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Reflecting on a successful year

What a year for GPA! We have had so many successes and achievements over the past 12 months, I don't really know where to begin or end. GPA continues its strive to be the authoritative voice of the midstream industry on behalf of our membership.

It seems like just yesterday, we were scrambling to accommodate the biggest turnout for a GPA Convention in recent history. All the while, we were dealing with key legislative and regulatory issues, working on our own policy improvements, continuing research initiatives, growing chapter involvement, being active internationally, planning the 2012 convention and more.

And speaking of legislative and regulatory issues, we are particularly proud of the outstanding efforts of our Environmental Committee's work on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) RICE MACT and Subpart W issues. Their efforts have decisively challenged EPA into making significant changes to their rulemakings that enormously benefit GPA members. Without the efforts of this committee, GPA member companies would be subject to paying literally hundreds of millions of dollars in additional regulatory expenses. In fact, one GPA member company estimated that its potential regulatory expenses would have increased by \$55 million in the first year alone.

It has truly been a whirlwind year, and I couldn't be prouder of what we have achieved in such short order. Trust me, the "we" is a sincere recognition of so many having contributed so much to make it all happen. Our member companies and volunteers are the heartbeat of this association, and every staff person in the GPA office knows we couldn't do it without you.

Please accept our biggest and best "thank you" for a job well done. We hope you share in our pride of the accomplishments recognized herein. Let's continue the great work in 2012.

Mark Sutton,
GPA Executive Director

Dec. 31 is the last day for Environmental Excellence Award applications

The Environmental Excellence Award is a project-based award honoring companies' achievements in energy

conservation and environmental support. The self-nomination process is open for companies to be considered for the 2012 award recognition at the GPA Convention, April 15 - 18, in New Orleans, La. The award recipient will have an opportunity to demonstrate their projects so that other member companies may benefit from this knowledge and information. The application deadline is December 31, 2011. Visit <http://GPAglobal.org/awards/envexcellence/> for full program details and application forms.

GPA Environmental Committee works on EPA Oil and Gas NSPS/NESHAP Review Rule

This rule was proposed on Aug. 23, and after an extension, public comments were due by Nov. 30. EPA intends to issue the final rule by Feb. 28, 2012, to meet a court ordered settlement agreement, which would put the final publication date in the Federal Reserve around mid-April 2012. The GPA Environmental Committee immediately formed a working group led by Lynn Reed, ONEOK, to draft public comments. Members of the committee presented short public comments at each of three EPA held meetings in Pittsburg, Denver and Arlington, Texas. Over a 14-week period, the working group held three meetings and weekly conference calls, and the full committee met in mid-October to hammer out public comments. GPA's 80-page public comment document was filed on behalf of GPA by Van Ness Feldman on Nov. 30.

PERC approves Partnership Agreement

At its November meeting in the Woodlands, Texas, the Propane Education and Research Council (PERC) approved its Partnership Agreement proposal for 2012. This Partnership Agreement promotes greater cooperation between PERC and the two "qualified industry organizations" (GPA and the National Propane Gas Association) recognized in the Propane Education and Research Act (PERA) statute. The 2012 Partnership Agreement will provide \$300,000 to GPA's 2012 research program and will be allocated to the individual research projects as delineated in the 2012 Research Brochure (available at www.GPAglobal.org/research). GPA appreciates the support PERC has provided to our research program over the last several years and looks forward to working with the Council for many years to come.

Propane Supply/Demand Study nearing completion

With the oversight of an ad hoc committee from GPA's NGL Market Information Committee, a Propane Supply/Demand Study conducted by Petral Worldwide Inc. is being finalized. This study was requested by PERC and will be delivered within the next few weeks. The scope of the study required a detailed propane supply/demand forecast for North America on a regional basis (for the U.S.) for 2011 through 2016. Supply forecasts include production from gas plants, refineries and imports. Demand forecasts include consumption in retail markets by end-use sector, consumption as ethylene feedstock and exports. The study also provides an analysis of 10 years of historic trends in propane supply/demand. Anyone interested in receiving a copy of this study should contact the GPA office, (918) 493-3872.

U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe to meet with GPA Members

GPA member companies face a myriad of challenges every day in the regulatory arenas in which we operate. We must deal with state and federal legislators, numerous regulatory bodies, and in many cases cities, towns and county governments. A new challenge in our daily activities is now the Army Corps of Engineers, specifically concerning operations in Pennsylvania. Projects that historically would have required general permits with 60-day processing timeframes are in some instances requiring full blown permitting and could take eight months to process.

Jeff Applekamp, GPA director of Government Affairs, recently had the opportunity to discuss this issue with U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe. Senator Inhofe holds a key position on the Armed Services Committee, as well as the Environment and Public Works Committee, both committees directly dealing with the Army Corps of Engineers. Senator Inhofe will host a meeting in Washington, D.C., in January with GPA leaders operating in Pennsylvania to discuss our issues and help develop possible solutions. GPA has currently heard from Williams, MarkWest and Chesapeake, all with operations in Pennsylvania. Contact Jeff Applekamp, japplekamp@gpaglobal.org if you have concerns with the Corps of Engineers or would like to attend this meeting.

PHMSA extends comment period for gas ANPRM

PHMSA has extended the comment period for its Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) on the Safety of Gas Transmission Pipelines. Comments are now due on Jan. 20, 2012. Several groups are working to address the extensive PHMSA rulemaking. PHMSA explained the extension is appropriate because of the numerous, important and complex safety issues raised in the ANPRM. GPA Pipeline Safety Committee Chair Matt Norton is leading our activities and working with GPA members to specifically focus our responses on issues concerning Subpart O, Gathering Lines.

Oklahoma governor appoints Corporation Commissioner

Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin has appointed Patrice Douglas to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. Commissioner Douglas took office Oct. 10, following the resignation of Commissioner Jeff Cloud.

Commissioner Douglas earned her undergraduate degree from Oklahoma Christian University and her law degree from the University of Oklahoma. She has an extensive legal and professional business and banking background. In April 2009, she was elected mayor of Edmond, Okla., and served in that position until resigning to accept the appointment as Corporation Commissioner.

Commissioner Douglas has met with GPA leaders and expressed her desire to work with us and learn more about our industry. She has been invited to speak in Pennsylvania in early 2012 about the successful industry operations in Oklahoma and has requested assistance from GPA members in preparation for her remarks.

A recap of noteworthy GPA Technical Activities for 2011

Members of the GPA Research Committee, Technical Section F, met in Oldenburg, Germany, in October. During the meetings, the group visited LTP GmbH Oldenburg, which is responsible for nearly one-third of GPA's active research projects. The meeting not only allowed the committee to share in-person progress reports for existing research but were also afforded the opportunity to see firsthand what future projects might be suited for the research contractor.

GPA Technical Sections held their October meetings with a new all-day format to increase productivity. Mission accomplished: work that normally would have taken months to complete with workgroup members living in various parts of the country was cut down to a few hours.

Technical Sections A and M – (Facilities Design and Operations and Maintenance) discussed how to address the need for non-inclusion of midstream operations facilities and equipment in newly published NFPA 56. GPA was concerned that the document was written far too broad in scope, allowing the possible future misuse or misinterpretation due to the wide range of facilities encompassed by "*new and existing flammable gas piping found in electric-generating plant, industrial, institutional and commercial applications,*" which is a direct excerpt from the applicability section of the document.

With the information gathered, Kenny Wheat, GPA director of Technical Services, was able to submit a request during the documents' public comment period, stating that gas processing facilities and other facilities with the purpose of, but not limited to, treating, separating, dehydrating and recovering natural gas liquids, be included in section 1.1.2, the Nonapplication of Standard section. GPA comments stated that gas processing facilities and the like are currently covered under API Standard 521 - *Pressure-relieving and Depressuring Systems* and that multiple standards governing such practices were not necessary and could lead to confusion and misinterpretation leading to unnecessary delays. Public comments for NFPA 56 were due at the end of November.

The Midwest Measurement Society (MWMS) met for a two-day technical conference in Tulsa, Okla., and discussed revisions made in 2009 to GPA 2172, which met its two-year implementation date. The roundtable discussion panel was made up of GPA member company representatives and GPA staff. The discussion centered on the most notable revision, which addressed methods for incorporating water vapor into the analysis calculation. This change has made it difficult for certain companies' measurement departments to fully comply with GPA 2172. The hope of this roundtable discussion, the second such roundtable discussion held by MWMS in two years, was to clear up some of the confusion, answer questions and explain why these changes were made and their importance on correct measurement reporting.

Research Reports published in 2011

RR-206 - Solubility of Hydrocarbons in Amine Solutions - GPSA Data Book Project

RR-207 - Solubility of Sulfur Species in MDEA/DEA Aqueous Solutions

RR-208 - Methanol Solubility in Natural Gas

RR-209 - CO₂/H₂S Solubility in Glycol

RR-210 - Acid Gas Water Content – GPSA Data Book Project

RR-211 - Hydrates in High Inhibitor Concentration Systems

2012 Research Brochure available online

For those interested in GPA's research activities, we encourage you to download the 2012 Research Brochure, which is now available on GPA's research page on the web site: www.GPAGlobal.org/research.

The brochure breaks down the research budget and how research dues are assessed. It also provides descriptions of GPA's new and continuing research projects, along with a list of published and available GPA research.

Under GPA's new dues structure, all GPA member companies fund the program through their annual dues. Non-GPA member companies also have the opportunity to voluntarily contribute to the program. If you are a GPSA company, or any other entity with a desire to contribute to this proven program that provides invaluable data to the midstream/processing industry, please contact Kenny Wheat: kwheat@GPAGlobal.org.

ASTM publishes new chromatography method for residues in LPG

ASTM has published a new test method for the detection residues in LPG, titled ASTM D7756 - 11 Standard Test Method for Residues in Liquefied Petroleum (LP) Gases by Gas Chromatography with Liquid, On-Column Injection. The method, developed by DaVinci Europe under the guidance of ASTM's D02.H0 (subcommittee on LPG) using their latest on column injection technology, is quicker and more sensitive than manual methods, such as Test Method D2158, which is based on evaporation of large sample volumes followed by visual or gravimetric estimation of residue content.

The method gives both quantitative results and information about contaminant composition, such as boiling point range and fingerprint, which can be useful in tracing the source of a particular contaminant while providing enhanced sensitivity in measurements of heavier (oily) residues, with a quantification limit of 10 mg/kg total residue.

Control over the residue content, as specified in GPA's LPG Specifications – GPA 2140 and ASTM's LPG Specifications – D1835, is of considerable importance in end-use applications of LPG.

Chapter News

Houston GPA Training Opportunity

The next opportunity for John M. Campbell training in coordination with the Houston Gas Processors Association is approaching quickly, scheduled for Jan. 11, 2012. Experienced instructor Tim Armstrong will present on Process Safety Engineering.

This course provides an overview of process safety engineering fundamentals for hydrocarbon processing facilities, with emphasis on the upstream oil & gas sector. The focus of this course is on the engineering/design aspects of process safety.

Topics covered in this session are risk analysis basics, fire and explosion protection, process safety management systems, and a discussion of inherently safer design. Visit <http://www.houstongpa.org/> for more information.

2012 GPA Convention, "Mapping Midstream's Future"

April 15 - 18, 2012 * New Orleans, Louisiana * Hilton Riverside

Online registration is open for the 2012 GPA Convention. Before we provide the link, we'd like you to take a look at what's new for 2012.

What's New

- Jump-start your Monday with the free "Good Morning GPA" continental breakfast, provided by GPA's advocacy firm Van Ness Feldman. This meet-and-greet event is located near the registration area and allows the perfect chance to rendezvous with acquaintances and make new contacts before the first gavel drops.
- Don't miss the keynote address by world-renowned global futurist Dr. James Canton during Monday morning's General Session. Canton includes numerous energy-related messages in his presentation: "The Top Trends of the Extreme Future."
- See our "GPA Convention Friends" displays in the main registration area by sponsors: Caterpillar, CB&I and Willbros.
- The GPSA Tuesday Night Party Ticket costs are included in your registration fees this year, so plan on joining us that night for fellowship, fun and entertainment by country artist Phil Vassar.
- Wednesday's agenda offers two new three-hour training sessions at no additional charge (held concurrently),

nor additional sign-up, on this final conference day. :

- **Midstream Safety Training** will cover a wide range of safety topics relevant to midstream companies, including control room management, line locating/marking, workplace fatigue and vehicle safety.
- **NGLs Path to Final Market** is an intermediate training course covering the entire spectrum of the midstream industry. Topics include gathering and processing, fractionation and NGL transportation, and olefins and marketing.

Registration and Hotel Information

Before you register, we encourage you to [check your company's membership status](#) because GPA and GPSA members save on registration. Another way to save is by registering early:

GPA & GPSA Members

By Feb 17 - \$490
By March 17 - \$540
After March 17 - \$590

Non-Member Operators and Suppliers

By Feb 17 - \$615
By March 17 - \$665
After March 17 - \$715

The fastest, easiest way to register is online: www.GPAGlobal.org/convention/register. Your credit card information is protected in our secure online registration form.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. The direct link to make hotel reservations online will appear after you have registered for the convention. To make reservations by phone, call the hotel directly and mention the Gas Processors Association to receive the conference hotel rates: toll free (800) HILTONS or (504) 556-3768.

We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans in April!

GPA/GPSA Calendar

For event location and additional details about meetings listed below, visit: www.GPAGlobal.org/calendar/

January

11 Houston GPA Monthly JMC Education Session Luncheon
18 Gulf Cooperation Council Executive/Technical Committee Meeting

Gas Processors Association

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