



eBrief

GPAmidstream.org

ASSOCIATION NEWS

GPA Midstream President and CEO Mark Sutton announces retirement

Mark Sutton, GPA Midstream president and CEO and GPSA secretary, has announced his retirement, which draws to a close his 37 years of dedicated service to both associations.

An industry committee comprised of GPA Midstream executive members will conduct a national search for a new president and CEO. Sutton will remain in office during the search process and for a transitional period after a replacement has been named.

“It’s time,” Sutton said. “These associations have been my life throughout a lengthy career in a wonderful industry, and now I look forward to adjusting my priorities that include spending more time with family and enjoying lots of activities together.”

“While Mark will be retiring, we will rely on his in-depth knowledge of the associations and continued leadership throughout the transition of finding and bringing a successor aboard,” said GPA Midstream Chairman Bill Ward, Superior Pipeline. “He has our associations in good shape for a change of this kind at this time. On behalf of all GPA Midstream and GPSA members, I extend our collective ‘thank you’ to Mark for his service.”

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Fall Technical Conference Call for Papers deadline approaching

GPA Midstream’s technical committees and workgroups are actively engaged year-round to ensure the technical information that companies use to make important operating decisions remains accurate. As a service to the industry, GPA Midstream is expanding its joint technical meetings by launching our first-ever GPA Midstream Fall Technical Conference, Oct. 21 – 23 in Oklahoma City, where our committees will meet face to face to accomplish important industry work. With the expanded program, we will also offer

educational sessions and networking opportunities 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.

This conference will feature one 4-hour educational session dedicated to each of the following categories:

- Analysis, test methods and product specifications
- Facility design, operations and maintenance
- Measurement and quantity determination
- Pipeline design, operation and maintenance

The deadline to submit an abstract and be considered for a speaking opportunity is June 28. To learn more about the conference or submit an abstract for consideration, visit <https://gpamidstream.org/education/fall-technical-conference>.

46th GPA Midstream School of Gas Chromatography registration opens

Registration is open for the 46th GPA Midstream School of Gas Chromatography, scheduled for Aug. 12 - 16, at the University of Tulsa (Oklahoma).

GPA Midstream's Analysis, Test Methods and Product Specifications committee manages, directs and conducts the annual school focused on benefiting chromatograph operators, measurement technicians and engineers involved with these analytical techniques. The instruction covers basic gas and gas liquid chromatography with an introduction to extended analysis.

All of the reference materials needed for the school are included in the registration fee and are for the students to keep. Early bird registration by July 11 costs \$700 for GPA Midstream and GPSA members, and \$1,000 for non-members. Standard registration rates apply after July 11, costing \$100 more for each group.

The 5-day school consists of a combination of lectures, demonstrations and chromatograph operation, with an emphasis being placed on hands-on machine demonstration and operation. Both natural gas and natural gas liquid samples are analyzed.

The instructors and vendors whom make the school happen are technicians, chemists and product specialists that teach these classes on a 100 percent voluntary basis. On average, each instructor has more than 20 years of industry experience.

To learn more and to register, visit www.GPAmidstream.org/education/gas-chromatography-school.

GPA Midstream meets with EPA; EnLink hosts GPA Midstream committee meetings

In early May, GPA Midstream staff and members met with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) staff on GHG Subpart W in Washington, D.C. GPA Midstream staff and members were advocating that EPA take a more targeted approach to possible GHG Subpart W reform efforts the agency is currently considering.

GPA Midstream staff and GPA Midstream Environmental Committee members also traveled to EPA's Research Triangle campus in Raleigh, N.C., to discuss the Quad OOOOa technical package that EPA is still working on.

In mid-May, EnLink hosted GPA Midstream's Natural Resource Subcommittee (NRSC) meeting and Environmental Committee meetings. Both were well attended and productive meetings. GPA Midstream staff would like to extend our appreciation to EnLink and its employees for their efforts in hosting us. Another big thank you goes out to former GPA Midstream Environmental Committee Chair Jeff Stovall, SWCA, for hosting our committee members at a Texas Rangers game. The next NRSC and Environmental Committee meetings are scheduled in conjunction with the GPA Midstream and GPSA board meetings in Colorado in August.

PHMSA's GPAC meeting focused on the gathering portion of the Gas Mega Rule set for late June

On June 25-26, GPA Midstream staff and members will attend the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) final Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee (GPAC) meeting focused on gathering lines at the Department of Transportation headquarters.

GPA Midstream has been preparing for this meeting for quite some time, working and coordinating with other trade associations and PHMSA. If you plan to attend this meeting, email GPA Midstream Vice President of Government Affairs [Matt Hite](#).

Trump's tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada and Mexico are lifted

Earlier this month, the United States reached a deal with Mexico and Canada to lift U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs on steel and aluminum imports. The deal would eliminate the tariffs and would not impose quotas in their place. GPA Midstream has been working with pipeline trade associations to oppose tariffs and domestic content requirements and push for a sensible exclusion process. Please note that this recent announcement just impacts Mexican and Canadian imports. The steel and aluminum tariffs that the president imposed on other nations are still in effect. In addition, on May 30 President Trump threatened that on June 10, the United States will impose a 5 percent tariff on all goods imported from Mexico until Mexico makes an effort to reduce illegal immigration to the United States.

Texas 86th session wrap-up and eminent domain update

We extend our thanks to GPA Midstream's contract lobbyist Michael Garcia for his efforts and help with the Texas 86th Legislative Session.

Regarding eminent domain, we saw a lot of action at the end, but it has been kicked back to 2021. There could, however, be an interim hearing but one has not been scheduled. Below is a brief wrap-up.

In the last weeks of the session, SB 421 by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) was voted from the House Land and Resource Management Committee by Rep. Tom Craddick (R-Midland) with industry supported language and landowner groups that did not support. It was passed by the House on the Consent Calendar with a vote of 142-2. A conference committee was appointed by each chamber, and Sen. Kolkhorst, chair of the conference committee for the Senate, did not call a meeting or offer any compromise language prior to the deadline.

In the conference committee, the House Conference Committee considered each of the three focus areas of reform and offered the following terms:

1. Three options for an initial offer
2. Minimum easement terms which were acceptable by both industry and landowners
3. Landowner meetings to discuss the projects being built

In addition to the outline the landowners provided, the House Conference Committee also offered a bill with the following terms:

1. Sanctions for lowball offers
2. Instructions to the attorney general to review and rewrite the Landowner Bill of Rights in an effort to make this document more user friendly
3. Timelines and expectations for the special commissioner process during condemnation proceedings
4. Notice to the county judge of any projects in the county

Additionally, HB 2831 by Rep. Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) was amended by Sen. Kolkhorst on the floor with portions of her eminent domain language from SB 421. As a result, a conference committee was also appointed by each chamber, and this bill had the same result.

Garcia also helped us defend successfully an attack to exclude "natural gas compressor package or unit" from the definition of heavy equipment for purposes of special appraisal, HB 564 by Rep. Poncho Nevarez (D-Eagle Pass). This bill had been filed in prior sessions on behalf of appraisal districts, and we expect it will resurface again. This bill would have negatively impacted midstream operations, especially those in the Permian.

GPA Midstream technical ballot underway

Earlier this week, Analysis, Test Methods & Product Specifications Committee members received a ballot for the approval of two new workgroup charters.

The Round Robin Accountability Group will ensure necessary data is sought, produced and obtained from each round robin project. Past round robins have identified the need to have a core group focused on ensuring data needs are met to develop precision tolerances. [View the charter.](#)

The Spreadsheet Maintenance Workgroup will ensure spreadsheets made for and distributed with approved standards are updated in a consistent fashion as corresponding documents are updated. Spreadsheets have been developed to be used for calculations and examples for various standards, which need to be housed in an accessible location and maintained in a consistent fashion as standards are updated. [View the charter.](#)

Everyone is welcome to participate in the ballots, but only votes from voting members of the appropriate committee will count toward the official tally. All comments, including those from outside the committee, will be reviewed and considered.

The ballot will be open through June 13. [View the ballot](#)

CHAPTERS

APPALACHIAN BASIN

Appalachian Basin 7th Annual Golf Tournament

The Appalachian Basin GPA Midstream chapter is hosting its 7th annual golf outing on June 17 at Quicksilver Golf Club in Midway, Pa., from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The cost is \$150 for individuals or \$600 per foursome. All proceeds benefit the ABGPA Scholarship Fund.

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

NORTH TEXAS

North Texas GPA Midstream Golf Tournament

The North Texas GPA Midstream summer golf tournament will be held on June 25 at the world-class Dallas Cowboys Golf Club in Grapevine, Texas, starting at 7:30 AM.

Participation benefits the chapter's scholarship fund while offering good food, prizes and networking with other midstream professionals.

Space is limited, so the chapter encourages early registration. The early bird ticket price is \$175, and that will increase to \$200 closer to the event date.

To learn more about the event, including sponsorship opportunities, visit the [North Texas GPA Midstream website](#).

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Rocky Mountain GPA Midstream Second Quarter Luncheon

Rocky Mountain GPA Midstream will host its 2nd Quarter Luncheon on June 6, featuring guest speakers Dan Haley, president and CEO of the Colorado Oil & Gas Association, and Larry Larsen, vice president and general manager for Williams' Rocky Mountain midstream assets in the Denver-Joules Basin.

The event will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Denver Athletic Club.

The registration cost is \$45 for members and \$60 for guests.

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

Rocky Mountain GPA Midstream Spring Scholarship Golf Tournament

The Rocky Mountain chapter's spring golf tournament has sold out; as a reminder to those registered, the event is scheduled for June 7 at the Riverdale Golf Course in Brighton, Colo.

GPA Midstream/GPSA Calendar

June

- 6** – Rocky Mountain GPA Midstream 2nd Qtr Luncheon
- 7** – Rocky Mountain GPA Midstream Golf Tournament
- 17** – Appalachian Basin GPA Midstream Golf Tournament
- 25** – North Texas GPA Midstream Golf Tournament

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

