



eBrief

GPAmidstream.org

From the GPA Midstream Chairman



Whatever the trials and tribulations of any year, the holiday season seems to bring a calming effect through hope and inspiration with the changing calendar. Christmas Eve has always marked that turning point in our family because of the anticipation of Christmas Day and its magic of faith, love and laughter. Of course, our young grandkids make it a particularly special time for Marye and me, and I know you have your own wonderful reflections as well.

GPA Midstream and GPSA members are my family, too, and I've missed our usual face-to-face interactions this year. But the pandemic has taught us a lot about ourselves, including the importance of family and friends. We've also learned (or have been reminded) of how to adapt ... be flexible, be patient and keep the faith.

Hard times are nothing new. Over the past 100 years our association has endured The Great Depression, World War II, three regional wars, 9/11, 19 U.S. Presidents, and now, the pandemic. Yet, we've survived, we've adapted, and 2021 looks bright with hope.

COVID vaccines are rolling out across the country, the incoming Biden administration is establishing its face, and GPA Midstream is prepped to lead this industry for another century.

One of my greatest wishes for 2021 is to be able to personally shake your hands at our 100th anniversary convention in September and say "thank you" for your support of GPA Midstream and GPSA. Together, we can be part of the driving force that helps our country in a return to normalcy.

For now, please join me in taking a deep breath, and hopefully you will have a little downtime, to prioritize your holiday season in spending time with loved ones and getting reenergized for the new year.

Have a safe and blessed holiday season!

Bill Ward, Superior Pipeline
GPA Midstream Chairman of the Board

Convention

The 2021 GPA Midstream Convention, originally scheduled for mid-April, will move to the fall dates of Sept. 26 – 29, and its venue remains the newly renovated Marriott Rivercenter in San Antonio, Texas.

We're optimistic about hosting a safe, healthy and successful in-person conference in September and hope this move to the fall will give GPA Midstream and GPSA members additional time to make decisions and prepare for the event.

Not only will the 2021 convention move to September, but 2022 - 2026 conventions will all be held in September and at the San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter. [View all future convention dates here.](#)

As you're preparing for the 2021 convention, please mark the following dates on your calendar that are relevant to you:

Feb. 26 – Call for Papers deadline (extended)

March 1 – 19 – Vendor Night lottery/exhibit registration

March 23 – Vendor Night exhibitors announced/sponsorship packets become available for review

April 1 – Speakers/topics announced

April 6 – Sponsorship and hospitality registration open

June 8 – Convention registration and hotel room block open

For the latest convention information, visit GPAmidstreamconvention.org.

Industry News

GPA Midstream works with EIC to release new ESG reporting template

With the ever-increasing importance for public and private U.S. companies to report environmental, social and governance (ESG) metrics, GPA Midstream joined an effort led by the Energy Infrastructure Council (EIC) to develop a reporting template that will serve as a standard of disclosures in this area.

EIC and GPA Midstream worked with their respective member companies to incorporate ESG reporting best practices, plus input from in-house specialists and guidance from investors, to develop this template. We expect the template to evolve over time to ensure it takes into account the evolving ESG landscape and the progression of midstream company ESG journeys so that it remains the primary reporting channel for ESG information relevant to midstream

investors.

[Download the EIC/GPA Midstream ESG Reporting Template](#). (file type: .xlsb)

Mark Sutton named as Oklahoma State University 2020 Hall of Fame inductee

Retired GPA Midstream President and CEO Mark Sutton was recently named an Oklahoma State University College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology (CEAT) 2020 Hall of Fame nominee. CEAT Hall of Fame nominees are distinguished engineers, architects or technologists who have made an outstanding contribution to their professions or OSU and have served their communities, state and nation with distinction.

Mark retired from GPA Midstream and GPSA in 2019, having served both associations for nearly 37 years. Since retirement, he has been appointed by GPA Midstream to serve as a public member of the Propane Education and Research Council (PERC), a group he has been involved with since its inception.

We extend our congratulations to Mark and again want to acknowledge his contributions and service to the midstream industry through his work for the associations.

Apply today for the GPA Midstream Environmental Excellence Award

The Environmental Excellence Award recognizes GPA Midstream companies demonstrating initiative and/or leadership in managing their environmental affairs in midstream sector activities and GPSA companies that develop successful, innovative environmental solutions. The deadline for GPA Midstream and GPSA members to submit applications for this project-based award is Feb. 26, 2021.

Award winners will be announced by news release in April 2021 and will also have an opportunity to present their projects by webinar and at the GPA Midstream Convention so others may benefit from their best practices.

There are two award divisions for GPA Midstream members:

- GPA Midstream member companies classified as O1 and O2 will compete for the Division 1 award.
- All other GPA Midstream member companies, including international companies and businesses that have GPA Midstream Associate memberships, will compete for the Division II award.

All GPSA member companies will compete for a single GPSA award.

Download the official [Environmental Excellence Award application](#). Contact GPA Midstream Vice President of Government Affairs [Matt Hite](#) for more information.

Government Affairs

Congress passes Pipeline Safety Reauthorization Bill

On Dec. 21, Congress passed the omnibus spending package which includes a long-negotiated Pipeline Safety Reauthorization Bill in which GPA Midstream had been extensively involved. This bill was attached to the fiscal 2021 omnibus package of legislation and appropriations that ensures our government is funded for the next year. GPA Midstream has worked for over two years on its own and with a broad coalition of Washington trade associations to get this important bill passed and ensure that midstream interests are protected.

We'd like to note a number of provisions specific and significant to midstream:

- A new provision applies leak detection and repair standards to regulated Type A and Type B gathering lines. After close to a year of negotiations with Senator Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and his staff, who wanted to apply leak detection and repair standards to all 400,000 miles of gathering lines, we were able to limit the new rules to just regulating approximately 7,000 miles of Type A and Type B gathering lines. Most of the Type A and Type B lines already are doing some form of leak detection and repair.
- In addition, the Udall staff and the House Democrats wanted to create a role for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to monitor methane emissions and to have jurisdiction in this section as well. GPA Midstream pushed back on this and was able to get it removed altogether since it would have slowed down projects and was unnecessary, especially considering EPA already has jurisdiction over methane emissions.
- The House and Senate Democrats tried to remove the statutory exemption that gathering lines have from being added to the National Pipeline Mapping System. GPA Midstream was also successful in getting that removed entirely, so gathering lines will not be added, and we will preserve our statutory exemption.
- The final section on cost benefit was also subject to lengthy negotiations. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) currently must demonstrate that the benefits of its regulatory proposals justify the costs. The bill now states that PHMSA can use safety and environmental benefits in addition to other benefits. Democrats wanted to limit the consideration to just safety and environmental benefits, and GPA Midstream successfully pushed to ensure all benefits could be used, which is important because industry almost always bears the economic costs, and that needs to be factored into the analysis.
- The Democrats were insistent on putting a valve mandate in the bill. PHMSA is working on a proposal that addresses automatic or remote-controlled shutoff valves, and they would be circumventing what PHMSA is developing. We were successful in working with our fellow trades to have this removed altogether. This proposed mandate would have

required operators to retrofit existing pipelines with automatic or remote-controlled shutoff valves.

GPA Midstream was successful in pushing back on an effort to change the criminal standard from “intentional and willful” to “reckless.”

GPA Midstream sincerely appreciates those who helped us try to get this bill over the finish line for the past two years. We also extend our thanks to the other trade associations that stood with us throughout this process.

GPA Midstream, other associations secure comment extension from PHMSA on FAQs for midstream processing facilities

In early November, PHMSA published in the Federal Register a notice announcing proposed guidance in the form of a set of draft frequently asked questions (FAQs) for public comment regarding federal oversight of midstream processing facilities, commonly referred to as “the inside the fence FAQs.”

This proposed guidance is important because it delineates where PHMSA and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) will each perform inspection and enforcement activities for midstream processing facilities where there is overlapping authority. PHMSA has had these FAQs in a holding pattern for at least 4 years, and a tremendous amount of work taking close to two years was put into this effort. The draft includes seven FAQs developed by the Midstream Processing Working Group, which the Gas and Liquid Pipeline Advisory Committees established. The 60-day comment period has since been extended by 30 days; the new deadline for comments is Feb. 4, 2021.

Getting these FAQs out for comment is a large victory for GPA Midstream members and the midstream industry as a whole. We appreciate the following GPA Midstream members that participated in FAQ workgroup: Francis Foret, retired from Targa Resources; Jerry Barnhill, DCP Midstream; and Graham Bacon, Enterprise Products. Those three individuals served on the Midstream Processing Working Group representing the midstream industry.

GPA Midstream will comment on these FAQs and is hopeful the document will provide some clarity and certainty to midstream operators. In addition, we may join a separate set of comments by the Association of Oil Pipe Lines and the American Petroleum Institute. Contact [Matt Hite](#) with questions.

Research & Technical

Results of recent technical ballots

Voting closed on two GPA Midstream Technical Program ballots since the November eBrief. Results of the ballots are as follows:

- Approval Ballot – *Pipeline Project and Design Check List*. 15 Approve, 0 Negative, 2 Abstain

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- Final, Final Acceptance Ballot – *Guideline for Hydrostatic Test Plans and Procedures*: 15 Approve, 0 Negative, 1 Abstain

We greatly appreciate everyone's participation. Documents will be published after ballot comments have been resolved. For more information about GPA Midstream's technical committees and to learn how your organization can get involved, contact GPA Midstream Director of Technical Services [Martin Erne](#).

GPA Midstream publishes one technical document

GPA Midstream recently published one technical document, outlined below. As a reminder, technical documents are free to GPA Midstream and GPSA members and are accessible through the members-only Data Book and Publications Cloud. Any employee of member companies may access the cloud by visiting GPAmidstream.org/login and creating a free account for access by using your work email address. Once you create an account, log in and click on Cloud-Based Data Book and Publications. All others wishing to receive copies of GPA Midstream publications can visit the [GPAmidstream.org Publications page](http://GPAmidstream.org/Publications).

Guideline for Hydrostatic Test Plans and Procedures GPA Midstream published the new document *Guideline for Hydrostatic Test Plans and Procedures*. This guideline addresses safety practices, testing equipment and generally accepted definitions for test pressures and durations, spike tests, tests and sections. In addition, it references recommended practices and procedures for checking internal obstructions, filling the pipeline, steps for pressure testing, depressurizing, cleaning and drying and documentation. This paper provides guidance to operators in the development, implementation and corrective actions of comprehensive hydrostatic test plans and procedures for midstream and pipeline facilities.

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