



MARCH 2011 eBrief Print Version

Headlines

Legislative & Regulatory Affairs News

- [RICE MACT and Subpart W work continues](#)
- [GPA opposes gathering legislation in New Mexico](#)

Tech Talk

- [GPA and NIST to update TP-17](#)
- [GPA Technical Section B to ballot two analysis standards](#)
- [Registration opens for GPA's School of Gas Chromatography](#)

Chapter News

- [Gas Processing Association Canada celebrates its 50th anniversary](#)
- [Gas Processing Association Canada \(GPAC\) Call for Papers](#)
- [MidContinent GPA](#)
- [Permian Basin GPA](#)

2011 GPA Convention Information

- [90th GPA Convention Update](#)
- [Exclusive convention training opportunity](#)
- [Sponsorship/advertising opportunities](#)

[GPA/GPSA Calendar](#)

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY AFFAIRS NEWS

RICE MACT and Subpart W work continues

RICE MACT update: GPA's case challenging the final RICE MACT rule has been put on hold by the court to give us time to negotiate a resolution with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). GPA and the other petitioners (American Petroleum Institute [API], Interstate Natural Gas Association of America [INGAA] and Exterran) have met with the EPA four times, and is scheduled to meet again on April 7. EPA's key participants are Michael Horowitz (EPA attorney), Melanie King (the rule writer) and Bob Wayland (EPA supervisor). The initial discussions focused on relief from immediate requirements for continuous monitoring and temperature sensor calibration at larger sites currently subject to RICE MACT. The petitioners group had success with this when EPA issued a 90-day stay of the requirements and is in the process of issuing a direct final rule that includes the industry recommended changes.

Our discussions with EPA have now turned to the broader issues surrounding the new RICE MACT rule that applies to all existing engines at smaller and more remote locations. The EPA has been clear that they are not willing to reconsider a defined distinction in the requirements between urban and rural area engines. They have, however, indicated a willingness to consider alternative rule language that meets the needs of the petitioners group, without referring to an urban/rural distinction. At this point we expect the EPA to be open to a reasonable solution, and the petitioners group will be developing an outline of recommended alternatives to present to the EPA at the April 7 meeting. We are making good progress with the EPA in the current negotiations, but should the negotiation efforts not successfully address GPA members' concerns, we will always have the ability to pursue our issues through litigation.

Subpart W update: EPA published the Final GHG Mandatory Reporting Rule, Subpart W, in the Federal Register on Nov. 30, 2010. Subpart W covers Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems, including the production and processing sectors. GPA has been actively meeting with EPA to discuss the rule. On Dec. 2, 2010, GPA submitted Subpart W Questions and Clarifications for EPA to respond to concerns and confusion resulting in the rule finalization. On Jan. 12, EPA submitted a response to GPA's Questions and Clarifications (the first industry group to get a response). Although there were some clarifications, many issues remain. Because of these issues, GPA filed a Petition for Review on Jan. 31 with the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. GPA also filed a Petition for Reconsideration with the EPA on Feb. 11. Issues expected to be discussed include:

- (1) Subpart W's best available monitoring method ("BAMM") provisions do not provide reporting entities with adequate time to ensure compliance with the final rule;
- (2) Current compressor venting monitoring requirements are overly burdensome and present significant safety and operational process concerns to reporting entities;
- (3) The terms "gathering lines" and "booster stations" are not defined in the final rule, nor is sufficient detail provided regarding the definition of "gas processing facility." Absent such definitions and clarifications, there will be substantial confusion as to which facilities are required to report emission data.
- (4) The definition of a facility in Subpart W differs from the definition of a facility provided in all other applicable regulations under the Clean Air Act ("CAA"). The inconsistency will create unnecessary confusion among related programs and is not necessary or justified.

Other trade associations (API, American Exploration & Production Council [AXPC], INGAA and American Gas Association [AGA]) have also filed similar petitions.

GPA opposes gathering legislation in New Mexico

GPA LARAC members reviewed draft legislation in January addressing new regulations for gas gathering in New Mexico. The concept was originally presented as a "light-handed regulatory approach, similar to what exists in Texas and Oklahoma." LARAC members and State Coordinators were provided the language of the proposed legislation for their review. Following open discussions on numerous conference calls, the majority of GPA members represented voted to oppose the legislation and also opposed the concept of any language that would increase any state regulation on gathering in New Mexico.

During our group discussions, it was mentioned that the Independent Petroleum Association of New Mexico was considering even stricter language that may also include processing, despite the fact that the draft we were considering did not include processing. Regardless, the decision remained to oppose any legislation that would increase regulations. The concern was that, opening the door for "light-handed" regulation could easily result in increased regulation in a harsher manner.

After being presented with comments and the LARAC position, GPA Executive and Finance Committee (E&F) members also voted to oppose such legislation.

As the deadline for filing legislation approached, unfortunately the bill that was filed was not the draft LARAC had been presented to review, but rather the version we had been told the Independent Petroleum Association supported, which included regulation for processing.

With approval from GPA E&F to engage a lobbyist, we joined forces with other GPA member company lobbyists and proceeded to deliver our message of opposition to the bill. Unfortunately, those acting in favor of the bill had already reached out to the New Mexico House Energy Committee members and the bill passed 10-2. We will now focus our efforts on defeating HB 530 as it progresses through the New Mexico legislative process of House floor action, Senate action, and possibly action by the governor.

For more information on this issue, please contact Jeff Applekamp, japplekamp@gpaglobal.org.

TECH TALK

GPA and NIST to update TP-17

GPA and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) are working to update the values listed in TP-17 - *Table of Physical Properties or Hydrocarbons for Extended Analysis of Natural Gases*, as well the physical property values listed in Section 23 of the GPSA Data Book.

TP-17 and the table listed in the GPSA Data Book's Section 23 contain a more extensive list of hydrocarbons and components found in natural gas streams than GPA 2145 does. Specifically, TP-17 contains a total of 169

components/compounds, and Section 23 of the GPSA Data Book contains a total of 64 components/compounds. GPA 2145 shows 21 components/compounds, seven of which are non-hydrocarbons. Following these updates, GPA 2145, TP-17 and Section 23 of the GPSA Data Book will be consistent. The GPA Technical Committee meeting in April will cover more information about this topic.

GPA Technical Section B to ballot two analysis standards

GPA's Technical Section B will soon be balloting two analysis methods. GPA 2261 – *Analysis for Natural Gas and Similar Gaseous Mixtures by Gas Chromatography* and GPA 2177 – *Analysis of Natural Gas Liquid Mixtures Containing Nitrogen and Carbon Dioxide by Gas Chromatography* have been recently revised. These revisions were necessary following the revisions of GPA 2145 – *Table of Physical Properties for Hydrocarbons and Other Compounds of Interest to the Natural Gas Industry* and GPA 2172 – *Calculation of Gross Heating Value, Relative Density, Compressibility and Theoretical Hydrocarbon Liquid Content for Natural Gas Mixtures for Custody Transfer*. Most importantly, both standards will contain new precision statements following the recent completion of a precision data set obtained from round robin work found in RR-188.

Since these revisions could impact custody transfer contracts that already exist, GPA strongly encourages its members of Section B, the Technical Committee and Board of Directors to make note of these ballots and examine how the changes might affect their analysis and contracts for natural gas and natural gas liquids.

Registration opens for GPA's School of Gas Chromatography

GPA's 2011 School of Gas Chromatography is scheduled for Aug. 8-12. Even though it's several months away, we recommend registering early because this school has sold out in the past six consecutive years. Training will again be held in Tulsa, Okla.

Registration for the school is now open. Forms will be available and accepted at the GPA Convention. You may also download the registration form and fax it to the GPA office:

http://www.gpaglobal.org/assets/gpaglobal/gpa/temp/GPA_Chromo_Reg2011.pdf.

Register early and save!

Early Bird Registration – by or before July 11

\$525 US Dollars – GPA / GPSA Member

\$800 US Dollars – Non-Member

Standard Registration – on or after July 12, 2011

\$625 US Dollars – GPA/GPSA Member

\$900 US Dollars – Non-Member

Questions about the class? Contact Judy London (jlondon@GPAglobal.org) or Kenny Wheat (kwheat@GPAglobal.org).

CHAPTER NEWS

Gas Processing Association Canada celebrates its 50th anniversary

GPA congratulates the Gas Processing Association Canada (GPAC) for 50 years of serving the natural gas processing industry. What a difference fifty years makes! In 1960, western Canada only had about 40 natural gas processing plants, and now it's a multibillion-dollar industry. GPAC has evolved through name changes and mergers. The Canadian Natural Gas Processors Association and the Canadian Natural Gasoline Processor Suppliers Men's Association worked closely together, later changing their names to the Canadian Gas Processors Association and the Canadian Gas Processors Suppliers Association. In 2005, the CGPA and CGPSA merged to become GPAC. Congratulations, again, for reaching this golden milestone.

Gas Processing Association Canada (GPAC) Call for Papers

Are you considered an expert in your field related to the Canadian gas processing and gas liquids industry? Can your expertise benefit GPAC members? Are you engaging with your audience?

If you answered "yes" to these questions, please consider being a part of the Gas Processing Association Canada's speaker program at the 23rd Annual Operations & Maintenance Conference in Calgary on May 6, 2011.

Submissions must be received by March 6. - A submittal form and additional details can be found here:

http://www.gpaglobal.org/assets/gpaglobal/gpa/temp/GPAC_CallForPapers.5.2011.pdf

You may also visit the GPAC web site at: <http://www.gpacanada.com/>

MidContinent GPA

Please join us on April 27 and 28 for the MidContinent GPA Golf Tournament and Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City. Online registration will be available soon, so please keep an eye on the GPA web site for registration information.

Permian Basin GPA

The Permian Basin GPA Annual Meeting and Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 3 and 4 in Odessa, Texas. We hope you can attend, and as a reminder, we have a new venue this year, MCM Elegante Hotel and Conference Center. Online registration will be available soon, so please keep an eye on the GPA web site for registration information.

2011 GPA Convention Information ***High Definition at 90 – Advancing the Midstream Vision***

90th GPA Convention Update

Convention registration is on track to eclipse last year's attendance numbers, and as a reminder, the last chance to take advantage of early bird discounts is Friday, March 4. After that date, on-site pricing will apply.

If you have already registered, you will receive an e-mail providing you with access to the presentation pre-prints, registration lists and hospitality listings.

We encourage you to make your hotel reservations as soon as possible because the Marriott Rivercenter hotel has alerted GPA that our room block for the Convention is approaching capacity. We have contracted overflow rooms at the Marriott Riverwalk. Periodically check the GPA Convention web page for updated hotel and convention information: <http://www.qpaglobal.org/convention/2011/>. We look forward to seeing you there!

Exclusive convention training opportunity

Make the most of your week at the GPA Convention! GPA and John M. Campbell have partnered once again to offer an exclusive training session, *An Overview of Process Safety Engineering & Operations for Gas Processors*. The dates are April 6-8, so training won't interfere with other GPA Convention activities. Topics will include:

- Historical incident and problem areas
- Risk analysis basics
- Process hazards analysis techniques
- Overview of hazards associated with specific plant systems
- Fire and explosion protection principles

The session will be led by instructor Mark Bothamley. John M. Campbell & Co. is known for providing competency-based and industry-relevant training services since 1968. Don't miss this exceptional opportunity to attend the convention and training session for a total price starting at \$1,095. Be sure to register now because only a few spots remain. Full schedule for the training session:

Wednesday, April 6: 1 – 5 p.m.

Thursday, April 7: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Friday, April 8: 8 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Sponsorship/Advertising Opportunities

Young Professionals

This sponsorship opportunity will give your company exposure to one of GPA's fastest growing and most important groups – our Young Professionals. The sponsorship will help cover the expense of the networking dinner held after the Sunday afternoon forum and is open to all GPA and GPSA members. We will e-mail GPA and GPSA official representatives with sponsorship details; three willing sponsors will be chosen at random and notified soon after.

GPA Show Daily

GPA has once again partnered with Hart Energy to keep you updated at the GPA Convention site with conference news and activities through the GPA Show Daily. The show paper will be published on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (April 4-6) and is made readily available to all convention attendees, plus is distributed electronically each day to the entire GPA and GPSA membership. If you're interested in advertising in the GPA Show Daily, contact Lesley Hart: (713) 260-6462 or lhart@hartenergy.com.

GPA/GPSA Calendar

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

March 1-2 OSUIT 2011 Annual Career Fair
March 2 GPAC Q1 AGM Luncheon
March 9 HGPA Monthly Luncheon
March 21-24 GPA Europe at Gas Tech

April 3-6 GPA Convention

Gas Processors Association

www.GPAGlobal.org

6526 E. 60th Street, Tulsa, OK, USA 74145 | 918-493-3872 | Fax 918-493-3875 |

E-mail: gpa@GPAGlobal.org