



June 2012 eBrief Print Version

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RICE MACT settlement agreement

Thanks to the dedicated work of our Environmental Committee members and leadership, GPA has reached a settlement agreement for the RICE MACT matter. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is required by the Clean Air Act to publish notice of the settlement in the Federal Register and provide a 30-day public comment period. Once that is done, and assuming nobody raises objections that EPA decides it must act on (a possibility that is remote, at best), the settlement will be final.

The settlement locks in the tentative deal that GPA previously negotiated with EPA. It requires EPA to sign proposed rule amendments, and sign a final rule by Dec. 14. EPA will propose to identify "remote" engines using the Department of Transportation pipeline classification system. Remote engines would be subject only to work practice standards (e.g., good maintenance practices). Non-remote engines would be subject to a numeric performance standard that would require catalyst. The performance standard would require periodic emissions testing, but an affected source would not be in violation of the standard if an exceedance is measured, as long as timely corrective action is taken.

By law, EPA cannot promise in a settlement to promulgate exactly what it proposed. EPA must retain authority to revise the proposal based on public comments. But, by all appearances, EPA is committed to the proposal and intends to promulgate it later this year. If EPA promulgates what it proposed, we will dismiss our lawsuit. If the final rule is significantly different than what was proposed, we have the right to reactivate the litigation.

The proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on June 7.

View the signed settlement agreement at www.GPAGlobal.org.

Second Circuit decision positive for GPA members

A number of GPA members have been watching the MARC I case regarding FERC's decision to do an Environmental Assessment (EA) rather than an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This decision provides a positive "precedent" for infrastructure projects against "EIS vs. EA" arguments.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an agency undertaking a major federal action must integrate environmental values into its decision making process by considering the environmental impacts. To meet NEPA

GPA supports PHMSA damage prevention rulemaking

It seems for the past few years, GPA and our member companies have had to oppose many of the proposed regulatory efforts thrown in our path. However, we are happy to report that GPA is officially supporting the efforts of Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to make damage prevention for pipelines a priority through its latest Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

As pipeline infrastructure grows closer to population centers, and as population grows out to pipeline areas, there is a greater risk for third party damage. Enacting and enforcing damage prevention regulations is one of the most effective ways to prevent harm to the public, protect the environment and keep a vital link in our nation's energy system out of harm's way.

To promote the message of pipeline damage prevention, GPA included in our comments that we believe it is necessary to include references to the nationwide one-call number, 811, in the final rule, and further believes that any exemptions to the requirements of making a one-call be severely limited.

GPA names Executive and Finance Committee

GPA President Mike Heim, Targa Resources, has appointed members to the 2012-2013 GPA Executive and Finance (E&F) Committee.

As specified by the association's bylaws, the E&F Committee is composed of the president, president-elect (Joel Moxley, Crestwood Midstream), three vice presidents (John Mollenkopf, Markwest Energy Partners; Bill Ordemann, Enterprise Products; and Terry McGill, Enbridge), immediate past president (Alan Armstrong, Williams), and five presidential appointments.

Heim has appointed Terry Spencer, ONEOK Partners; Rick Cargile, Energy Transfer; Wouter Van Kempen, DCP Midstream; Bill Ward, Superior Pipeline and Robert Mitchell, Carrera Gas.

GPA's E&F Committee typically meets in conjunction with the Board of Directors and can exercise all the powers of the board at times when the board is not in session.

GPA Director of Technical Services to tender resignation

Kenny Wheat, GPA's Director of Technical Services for the past six years, has notified GPA management that he will tender his resignation in the near future. Kenny is a mechanical engineering graduate from Oklahoma State University and intends to pursue opportunities in the midstream industry. GPA will begin its search for a replacement for him immediately, with anticipation the vacancy will occur by late July or early August. Please feel free to join GPA staff in thanking Kenny for his service to both GPA and GPSA and wish him well on his future. Perhaps down the road he will find himself on one of our GPA technical committees that he has provided guidance to in the past.

GPA plans to comment on NFPA 56

Last month, GPA held discussions to identify specific areas for comment on National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 56 - Standard for Fire and Explosion Prevention During Cleaning and Purging Of Flammable Gas Piping Systems.

GPA's most desired outcome would be an exclusion of midstream facilities and gathering systems that are in compliance with OSHA's PSM 29 CFR 1910.119, which is not only a more stringent standard for the safe handling and operation of systems containing flammable products, but is also written in a way that encompasses the facilities, equipment and procedures most common to the midstream industry.

This standard, which was developed primarily by individuals not familiar with our industry, was clearly written for procedures used for natural gas piping systems found in power generating facilities and not for the midstream industry. If exclusion from the standard is not obtainable, GPA will request that certain provisions be made to better fit midstream operations.

NFPA standards go through several procedural processes during a given revision cycle, so the GPA workgroup's next task is to develop comments suited to NFPA's procedural policies for commenting on their standards.

GPA investigates forming a chapter associated with the Marcellus Shale area

The 2012 GPA School of Gas Chromatography is full, but unexpected conflicts often arise causing cancellations. Spots that open up will be filled from the waiting list on a first-come, first-served basis. If you'd like to be added to the waiting list, send your name, phone and e-mail to Judy London, jlondon@GPAglobal.org.

Passing of Mark Kenaga

It is with great sorrow that we announce the death of former Section B member Mark Kenaga, who passed away on June 22. Mark was a valuable member of Section B for 15 years and was active in establishing new analytical procedures and/or revising existing ones. He also served as an instructor for the GPA School of Gas Chromatography for 14 years.

Memorials may be made to:
Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation - Parkinson's Division
2800 N. Van Buren
Enid, OK 73703

Ladusau-Evans will serve as custodians of the funds.

CHAPTER NEWS

A "thank you" from MidContinent GPA (MCGPA)

The MidContinent GPA annual meeting and golf tournament was held in May in Oklahoma City. The events were well attended and the MCGPA extends its thanks attendees and speakers. Additionally, we want to say "great job" to the chapter volunteers for their planning and execution of the events. Presentations included:

- "Flexible Standard Cryo Plants" - Tom Russell, Thomas Russell Co.
 - "Environmental Air Regulations" - Erin Badough, Exterran
 - University of Tulsa Master of Energy Business Program – Tom Coburn
 - OSUIT Natural Gas Compression Update - Roy Achemire, OSUIT
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GPA/GPSA Calendar

July

13 Permian Basin GPA 2012 Sporting Clays Event
19-20 Chapter Leadership Meeting

August

1 2013 GPA Convention sponsorship opportunities open
6 -10 GPA School of Gas Chromatography