Standard for Converting Mass of Natural Gas Liquids or Vapors to Equivalent Liquid Volumes – a ballot was sent to voting members of Technical Section H – Measurement, Calculations and Handling of Hydrocarbon Fluids Including NGL and Natural Gas on Oct. 14, requesting approval of revisions to GPA 8173. The revision contains multiple changes including: (1) formatting was changed to an API style, including the addition of a section on "Symbols and Abbreviations" (2) REFPROP is referenced as the source for absolute density values at 20°C and should be used until GPA 2145 includes properties at 20°C (3) the section of precautions was replaced with Section 5, *Limitations of the Standard* (4) to provide for reproducible calculations for accounting purposes, intermediate rounding, final rounding, and a normalization routine are now specified, and (5) sections were added to show how to derive liquid volumes given mol percent, volume percent and mass percent. Responses to the ballot are due by Nov. 20. If the ballot is approved by 60 percent of the Section C voting members, a ballot will then be presented to the Technical Committee members for their approval.

GPA Europe to host Annual General Meeting next month

The 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of GPA Europe (GPAE) will be held Nov. 27 at the London Hilton Paddington. [Registration is now open on the GPAE web site.](#)

The meeting will follow the traditional format of a knowledge session in the morning, lunch, the AGM, an afternoon forum of four papers and finishing with a networking reception.

The theme of this year's technical presentations is "The Development of Wells and Reservoirs." The knowledge session will be provided by PetroSkills and is titled "Subsurface Technology For Non-Subsurface Professionals."

GPA Europe annual conference recap

126 delegates met at the Hesperia Hotel in Madrid Sept. 17-19 for a successful GPA Europe (GPAE) annual conference. The conference included the usual mix of technical, networking and social activities. The conference dinner was held during a visit to Real Madrid's Bernabeu Stadium. Last year, GPAE resurrected a tradition by holding a sponsored golf tournament as a conclusion to all the events. Copies of all papers presented are available for download on the GPA Europe web site: www.gpaeurope.com/.

If you weren't able to attend in Madrid and want to enjoy the benefits of a most successful conference, save the dates for next year's meeting in Florence, Italy, scheduled for Sept. 16-19, 2015.

2016 Joint Conference: GPA Europe and the GPA Gulf Cooperation Council Chapter

GPA Europe (GPAE) and the GPA Gulf Cooperation Council Chapter (GCC) are holding ongoing discussions regarding a proposed joint conference in September 2016 in Istanbul. This mutually beneficial conference would allow major producers/operators in both areas to network with suppliers for Europe and the Gulf.

Although planning is in the early stages, please let Sandy Dunlop (admin@gpaeurope.com) know if you are interested advertising/sponsorship opportunities. More details will be available from GPA, GPAE and GCC as they develop.

Call for papers: GPA Gulf Cooperation Council Chapter 23rd Technical Conference

The GPA Gulf Cooperation Council Chapter has an open call for papers for its 23rd Technical Conference scheduled for May 12-13, 2015, in Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia. The forums presented will cover business and technical aspects of gas processing.

Interested parties are requested to provide a title and a 200-250 word abstract with presenter's biography by Nov. 30. Complete mailing addresses, phone and fax numbers should be included with the abstracts. Please forward all your documentations electronically through e-mail to shadi.adel@aramco.com or khalifa.albuainin@banagas.com.bh. Paper selections will be made Dec. 31, and final manuscripts will be due by March 31, 2015.

For conference information and list of suggested topics, visit <http://www.gpa-gcc-chapter.org/>

GPA Gulf Cooperation Council Chapter Gas Treating & Sulfur Recovery Workshop

This course emphasizes technical fundamentals, practical operating issues, process selection, and integration of the sweetening and sulfur recovery facilities into the overall scheme of gas processing. It also covers standard Claus configurations. Special design and operation topics such as trace sulfur compound handling and the importance of H₂S – CO₂ ratio is covered.

For full information and a registration form, visit: <http://www.gpa-gcc-chapter.org/>.

OSUIT to hold industry career fair next week

Looking for employees? The Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology (OSUIT) is holding a career fair at the Okmulgee, Okla., campus for potential employers Oct. 21. Even if you do not plan to hire immediately, they encourage you to come and make that important first connection with their highly sought after students who will be seeking internships. These intensive internships often provide great "test drive" opportunities for both the employer and perspective employee that lead to long-term employment.

The basic agenda:

8 -9 a.m.	Setup and pastries
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Open Session
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch available at your leisure
4 – 4:30 p.m.	Breakdown

GPA and GPSA work closely with OSUIT on the Pipeline Integrity and Natural Gas Compression programs. For more information about the career fair, call Robbie Vanhooser, OSUIT: (918) 293-5208.

Upcoming GPA Europe meetings

Feb. 12, 2015: Young Professional and Student Training, University of Manchester
April 22 - 24, 2015: Le Royal Meridien Hotel, Hamburg
Sept. 16 - 18, 2015: Hilton Florence Metropole, Annual Conference

November 2015: AGM & Technical Meeting, London

Details for each meeting will be published in newsletters and on the GPA Europe web site as they develop. Visit www.GPAeurope.com for more information.

GPA Gulf Cooperation Council Chapter Calendar

Nov. 16-20: 9th Technical Workshop

January 2015: Executive/Technical Committee Meeting & Companies Visit

March 2015: Technical Committee Meeting

May 11, 2015: Annual Organization Meeting

May 12-13, 2015: 23rd Annual Technical Conference

Visit www.gpa-gcc-chapter.org for more information.

GPA/GPSA Calendar

October

- 21** Environmental Committee Meeting
- 22** Natural Resources Subcommittee Meeting
- 22** Technical Sections A & B and C, H & M Meetings
- 22-23** GPA/GPSA Fall Board Meetings
- 23** Technical Committee Meeting
- 29** North Texas GPA Sporting Clays

November

- 6** North Texas GPA Annual Meeting
 - 6-7** Subgroup 1 and Subgroup 2 Research Meetings
 - 12** Houston GPA Luncheon
 - 12** GPSA Editorial Review Board Meeting
 - 13** North Texas GPA Lunch & Learn
 - 13** Rocky Mountain GPA Regional Conference
 - 14** Rocky Mountain GPA 2nd Annual Holiday Event
 - 18** Appalachian Basin GPA Chapter Luncheon
-