



eBrief

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## GPA MIDSTREAM LEADERSHIP, STAFF UPDATES

### **GPA Midstream chairman steps down**

GPA Midstream Chairman John Mollenkopf, Markwest - MPLX, has elected to retire from Markwest and step down as GPA Midstream chairman effective Oct.1. Mollenkopf has served as the association's chairman since April 2015 and has been in a leadership role with GPA Midstream for the last several years. He has been instrumental in helping GPA Midstream step up its federal advocacy efforts and in developing GPA Midstream's Engineering Data Book Training Course. The GPA Midstream Executive Committee, board of directors and staff all wish John the best of luck in his retirement. GPA Midstream Chairman-Elect Wouter van Kempen, DCP Midstream, will step in early as chairman of the board and serve out Mollenkopf's unfinished term.

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### **Debbie Beaver resigns from GPA Midstream Association**

Director of State Government Affairs Debbie Beaver recently resigned from GPA Midstream Association. She joined GPA Midstream in February 2013 as director of technical services after a 27-year career with The Williams Companies in various government affairs roles during that timeframe. She accepted the association's open director of state government affairs position in early 2015. We wish Debbie the best in her future endeavors.

GPA Midstream will fill the open position in the coming months. In the meantime, members may contact Vice President of Government Affairs Matthew Hite regarding state questions and needs.

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

### **GPSA Engineering Data Book Training Course**

We still have a few openings for the fall GPA Midstream GPSA Engineering Data Book training course, scheduled for October 10 - 14 at the Enterprise Training Facility in Mont Belvieu, Texas, and registration is handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

This course will equip individuals with the fundamentals they need to put the Data Book to practical use. It is designed primarily for early career engineers and secondarily for senior operations, plant or maintenance personnel.

The first course received exceptional feedback from students regarding its content, quality and

presentation. The best testament to the value of this course is the fact that companies that sent students to the first course offering are sending additional employees to the October course.

[View more information, including a course description and topics covered.](#)

## GPA MIDSTREAM CONVENTION DEADLINES

### **Deadline for convention speaking opportunities nears**

If you are interested in presenting at the 2017 GPA Midstream 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 Midstream 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](#)  
[Submit your abstract](#)

For questions, e-mail [Johnny Dreyer](#).

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### **2017 sponsorship opportunities, hospitality request forms are open**

Registration for 2017 GPA Midstream Convention sponsorship opportunities opened this month, and the sponsorship page on the GPA Midstream Convention web site is updated daily to provide a list of what is available. To learn more about all options, download the [2017 GPA Midstream Convention Promotional & Advertising Opportunities packet](#)

The deadline to make requests for 2017 hospitality space, for both public spaces and hotel suites, is Nov. 30. GPA Midstream will communicate space assignments in mid-January. If we have space left after we assign spaces based on the initial requests up until Nov. 30, those will be handled additionally on a first-come, first-served basis.

For sponsorship information and to access the registration form, visit [www.GPAconvention.org/sponsor-2017](http://www.GPAconvention.org/sponsor-2017).

For the hospitality information and to access the request forms, visit [www.GPAconvention.org/2017-hospitality](http://www.GPAconvention.org/2017-hospitality).

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATES

### **North American Energy Standards Board update**

The North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) received a petition from the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), Citizens Utility Board, Tennessee Valley Authority, Massachusetts Attorney General's Office and California Public Utilities Commission requesting that NAESB establish a new industry-wide standard for calculating and reporting lost and unaccounted for gas that would be applicable to all Lost and Unaccounted For Reporting Entities (LUAF). A LUAF reporting entity includes without limitation, interstate pipelines, storage operators, intrastate pipelines and local distribution companies. The petition also proposed a broad definition of a "Natural Gas Delivery Service," which potentially could apply to natural gas processing plants and gathering lines. GPA Midstream believes this is another attempt/end run by EDF to target greater methane emissions reporting.

On Aug. 30, GPA Midstream sent an e-mail to all GPA Midstream official representatives urging them to contact any of the NAESB committee members that they have contacts with and request that the petition be ruled outside NAESB's scope. On Sept. 8, NAESB's Triage Committee held a

conference call in which the Triage Committee found the petition to not be in scope, meaning the requested action by the petition is deemed to be outside the mission of NAESB. A big thank you goes out to all GPA Midstream members whom helped reach out to their NAESB contacts.

The next step is for NAESB's Executive Committee to reaffirm the Triage Committee's determination that the petition was not within scope. We expect the next Executive Committee meeting will happen in early December.

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## **House Science, Space and Technology Committee's Subcommittee on Environment hearing titled "A Solution in Search of a Problem"**

On Sep.15, the House Science, Space and Technology Committee's Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled "A Solution in Search of a Problem: EPA's Methane Regulations." The hearing focused on EPA's regulatory plans surrounding methane emissions from the oil and gas industries. On June 3, the EPA published the final rule titled "Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources." The final rule imposes significant new requirements for the oil and gas industry to identify and limit methane emissions, and GPA Midstream has been actively pushing back against these new burdens for the industry.

GPA Midstream previously met with the House Science Committee staff and requested that the committee touch on the issues of the actual need for the regulations at this time, the employment impacts of the regulations, and the unnecessary cost of these regulations. We are pleased to report that the committee touched on all of those issues during the hearing and raised some serious concerns about EPA going forward with this rule.

Of interest was Representative Jim Bridenstine (R-OK), who stated that the scientific evidence does not support the proposed methane rules. He cited a 2016 study from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which found expanded fossil fuel production has not contributed to increased methane emissions. He stated that the NOAA study attributed most errant methane to natural emissions from wetlands and foreign agricultural production. He noted that the U.S. oil and gas industry has cut methane emissions through voluntary efforts, and that industry technology developments will contribute to further reductions in emissions.

Ranking Member Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) stated that methane leaks pose risks to public health and safety. She stated that methane leaks are 80 percent more potent than CO2 in their greenhouse effect. She described California's 2015 Aliso Canyon natural gas plant leak, which displaced thousands of residents, as an example of the potential human impact of industrial methane leaks. She said such incidents illustrate the need for EPA's methane regulations, specifically those dealing with leak detection.

In response, another witness, Erik Milito, director of Upstream and Industry Operations at API, said that, while the Aliso Canyon incident was tragic and that similar events must be prevented, the incident bears no relationship with the methane rules. He stated that underground storage and well integrity solutions have already been developed by API to prevent major industrial leaks in the future. He stated that such guidelines should not be conflated with the scope or effects of EPA's methane rules.

Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX) stated that EPA's methane regulations stifle the American economy and raise prices on goods, disproportionately hurting poor Americans.

One of the witnesses, Dr. Bernard Weinstein, professor at Southern Methodist University, said EPA estimates the compliance costs from its new monitoring rules to reach \$530 million annually by 2025. He stated that U.S. methane emissions today are lower than they were in 1990, despite a 75 percent overall growth of the U.S. economy and a twofold increase in oil and gas production since then. He said that only 23 percent of errant methane is attributable to the oil and gas industry and that that fraction is declining. He stated that "a dose of realism" is needed when considering what positive impacts U.S. environmental regulations can actually achieve. He stated that carbon emissions have dropped dramatically over the past ten years due to increased use of natural gas, not EPA restrictions. Weinstein warned that any new regulations on the oil and gas industry will have economic consequences.

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## **Dakota Access pipeline developments**

The Obama administration's eleventh-hour involvement by freezing construction on part of the Dakota Access pipeline earlier this month has a lot of people in the energy industry concerned; the

midstream industry should be very concerned as well since many midstream projects are dependent on similar permits. Although the Dakota Access pipeline is a long haul oil pipeline, it shows what can happen when you are dependent on an Army Corps of Engineers permit and you have a motivated activist group that has your project in their crosshairs.

In the latest development in the ongoing opposition to construction of the Dakota Access pipeline, the D.C. Circuit Court issued an administrative injunction staying construction of a contested portion of the pipeline while it reviews the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's request for an emergency injunction. The administrative injunction extends to all land within 20 miles of Lake Oahe, a lake formed by a dam located on the Missouri River near the tribe's reservation, and expands the U.S. Army Corps' voluntary stay which applied only to federal land.

It is important to note that the Dakota Access backers could face up to \$430 million in losses if this situation doesn't get sorted out soon. Also impacted would be the potential loss of work for close to 8,000 people.

## STATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATES

### OHIO

#### **Ohio Supreme Court upholds decision to keep anti-hydraulic fracturing measures off the ballot in November election**

On Sept. 13, in a 6-1 opinion the Ohio Supreme Court upheld the Ohio secretary of state's determination to keep three anti-hydraulic fracturing measures off the ballot in November. The three measures would have turned local governments in Athens, Meigs and Portage counties into charter systems that could control oil and gas development within their boundaries. The court found that these measures did not meet the criteria for a charter initiative to be placed on the ballot because they did not provide enough information about how the new charter systems would operate. In a dissent, Justice William O'Neill accused the secretary of state and local government officials of bowing to pressure from the oil and gas industry, a claim echoed by supporters of the ballot initiatives. Industry representatives framed the opinion as a victory for taxpayers and as part of a long history of judicial decisions supporting continued oil and gas development in and for Ohio, despite opposition by local activists.

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### OKLAHOMA

#### **Oklahoma Corporation Commission closes 32 more disposal wells**

As part of an ongoing response to concerns over induced seismicity related to wastewater disposal wells, on Sept. 12 the Oklahoma Corporation Commission's Oil and Gas Division ordered the closure of 32 additional wells. The new closures will reduce the volume of wastewater injection by 40,000 barrels per day. The order is part of Oklahoma's response to a magnitude 5.8 earthquake earlier this month and follows a previously reported Sept. 3 order directing 10 operators to close 37 disposal wells.

## GPSA NEWS

#### **GPSA bylaws ballot deadline nears**

The GPSA board of directors agreed in their August meeting to send members a ballot to approve revisions to their bylaws. As a reminder, the response deadline is Oct. 7. Although the recent association name change triggered this action, other minor revisions that have been identified since they were revised in 2014 are included.

The proposed revisions do not change:

- General operating procedures for running the association
- Membership benefits/services

- Member company dues
- Association scope

If you are a company official representative and have not yet sent in your ballot, please do so. If you need the online ballot link again, e-mail [Johnny Dreyer](#).

To be implemented, the revisions must have an affirmative vote of two-thirds or more of the returned ballots. If the ballot passes, the new bylaws will go into effect upon notifying the membership that the ballot was approved. We anticipate an Oct. 14 effective date.

Contact [Johnny Dreyer](#) with comments or questions.

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### **GPSA honors Ed Malek**

At its August meeting, the GPSA board of directors approved its first-ever Honorary Membership to long-time association supporter Ed Malek, retired Puffer-Sweiven employee. Pursuant to its bylaws, the board bestowed an Honorary Membership to Malek as someone who has contributed significantly to the welfare of the industry and the association through long and faithful service to the midstream suppliers industry. In addition, the individual must be retired from active service and no longer provide supplies or services to the industry. Malek was specifically cited for his estimated \$200 million in product sales in the midstream energy industry over his career and his willingness to share his industry knowledge and culture to young engineers beginning their careers in the industry.

## **TECHNICAL/RESEARCH UPDATES**

### **Six ballots underway in technical community**

Ballot notifications were sent out Aug. 31 to the Technical Committee, Technical Section C - Product Specifications, and Technical Section H - Measurement, Calculations & Handling of Hydrocarbon Fluids Including NGL and Natural Gas for the acceptance of updates to:

- GPA 2140 - Liquefied Petroleum Gas Specifications and Test Methods
- GPA 8173 - Method for Converting Mass Natural Gas Liquids and Vapors to Equivalent Liquid Volumes
- GPA 8182 - Standard for Mass Measurement of Natural Gas Liquids
- GPA 8186 - Measurement of Liquid Hydrocarbon by Truck Scales

Ballots were also sent for the archival of:

- GPA 2265 - Determination of Hydrogen Sulfide and Mercaptan Sulfur in Natural Gas (Cadmium Sulfate-Iodometric Titration Method)
- GPA 3132 - Natural Gasoline Specifications & Test Methods

As a reminder to voting members of the Technical Committee and relevant sections, the deadline for voting on these is Oct. 1.

## **CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

### **GPA Midstream fall chapter events**

The [GPA Midstream Chapter page](#) has links to each of the six chapters' websites, which have event listings and registration pages for the many fall events that take place each September, October and November. Additionally, the [GPA Midstream online calendar](#) has event dates/links for most of these events as well. We encourage you to get involved with your local chapter, and these fall events are a great way to learn more about what each offers throughout the year.

## **October**

- 4 - 5** - GPA Midstream Technical Committee Meetings
- 6** - Appalachian Basin GPA Midstream Sporting Clays Event
- 6** - Houston GPA Midstream Regional Meeting & Golf
- 10 - 14** - GPA Midstream/GPSA Engineering Data Book Training Course
- 12** - Midcontinent GPA Midstream YP Gas Plant Tour
- 13** - Rocky Mountain GPA Midstream Training #3
- 18** - Midcontinent GPA Midstream Golf Tournament
- 22** - Rocky Mountain GPA Midstream - ECM Volunteer Day
- 25** - GPA Midstream Research Meeting
- 26** - North Texas GPA Midstream Sporting Clays Event
- 28** - Appalachian Basin GPA Midstream Fall Technical Roundtable

[View details on events listed above](#)

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