



eBrief

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

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

### **Environmental Committee ICR Workgroup secures changes in EPA ICR process**

Members of the GPA Midstream Environmental Committee have had several meetings with EPA in Research Triangle, N.C., and the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in Washington, D.C., to discuss EPA's Information Collection Request (ICR) for methane emissions from the oil and gas industry. The ICR was the first step in EPA's regulatory process to develop a first-time regulation to regulate methane emission from existing sources. The Environmental Committee formed a workgroup focused on putting together regulatory comments in regard to the ICR.

The workgroup, led by Jaron Hill, Williams, and with volunteers from Crestwood, DCP Midstream, Enable, Enterprise, MarkWest, ONEOK, Targa and Tesoro, filed several sets of comments on the ICR, saying the association does not believe EPA should regulate methane emissions from existing sources and provided a series of constructive comments on the ICR, which would clarify, improve and streamline the request, provided EPA and OMB elect to proceed with the information gathering effort. GPA Midstream was pushing for some common sense reforms to EPA's proposal. Among other issues, GPA Midstream highlighted how the cost burden to comply with EPA's ICR was inaccurate and would cost the midstream industry much more than what EPA projected.

GPA Midstream was able to secure the following changes from OMB: an additional 60 days to respond to the survey (going from 120 days to 180 days), requesting just 2016 data and not 2015 data which will decrease the burden on industry, splitting the gathering and boosting segment of the industry into two segments to reduce confusion, changed the required methods for pressurized liquid sampling so that members can use a GPA Midstream method versus a CARB method, and changed guidance on who is responsible for responding so that only operators who receive the ICR have to respond and not previous owners as EPA originally required.

We appreciate the hard work of our members involved in this success for the industry.

---

### **GPA Midstream successfully secures changes for the industry on BLM onshore orders**

GPA Midstream successfully worked with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on revising three separate sets of onshore orders that would have required significant and unnecessary equipment changes at GPA Midstream members' measurement stations and would have potentially cost members millions.

The BLM orders essentially impact how GPA Midstream members measure natural gas and oil that is initially produced on federal or Native American lands and then measured in their measuring stations. BLM proposed that our members would have to replace all current equipment with new equipment that would give members the same measurement readings. BLM also proposed that

none of the midstream equipment be grandfathered in and that our members update their flow computers to use an unworkable 11 digit facility measurement point (FMP).

GPA Midstream successfully advocated for the majority of measuring stations to be grandfathered in, saving our members many millions of dollars in replacement/upgrade costs while providing BLM with the best and most accurate measurement results it needs. GPA Midstream also successfully advocated for eliminating the requirement for the 11 digit FMP number to be used.

This was a true collaborative effort between GPA Midstream Government Affairs, measurement specialists within GPA Midstream's Technical Section H - Measurement & Quality Determination and members of the Technical Committee.

---

## **PHMSA's Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee cancels December meeting on the Gas Mega Rule**

PHMSA recently announced that its Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee would meet in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 7 - 8, but just last week, PHMSA announced that it was canceling and will reschedule the December meeting. GPA Midstream will keep members apprised as to the rescheduled meeting, which at this time is anticipated to be the first week of January. PHMSA is expected to have two additional meetings in February as well.

The committee will begin to consider the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), "Pipeline Safety: Safety of Gas Transmission and Gathering Pipelines" as published in the Federal Register (81 FR 20722) on April 8, 2016. This is also commonly referred to as the 'Gas Mega Rule.'

The proposed rule proposes to revise the Pipeline Safety Regulations applicable to the safety of onshore gas transmission and gathering pipelines; changes to the integrity management (IM) requirements and issues related to non-IM requirements; and modifications to the regulation of onshore gas gathering lines. GPA Midstream will attend the meetings to represent our members' interests.

## **TECHNICAL/RESEARCH**

### **New technical committee dealing with pipelines holds first meeting**

At the April GPA Midstream board of directors meeting in New Orleans, the Technical Committee was approved to initiate a new subcommittee to focus specifically on issues related to pipelines. The new committee, Section P: Pipeline Design, Operation & Maintenance, is led by Chair Jerry Gump, Audubon Field Solutions, and Vice Chair Jimmy Oxford, Targa Resources.

Section P had its first committee meeting in Dallas as part of the fall Technical Committee meetings on Oct. 4. Section P was well attended for its inaugural meeting, had great participation from everyone in attendance, and was busy for the entire scheduled 4 hours. The committee hit the ground running, forming four new workgroups to deal with pressure test plans and procedures, pipeline safety management systems, a pipeline project design checklist and the Gas Mega Rule. To read meeting minutes and the committee's charter or to check on the progress of its workgroups, visit [Section P's file sharing website](#).

If you would like to get involved in this new technical section, contact GPA Midstream Director of Technical Services [Martin Erne](#).

---

### **Technical sections' workgroups now have a place for online collaboration**

To enhance the productivity of all workgroups formed and supervised by the technical sections, GPA Midstream now has an account with the file sharing website Box.com set up to assist the GPA Midstream technical community in executing its undertakings. [Access the site here](#).

Each technical section has its own working area, and each workgroup has its own work folder, which

is located as a subfolder under its parent technical section. Workgroup leaders have been granted complete access to their respective work areas, allowing them to upload, modify and move files essential to each workgroup. To keep tabs on the progress of an initiative, navigate to the applicable workgroup folder and peruse the latest meeting minutes or workgroup tracking spreadsheet. In addition, every week a report will be generated containing the latest status updates for all workgroups.

These reports are available off the root level of the GPA Midstream technical file sharing site (link above) in the folder labeled Reports. If you would like to become an active participant in one of the technical workgroups, contact GPA Midstream Director of Technical Services [Martin Erme](#).

## GPA MIDSTREAM CONVENTION

### Hospitality requests deadline is today

As a reminder, the deadline to request both public hospitality space and hotel suites is today. GPA Midstream will communicate space assignments in mid-January. If we have availability after we assign spaces based on the initial requests up until Nov. 30, those will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis. [View detailed information about hospitalities here.](#)

Contact [Christine McMorris](#) with questions about hospitalities.

---

### Registration and hotel availability

Online registration for the 2017 GPA Midstream Convention, along with GPA Midstream's room block at the Marriott Rivercenter, will open on Jan. 5. Please be aware that some GPA Midstream and GPSA member companies have been contacted by rooming services not affiliated with GPA Midstream, nor the hotel, regarding convention room reservations, and we want to make clear that attendees should always book convention registrations directly through the hotel to ensure you are receiving our group rate and that your information remains secure. Information about reserving rooms in GPA Midstream's block will be e-mailed to all on Jan. 5.

---

### Sponsorship opportunities

The GPA Midstream Convention offers a number of sponsorship opportunities to put your name in front of nearly 2,000 industry professionals, ranging from \$500 - \$15,000. Take a look at our [Sponsor page](#) to view the sponsorship and advertising packet for details and availability.

We greatly appreciate the companies that have already stepped up to support the convention!

Contact [Crystal Myers](#) with sponsorship and advertising questions.

---

## GPA MIDSTREAM/GPSA CALENDAR

### December

1 - Midcontinent GPA Midstream Christmas Party

5 - 7 - GPA Midstream/GPSA Board Meetings

[View details on events listed above](#)

---

