



**eBrief**  
GPAmidstream.org

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### **Joel Moxley named GPA Midstream CEO, GPSA corporate secretary**

We are pleased to welcome Joel Moxley as our new association leader. He spent time last week catching up with staff in the Tulsa office and is in Washington, D.C., this week visiting with the GPA Midstream government affairs team. Joel has nearly 40 years of industry experience and has been active in the association for many years, and we look forward to the impact he will make on both organizations.

In May, Mark Sutton announced his retirement after 37 years with the association. Mark will remain in the Tulsa office until the end of September to assist with the transition.

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### **Honoring the life of Cal Spencer**

GPA Midstream is saddened to report that Cal Spencer has passed away. Cal received the 2015 GPA Midstream Citation for Service award. He has been an active participant in GPA Midstream's research program for at least 20 years. In addition, he has made direct contributions to the GPSA Engineering Data Book in the physical property chapter. Cal was a "go-to guy" when it came to finding obscure property data needed in the industry.

His contributions were many and subtle. He championed the collection of GPA Midstream data in a database for use in guiding the research effort, which saved countless dollars because it allows analysis of where data gaps exist and targeted experimental programs to fill the need. This had been a long-standing interest for Cal as he worked on the GPA Midstream database when a graduate student at Penn State many years ago.

Anyone who knew Cal learned quickly about his undying passion for Penn State and the PSU chemical engineering department. Cal began his association with the API Technical Data Committee and all things associated with physical properties and thermodynamics as an undergraduate at Penn State. That passion showed through his continued support for and participation in physical property research programs with API, GPA Midstream, AIChE DIPPR and during his 45 years at Kellogg.

In memory of Cal's passion, a chemical engineering scholarship at Penn State has been set up in his honor. They would like to grow the contribution amount enough to set up a permanently endowed scholarship that would cover between 10 and 30 percent of one or more student's tuition and fees. They have set up a [GoFundMe page](#) to collect donations.

Many have stated how they will miss the friendship and mentoring that was shared with Cal over the years. We appreciate his contributions to GPA Midstream and the industry.

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# EDUCATION & TRAINING

## **Register today: GPA Midstream School of Gas Chromatography**

Our 2019 School of Gas Chromatography registration numbers are strong, but we still have space available and time to register before the school begins on Aug. 12. We proudly dedicate this year's school to longtime volunteer and mentor Carl Hefley for his relentless commitment to the school over a span of more than 40 years. [Watch the 2-minute video on why to attend the 2019 school.](#)

**Dates:** Aug. 12 - 16

**Location:** Tulsa, Okla.

**Overview:** GPA Midstream gas chromatography school students, from entry level to advanced, get a week of one-on-one time with experts that have decades of experience in the chromatography field and will leave with practical lab experience. A great balance between lectures and hands-on training helps students learn how to understand the data and then apply that in anticipating, evaluating and troubleshooting problems.

**Class Size:** Limited to 100

**Cost:** \$800 for GPA Midstream and GPSA Members; \$1,100 for non-members

**Who Should Attend:** Chromatograph operators, measurement technicians, engineers involved with chromatography, analysts, accountants, and any manager overseeing measurement, analysis, operations or sampling personnel

[Learn more and register.](#)

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

Nearly half of the 25 available spaces have filled for our September GPSA Engineering Data Book Training Course, but this course almost always reaches capacity within two weeks of the start date, so we encourage anyone interested in attending to secure your spot today.

**Dates:** Sept. 9 - 13

**Location:** Mont Belvieu, Texas

**Overview:** The course offers five days of in-depth training on GPSA's worldwide authoritative resource for midstream technical and design information and industry-approved practices and procedures.

**Class Size:** Limited to 25

**Cost:** \$2,500 for GPA Midstream and GPSA Members; \$3,500 for non-members

**Who Should Attend:** Early career engineers and senior operations, and plant or maintenance personnel

[Learn more and register.](#)

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## **Introduction to Midstream Training Course**

**Dates:** Sept. 17 - 19

**Location:** Plano, Texas

**Overview:** Using the GPSA Engineering Data Book as a reference text, this course teaches non-technical personnel what happens at midstream operating facilities and about midstream products, equipment typically found at midstream facilities, and the processes that turn variable hydrocarbon feedstock into products.

**Class Size:** Limited to 25

**Cost:** \$1,500 for GPA Midstream and GPSA Members; \$3,000 for non-members

**Who Should Attend:** Executive assistants, accountants, data coordinators, communications personnel, engineers, and any employee new to the midstream industry

[Learn more and register.](#)

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## **NEW! Fall Technical Conference**

Registration is open! In response to demand and as a service to the industry, GPA Midstream is expanding its joint technical meetings by launching our first-ever Fall Technical Conference. The association's technical committees will meet face to face to accomplish important industry work, and with the expanded program, educational sessions and networking opportunities will be included at an incredibly modest cost for those that attend. Just like our annual convention, this conference is being planned by your industry peers, so topics will be relevant and timely. The Fall Technical Program Committee is reviewing abstracts to select forum speakers, and we look forward to releasing the full conference schedule with presentation titles late next month.

**Dates:** Oct. 21 - 23

**Location:** Oklahoma City

**Overview:** This new conference offers 16 educational sessions, plus open committee and workgroup meetings, in the focus areas of analysis, test methods and product specifications; facility design, operations and maintenance; measurement and quantity determination; and pipeline design, operations and maintenance.

**Cost:** \$100 for GPA Midstream and GPSA Members; \$200 for non-members

**Who Should Attend:** Engineers, chemists, lab technicians, operations personnel, and anyone with an interest in midstream industry technical activities

[Learn more and register.](#)

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## **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

### **Texas Railroad Commission takes action on gathering lines**

Texas Rep. Rafael Anchia (D-Dallas) crafted two bills during session that were eventually passed – H.B. 864 and H.B. 866. Both bills were in response to the Atmos Dallas explosion last year. In addition to those bills, the Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) also requested informal comments on rule amendments related to Class 1 and rural gathering lines.

Commission staff set up an informal workshop on July 24 to discuss the proposed gathering line rule changes. It was attended by about 75 industry representatives including GPA Midstream Association. In response to these efforts, GPA Midstream has developed comments that we are now circulating among the GPA Midstream Legislative and GPA Midstream Pipeline Safety Committees.

At the workshop, RRC staff said their intention is not to conduct comprehensive inspections, but instead respond to incidents and complaints. GPA Midstream was pleased to learn that commission staff already has made some changes to their proposed rules that GPA Midstream and other groups had presented. A number of additional changes still need to be made.

Changes made include:

- No duplicative reporting
- Propane systems need to comply with pipeline safety requirements

- Tighten “Pipeline Facility” definition so it’s not too broad
- Change definition of “Gas Company” to “Distribution”
- Reduce the 2-hour telephonic requirement to 1 hour
- No longer establishing MOP and MAOP requirements

On July 26, the RRC released a new draft of the proposed rules and extended the deadline for comments to Aug. 12. GPA Midstream is circulating our comments for review among our Legislative and Pipeline Safety committees. GPA Midstream believes this is an extraordinary overreach by the RRC. Their position is not risk-based, not in line with PHMSA, and extends far beyond PHMSA’s current proposal. The RRC has yet to present data in support of its position. GPA Midstream will fight for necessary changes to these rules to ensure that our member companies are not negatively impacted.

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## **GPA Midstream continues to push for sound provisions in pipeline safety reauthorization**

GPA Midstream’s efforts to advocate for smart and reasonable provisions within the pipeline safety reauthorizations are ongoing. The House Energy and Commerce (E&C) Committee had proposed regulating all gas and liquid gathering lines that are at greater than 20 percent SYMS. GPA Midstream was successful in getting that provision taken out, but a new draft came out mid-July with a proposal to remove the current exemption for gathering lines from the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS). The proposal is a provision that the Environmental Defense Fund has consistently pushed for. The provision would require all midstream members to enter their gathering lines system into the NPMS, which would present an exorbitant cost to GPA Midstream members and does not provide any real benefit. The draft came out shortly before a scheduled full committee markup. In mid-July, GPA Midstream member companies DCP Midstream and ONEOK joined GPA Midstream Vice President of Government Affairs Matt Hite in Washington, D.C., to lobby against that provision. Additionally, GPA Midstream submitted a letter to the E&C Committee asking them to remove the gathering line provision. Those efforts were successful in that the E&C Committee moved the pipeline safety reauthorization bill off their scheduled markup mid-July to early fall. More work remains to push to have the NPMS provision removed.

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is also working on a draft pipeline safety reauthorization bill. The Democrat Committee staff is drafting the bill with little collaboration from Republican Committee staff. While a draft has not been released publicly, GPA Midstream has learned that the Democrat Committee staff is trying to codify the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration’s (PHMSA) Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee (GPAC) recommendations for gathering lines in the bill. This is problematic because it will negatively interfere with the progress that was made at GPAC and will keep stretching out the process at GPAC. We further understand that the group is also trying to include gathering lines in the NPMS. GPA Midstream is actively working to have the gathering line provision, among other items, removed from the bill.

In mid-July, the Senate Committee on Commerce released a bipartisan draft. The committee’s staff asked GPA Midstream to review the bill and provide technical comments, and GPA Midstream responded accordingly. Section 17 of the bill was for greater gathering line representation on GPAC. GPA Midstream lobbied extensively and worked with API to have that particular section included in the bill. We pushed hard for this, but unfortunately, due to intensive negotiations, the provision ultimately didn’t stay in the bill. On July 31, the Senate Commerce Committee voted out the bill with one amendment that pushed PHMSA to finish the gathering portion of the Gas Mega Rule. GPA Midstream and API had worked together to move the needle on this amendment from something that was a non-starter to something that could work for most folks. The Senate will consider the bill this fall when it comes back from summer recess.

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## **Recap of important GPAC meeting in Washington, D.C.**

In late June, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) convened a meeting of the Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee (GPAC) in Washington,

D.C. The purpose of the meeting was to present PHMSA's April 2016 notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) for onshore gas gathering lines to GPAC, the federal advisory committee that reviews and provides non-binding recommendations on proposed changes to the gas pipeline safety regulations. The gas gathering NPRM, which is the last portion of the Gas Mega Rule, addressed four primary topics: (1) reporting, (2) definitions, (3) regulatory status, and (4) safety standards for Class 1 gas gathering lines.

GPA Midstream staff and outside counsel attended the GPAC meeting along with representatives from several member companies, including Crestwood, DCP Midstream, Enterprise Products, Williams and XTO Energy. GPA Midstream's position at the meeting was that PHMSA should (1) only apply limited incident and annual reporting requirements to unregulated gas gathering lines, (2) retain the existing definitions for onshore gas gathering, including API RP 80, (3) only regulate high-stress Class 1 gathering lines greater than 12 inches in diameter with a potential impact radius (PIR) based exception for lines up to 24 inches in diameter, and (4) apply the Type B gathering line requirements and emergency response plan provisions to regulated Class 1 lines.

GPA Midstream secured some important wins for its member companies and the midstream industry as a whole, but more work remains to be done. GPAC voted in favor of only applying limited incident and annual reporting to unregulated gas gathering lines and for retaining the existing gathering definitions. The two outcomes were significant as PHMSA proposed in the NPRM to extend all its reporting requirements to unregulated gathering lines and repeal API RP 80 and establish new gathering definitions. GPA Midstream's advocacy and the efforts of its member companies persuaded PHMSA and GPAC to abandon these proposals.

GPAC's recommendations for the regulation of Class 1 gas gathering lines went far beyond what PHMSA had suggested during the meeting. GPAC recommended that PHMSA consider establishing a minimum set of safety standards for Class 1 gathering lines 8.25 inches or greater in diameter, including design, construction and testing requirements, as well as requirements for damage prevention, public awareness, emergency response, and leak surveys and repairs. That recommendation is consistent with the original proposal in the NPRM and would result in a significant amount of additional regulated Class 1 mileage. Although many of our member companies are already in substantial compliance with these provisions, GPA Midstream does not believe that PHMSA should be exercising jurisdiction over small diameter gathering lines.

GPAC also recommended that PHMSA consider using the PIR concept to identify larger diameter Class 1 gathering lines that might warrant more stringent safety standards. GPAC suggested that PHMSA consider using a threshold of greater than 12 inches in diameter for that purpose but did not endorse a specific position. GPA Midstream continues to believe that the PIR concept should be used as the basis for excluding lines from regulation, not as a tool for imposing additional requirements. GPAC recommended that PHMSA take steps to ensure the continued use of composite pipe in regulated gathering lines as well.

It should be noted that GPAC's recommendations for the regulation of Class 1 gas gathering lines were largely conceptual in nature and did not provide the clarity necessary to address all of the outstanding issues. The understanding at the meeting was that PHMSA would have the discretion to determine the best course of action for addressing those issues and GPAC's recommendations in the days ahead.

GPA Midstream strongly advocated for its position in comments submitted before the GPAC meeting. GPA Midstream's Vice President of Government Affairs Matt Hite and member company representatives also provided expert testimony during the meeting's public comment periods and in informal discussions with the industry GPAC representatives. GPA Midstream remains engaged in the rulemaking process and is developing supplemental comments that respond to GPAC's recommendations for the regulation of Class 1 gas gathering lines, which will be submitted to PHMSA in the coming weeks. GPA Midstream asks for the continued support of its member companies in these and other efforts related to PHMSA's regulation of gas gathering lines.

# RESEARCH/TECHNICAL

## **New workgroup formed to create technical bulletin on vortex induced vibration in thermowells**

The Facility Design, Operations & Maintenance committee balloted and approved a charter for a new workgroup, Vortex Induced Vibration in Thermowells. The 2014 revision of ASME B31.3 added a section mandating that thermowells be designed in accordance to ASME PTC 19.3 TW if applicable. There appears to be a lack of knowledge of this requirement in the industry, both from suppliers as well as operators. This new workgroup will develop a technical bulletin to inform GPA Midstream members of this requirement and the details thereof, including communicating details of a change in ASME code B31.3 regarding the requirement to perform sizing calculations on thermowells due to potential vibration caused by flow vortices.

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## **New Measurement & Quantity Determination Committee officers announced**

In the spring, longtime volunteer Ron Carnahan, MarkWest, gave notice that he would need to resign his position as vice chair for the Measurement Committee. A call for vice chair nominations was distributed to committee members soon after, and committee officers judged nominations based on criteria adopted by the Technical Executive Committee. Jessica Tyo, Quorum Software, was offered the vice chair position, and she accepted. Her acceptance created a new vacancy for the Measurement Committee's Young Professionals (YP) Liaison position. Jessica nominated Trevor Morrison, Anadarko Petroleum, to succeed her and he accepted. Congratulations to Jessica and Trevor on their new roles within the GPA Midstream technical program, and thank you to Ron for his committee service and GPA Midstream involvement for many years.

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## **GPA Midstream publishes new technical report**

GPA Midstream recently published TP-32: *Water Content in Gaseous and Liquid Carbon Dioxide and its Mixtures with Methane in Equilibrium with Hydrate*. The publication contains experimental data for the water content in gaseous and liquid carbon dioxide and its mixtures with methane in equilibrium with hydrate.

The data were measured at Rice University (2010 – 2012) in the group led by Professor Walter Chapman under projects sponsored by ExxonMobil Upstream Research Co. and Shell Oil Co. This report documents two separate projects to measure the water content of CO<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>-rich mixtures in equilibrium with hydrate:

1. *Water Content in Gaseous or Liquid Carbon Dioxide and its Mixtures with Methane in Equilibrium with Hydrate*, which comprised experimental measurements of water solubility in 10 systems containing carbon dioxide (gaseous or liquid) and its mixtures containing methane.
2. *Water Content in Gaseous and Liquid Carbon Dioxide in Equilibrium with Hydrate along an Isotherm of -20°C (4°F) for 10 Pressures from 100 psia to 3000 psia (0.69 to 20.7 MPa)*, which comprised measuring the water content of pure gaseous or liquid carbon dioxide in equilibrium with hydrate along an isotherm of -20°C (4°F), which is far below the ice point, for various pressures from 100 to 3000 psia (0.69 to 20.7 MPa).

GPA Midstream technical publications are free to employees of GPA Midstream and GPSA member companies and for purchase by non-members. All publications are available now in the newly created GPA Midstream/GPSA Publications Cloud, for members only, which is searchable and provides instant access to everything rather than having to purchase and/or download individual documents separately.

To access the new publications cloud, visit <https://gpamidstream.org/login> and either log in or create an account, then choose Members Only Section. From there you'll see the

NEW! Cloud-Based Data Book and Publications link.

Non-members may contact Publications Administrator [Janet Griggs](#) for assistance with purchasing TP-32 or other publications: (918) 493-3872.

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### **Two GPA Midstream technical publications reissued as standards**

GPA Midstream's Measurement & Quantity Determination Committee voted to reissue two technical publications as standards, which will allow the committee to revise and update the documents to best suit industry's needs moving forward.

TP-27: *Temperature Correction for the Volume of NGL and LPG Tables 23E, 24E, 53E, 54E, 59E, and 60E* will become GPA 8217, which presents a new method to calculate temperature correction factors.

TP-15: *A Simplified Vapor Pressure Correlation for Commercial NGLs* will become GPA 8117, which provides a simplified means of estimating equilibrium vapor pressures of various NGLs from a knowledge of the fluid's relative density (60°F/60°F) and process temperature.

Standards and other technical publications are free to employees of GPA Midstream and GPSA member companies and for purchase by non-members. All publications are available now in the newly created GPA Midstream/GPSA Publications Cloud, for members only, which is searchable and provides instant access to everything rather than having to purchase and/or download individual documents separately.

To access the new publications cloud, visit <https://gpamidstream.org/login> and either log in or create an account, then choose Members Only Section. From there you'll see the NEW! Cloud-Based Data Book and Publications link.

Non-members may purchase standards by visiting <https://gpamidstream.org/publications>.

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### **Analysis Committee approves revisions to three stain tube standards**

The GPA Midstream Analysis, Test Methods & Product Specifications Committee has approved revisions to three standards, which came to their 5-year review deadline this year. Minor updates were proposed to each test method, and the Analysis Committee balloted and approved each standard individually.

The three revised standards are:

- GPA 2188: *Method for the Determination of Ethyl Mercaptan in LP-Gas Using Length of Stain Tubes*
- GPA 2194: *Low-Pressure Field Method for Determining Ethyl Mercaptan Odorant in LP-Gas Using Length of Stain Tubes*
- GPA 2377: *Test for Hydrogen Sulfide and Carbon Dioxide in Natural Gas Using Length of Stain Tubes*

To instantly access the revised standards, employees of GPA Midstream and GPSA members companies may visit <https://gpamidstream.org/login> and either log in or create an account, then choose Members Only Section. From there you'll see the NEW! Cloud-Based Data Book and Publications link.

Non-members may purchase standards by visiting <https://gpamidstream.org/publications>.

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## **CHAPTERS**

### **APPALACHIAN BASIN**

## **Appalachian Basin GPA Midstream Third Quarter Speaker Luncheon**

Join the ABGPA Midstream chapter on Aug. 6 at Bella Sera in Canonsburg, Pa., for its Q3 Speaker Luncheon. Director of Pipeline Regulatory Services Dewitt Burdeaux, TRC Companies, will present “The Gas Mega Rule: PHMSA’s three rulemakings for gas transmission and gathering lines.”

Registration is \$50 for chapter members and \$70 for non-members.

For more information or to register, visit the [Appalachian Basin GPA Midstream website](#).

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## **GPA Midstream/GPSA Calendar**

### **August**

**6** - Appalachian Basin GPA Midstream Third Quarter Speaker Luncheon

**12 - 16** - GPA Midstream School of Gas Chromatography

**13 - 14** - Chapter Officers Leadership Meeting

**16** - Rocky Mountain GPA Midstream Scholarship Golf Tournament

**26 - 29** - GPA Midstream/GPSA August Board Meetings

[Learn more about the event listed above.](#)