

March 2021



## Register Today! GPA Midstream Virtual Technical Conference April 26 - May 7

GPA Midstream's Technical Program Committee members have put together an outstanding [Agenda](#) for the virtual 2021 GPA Midstream Technical Conference, where those attending have multiple opportunities to view each presentation and receive a certificate of attendance. The 2021 agenda features a one-hour engineering ethics class presented by Freese and Nichols, which will help professional engineers fulfill their annual ethics course requirement.

During the conference's Live Week, April 26 – 30, each presentation will be limited to 30 minutes, with an additional 15 minutes set aside for live Q&A with the speakers. If you can't participate in a certain session during Live Week, you'll have two additional opportunities to view educational sessions during Encore Week, May 3 - 7. Our virtual platform will log your attendance, and certificates of attendance for CPE credit and/or professional development hours (PDH) will be issued to those that join each session as scheduled.

Of course, every session will be available on demand once it concludes, so if you're interested in the content but don't need a certificate, the on-demand option will satisfy those needs. As long as you register, you'll have access to all sessions and some fun networking events, April 26 - May 7.

The registration fee for GPA Midstream, GPSA and GPA Midstream chapter members is \$100 per person and grants access to all education and networking sessions, April 26 – May 7. Chapter members should contact their respective chapters for the code to receive the discounted fee. Registration for non-members is \$200 per person.

[Learn more and register.](#)

# SEPT. 26-29

## 2021 GPA Midstream Convention

San Antonio • 100th Anniversary

### Convention Sponsorship Registration, Hospitality Space Requests

We look forward to celebrating GPA Midstream's 100th anniversary at the 2021 GPA Midstream Convention, which will be held in person Sept. 26 – 29 at the Marriott Rivercenter in San Antonio. We are confident this always-popular Texas venue in combination with our proven health/safety-conscious hotel partner will result in a well-attended conference. However, we are also mindful of those who could still be facing travel restrictions at the time and are providing a virtual participation option, Oct. 18 – 29, which will feature many of the same speakers, including some additional speakers not presenting in-person, and some unique networking events. The [GPA Midstream Convention website](#) has more information about the 2021 format and registration fees for each.

For companies interested in sponsoring the in-person and/or virtual events, GPA Midstream offers many options to support the event and connect with your customers. The [2021 GPA Midstream Convention Sponsorship Packet](#) is available for review, and registration for all opportunities will open on April 6 at 10 a.m. CDT. GPA Midstream will send an e-mail that morning with a link to the sponsorship registration form.

If you're interested in hosting a hospitality at the convention, space must be booked through GPA Midstream for suites and ballroom space. The hospitality request period will also open on April 6 and will close on May 21 at 5 p.m. CDT. Please take a look at our [hospitality information page](#) before requesting space.

For more information about convention sponsorships and hospitalities, contact [April Sailsbury](#): (918) 493-3872.

We are ready to get back together in person!

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## Government Affairs

### GPA Midstream Comments on Biden Administration Decision to Delay Effective Date of Migratory Bird Rule

In early March, GPA Midstream submitted comments to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) regarding the Biden administration's Direct Final Rule decision to delay the effective date of the final rule "Regulations Governing Take of Migratory Birds" that had been drafted during the Trump administration. The Biden administration is reopening a previously closed

comment period so they can garner enough support to roll back this rule. This is an important rule to GPA Midstream members because the prevalence of migratory birds can impact members' operations. GPA Midstream advocated for the final rule to be implemented since it squarely aligns with the history and purpose of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). A different interpretation of this rule will force industry to face substantial compliance uncertainty and leaves them without a permitting structure to avoid liability for incidental take, which means unintentional unlawful, by any means or in any manner, to hunt, take, capture, or kill any migratory bird. The different interpretation also allows for potential abuse through selective prosecution, which occurs when activist groups use the MBTA to stop a particular project. For instance, millions of birds die annually, but some groups use bird deaths at a particular project location to force prosecution.

GPA Midstream wrote in its comments that the Biden administration had violated the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) by issuing the direct final rule without public notice and comment. It is important to note that multiple courts have recently vacated delays of final rulemakings where they did not comply with the APA. The action taken by FWS is responsive to a Jan. 20 White House memorandum "instructing Federal agencies to consider postponing the effective date of any rules that have published in the Federal Register but not yet taken effect, for the purpose of reviewing any questions of fact, law, and policy they may raise." That memorandum cannot and does not purport to provide an independent exemption from FWS's obligations under the APA. In reality, the memorandum reminds agencies that the recommended postponement of final regulations already published in the Federal Register may only be done "consistent with applicable law." FWS previously had determined that the "MBTA's prohibitions on pursuing, hunting, taking, capturing, killing, or attempting to do the same, apply only to actions directed at migratory birds, their nests, or their eggs," which is consistent with the history and purpose of the act. The final rule is consistent with the foundational treaties and a majority of case law since it limits liability to actions aimed at migratory birds. Another key component of GPA Midstream's comments to FWS regarding the act centered on an assertion that an interpretation of the MBTA that would extend liability to incidental or accidental take leads to "absurd" results because everyday activities could be criminalized. GPA Midstream also encouraged FWS to not broaden its interpretation of the MBTA to prohibit incidental take since it would result in substantial uncertainty for those who are regulated. Lastly, strict criminal liability has a clear history of abuse through selective enforcement and prosecution, which means that consistent and fair prosecutions are nearly impossible. Many of the cases that supported the Trump administration's interpretation came from selective prosecutions of fossil fuel companies.

The Biden administration's latest action severely threatens the vitality of the midstream industry. GPA Midstream's comments in opposition to it demonstrate its willingness to advocate on behalf of its member companies. GPA Midstream will keep members up to date with news regarding the MBTA and the Biden administration's actions on it as they become available.

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**Interior Department Announces Order 3395 Will Not Be Renewed**

The Biden administration, through the Department of Interior (DOI), announced in mid-March that they will not renew the 60-day order requiring top political appointees to approve the processing of permits for oil and gas operations on federal lands. Since the order expired on March 21 and the Biden administration reported that they are not renewing it, career officials at Bureau of Land Management (BLM) field offices will return to processing permits for valid, existing leases.

On March 25, the DOI held an online public forum on the federal oil and gas program which GPA Midstream attended and shared a wrap-up report with relevant GPA Midstream committees. The department gave a snapshot of pending and approved drilling permits. They said they plan on providing monthly updates. Nada Culver, BLM deputy director of policy and programs, said “This new resource begins a more transparent effort to show our work, including the significant time it can take to review complex or incomplete applications to ensure oil and gas development will be done in an environmentally sound and responsible manner.” GPA Midstream is actively monitoring this news.

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## Research & Technical

### Results of Recent Technical Ballots

Voting recently closed on one GPA Midstream Technical Program ballot, Workgroup Charter – Systemization and Circuitization of Midstream Assets for Corrosion Monitoring: 8 Approve, 0 Negative, 0 Abstain

We greatly appreciate everyone’s participation. Documents will be published after ballot comments have been resolved, and workgroups are initiated upon approval of their charter. Contact the workgroup lead or a committee officer to get involved. 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](#).

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### GPA Midstream Publishes Technical Bulletin and Research Report

GPA Midstream recently published two technical documents, outlined below. As a reminder, technical documents and research reports 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](https://GPAmidstream.org/login) and creating a free account by using your work email address for access. 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](https://GPAmidstream.org) Publications page. Non-members may [contact Technical Program Assistant Kristy Morrison](#) to purchase RR-247 or other reports.

- **GPA Midstream Technical Bulletin: A105 Fracture Toughness** - This document gives insight as to why some forged products made from ASTM/ASME A/SA-105 steel have shown poor toughness properties at

moderately low temperatures resulting in the possibility of brittle fracture.

- **GPA Midstream Research Report 247: *Comparison of GPA Midstream Data to Simulation Software Predictions*** - The GPA Midstream research program measures experimental data which are critical to successful design and operation of member company facilities. The data encompass thermophysical properties and phase behavior for a variety of systems commonly found in the midstream industry. The purpose of this research report is to compare the predictions of commercial process simulators used in the midstream industry to the GPA Midstream experimental data base. This exercise helps GPA Midstream identify experimental data gaps to define future experimental programs, to assess the current state of thermophysical property model implementation in commonly used commercial process simulators, and finally, to create a baseline comparative analysis to facilitate process model selection for specific applications.
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## Chapters

### APPALACHIAN BASIN

#### **Appalachian Basin GPA Midstream 5th Annual Regional Conference**

Please join Appalachian Basin GPA Midstream for its fifth annual Appalachian Regional Conference (ARC 2021) on April 21 at Bella Sera in Canonsburg, Pa., 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The chapter will follow additional precautions and guidelines to ensure everyone's safety at this in-person event. To adequately plan and allow for social distancing, the conference will have limited attendance, pre-registration is required, no walk-ups will be accepted, and face coverings must be worn while inside the facility.

#### **Registration Fees**

**By March 31** - \$150/member; \$200/non-member

**By April 16** - \$175/member; \$225/non-member

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

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### HOUSTON

#### **Houston GPA Midstream Spring Sporting Clays**

Houston GPA (HGPA) Midstream is honoring the life of David Mirdadian and supporting its annual scholarship fund with its spring sporting clays event scheduled for April 9 at American Shooting Centers in Houston, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

David was an invaluable member of HGPA Midstream for many decades and spent 10+ years of that time serving on the board. His work and dedication to the chapter's clay shoot provided tens of thousands of dollars to the HGPA Midstream scholarship fund over the years and his dedication, contribution and presence will be greatly missed.

The event fee is \$225 per shooter; mulligans and shotgun raffle tickets are separate.

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

## **Houston GPA Midstream 2021-2022 Scholarship Program**

The Houston GPA Midstream Chapter is accepting applications for its 2021-2022 scholarship program. The application deadline is April 15. The chapter encourages applications from students that have completed 30 credit hours or more at the time of application and are enrolled in accredited 2- and 4-year schools pursuing an educational program that will prepare the student for a career in the midstream industry. The committee is especially interested in applications from students with prior exposure to the midstream industry that plan to enter the industry after completion of their education. HGPA Midstream may award up to \$20,000 in scholarships depending on the total number of scholarship recipients selected.

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

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## **PERMIAN BASIN**

### **Permian Basin GPA Midstream Golf Tournament**

The Permian Basin GPA Midstream Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held April 30 at Hogan Park Golf Course in Midland, Texas. The shotgun start is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., and lunch and social hour will begin immediately following the round.

The registration fee is \$125 per player.

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

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## **ROCKY MOUNTAIN**

### **Rocky Mountain GPA Midstream Q2 Virtual Training**

Rocky Mountain GPA Midstream's Q2 Virtual Training is scheduled for April 6, 8 – 11 a.m. MST, featuring a Natural Gas Midstream Operations presentation from Scott Neil, former vice president of engineering for DCP Midstream. The session will deliver practical advice for engineers and operators for the

wide range of equipment and processing blocks used within field and processing plants, focusing on the key elements of treating (including acid gas management) and NGL recovery. While focused on the operational aspects of midstream, the session will review the business context and contracts that help drive some of the key design and operational decisions and constraints.

This training is free, and login details will be made available to registered participants the day before the training.

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

## **Rocky Mountain GPA Midstream Restoring Colorado's Forest**

Rocky Mountain GPA Midstream invites you to join them April 23 or April 24 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (tentative based on number of volunteers) to help the Colorado State University Foundation plant 1,050 forest tree seedlings. The group will meet at the Colorado State Forest Services office to pick up seedlings and tools and from there will drive to Yellow Stone Creek Ranch, which is about 45 minutes from the field office.

This event is free to RMGPA Midstream members and guests. Each person is estimated to plant 15-30 seedlings per hour, so the number of people that sign up will determine how long it will take to plant the trees.

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

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## **Calendar**

[Learn more about the events below here](#)

### **April**

6 – GPA Midstream Spring Research Committee Meetings

6 – Rocky Mountain GPA Midstream 2nd Quarter Training

9 – Houston GPA Midstream Sporting Clays

13 – GPSA Board of Directors Meeting

14 – GPA Midstream Board of Directors Meeting

15 – Houston GPA Midstream Scholarship Deadline

21 – Appalachian Basin GPA Midstream Annual Conference

23 – Rocky Mountain GPA Midstream Forest Restoration Activity

26 – May 7 – GPA Midstream Virtual Technical Conference

30 – Permian Basin GPA Midstream Scholarship Golf Tournament

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