



March 2012 eBrief Print Version

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GPA Legislative Committee – a look at our State Coordinators’ roles

One of our intentions by reorganizing the GPA Legislative Committee was to strengthen the position of our State Coordinators. As we see our state legislators and regulators continually increasing their activities, our GPA member companies have also had to respond with ever-increasing activities.

In an effort for the GPA Legislative Committee to serve in a coordination role, we established our State Coordinator positions for each of our nine key states. Our State Coordinators are member company lobbyists and are active in the day-to-day events at their respective state capitols. In addition to their busy roles serving the needs of their own companies, they report activities to our committee so we remain current on events and can identify those issues that may need additional work and perhaps resources. Our coordinators are:

Beth Claude, Enbridge, for Texas and North Dakota
Elizabeth Hawkins, Targa Resources, for Louisiana
Mick Urban, ONEOK, for Kansas
Danny Nixon, ONEOK, for Oklahoma
Mark Hager, Williams, for Pennsylvania
Dallas Scholes, Williams, for Wyoming
JR McPherson, DCP Midstream, for Colorado

We are also fortunate to have retained Kelly McBeth as our lobbyist in Texas to help with the level of state activities. We are in need of a State Coordinator in New Mexico and would welcome a volunteer who could help us within that state. Please contact Jeff Applekamp, japplekamp@gpaglobal.org, if you would like to get involved with the GPA Legislative Committee.

NPGA to release proposed modifications impacting propane

The National Propane Gas Association (NPGA) is set to release drafts of proposed modifications to two industry standards regarding propane and ethyl mercaptan.

The first proposal suggests that language surrounding point of odorization and the documentation of the addition of odorant to LP gas be added to NFPA 58 – Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code. The proposed language modification is expected to look something like the following:

4.2 LP-Gas Odorization

4.2.1* All LP-Gases shall be odorized prior to ~~delivery to a bulk plant~~ shipment from a pipeline or storage terminal by the addition of a warning agent of such character that the gases are detectable, by a distinct odor, to

a concentration in air of not over one-fifth the lower limit of flammability. The terminal operator or a designee shall document that odorant has been added in the required quantity to each shipment that leaves the terminal.

4.2.2 Odorization shall not be required if it is harmful in the use or further processing of the LP-Gas or if such odorization will serve no useful purpose as a warning agent in such further use or processing.

4.2.3* If odorization is required, the presence of the odorant shall be determined by sniff-testing or other means, and the results shall be documented as follows:

- (1) When LP-Gas is delivered to a bulk plant
- (2) When shipments of LP-Gas bypass the bulk plant

Substantiation:

There have been reports of some shipments of unodorized LP-Gas leaving pipeline and storage terminals in railcars or transports. Although it is an infrequent occurrence, it seems clear that checking and documenting that odorant is present before the gas leaves a pipeline or storage terminal is necessary.

NPGA to clarify "stain tube test" language

NPGA plans to release language into ASTM D5305, *Standard Test Method for Determination of Ethyl Mercaptan in LP-Gas Vapor*, most commonly known as the "stain tube method," which was first developed and standardized by GPA in GPA Standard 2188.

Occasionally field technicians will question the differences of odorant levels from the liquid and vapor phases of a propane sample, which are obtained by using ASTM D5305 or GPA 2188. NPGA's proposed language hopes to clarify the confusion by adding language, which explains that due to vapor liquid equilibrium effects between ethyl mercaptan and propane, the amount of ethyl mercaptan in the vapor phase will be less than that found in the liquid. This will also be a topic of discussion for GPA Section B (Analysis and Test Methods) at its upcoming spring meeting in New Orleans.

A detailed explanation of this may already be found in the appendix of ASTM D5305 and GPA 2188, which covers the corrections needed to perform this method in accordance with the Canadian equivalent method, CAN/CGSB-3.0, which determines the level of ethyl mercaptan found in the liquid phase.

New NFPA standard to impact gas plants

As part of their planning call for the 2012 spring meeting, the GPA Technical Committee discussed the potential impacts to gas processing plants from a new NFPA Standard, NFPA 56 -*Standard for Fire and Explosion Prevention During Cleaning and Purging Of Flammable Gas Piping Systems*. This new standard is related to cleaning and purging flammable gas piping systems and was prepared in response to a serious natural gas explosion that occurred while natural gas piping systems in a power generating facility were being cleaned and prepared for service.

While this incident from the power generation industry was purported to have been caused by the lack of proper training and safety measures being in place, the document now encompasses gas processing plants as part of its scope. This decision by NFPA might mean that even though a plant may have what they believe to be very stringent guidelines in place with their existing Process Safety Management (PSM) requirements, if this standard were to be adopted by the state in which that plant resides, the PSM may not be enough.

This standard was developed by a committee with very little experience in dealing with the midstream industry, but it is clear from our discussion with the committee that they intend to cover gas plant piping in the standard.

The GPA Technical Committee plans to follow up the discussion with another call involving the Technical Advisory Committee. The group hopes to come away from that call with a plan of action, which will limit the impact on midstream facilities. Both GPA Technical Sections A (Facilities Design) and M (Operations and Maintenance) plan to address this issue during their spring meetings in New Orleans. If your company would like to be a part of this initiative, please contact Kenny Wheat as soon as possible so that you can help us going forward: kwheat@GPAglobal.org.

A preview of the GPA Young Professionals Convention activities

A note from GPA YP Chair Gelareh Chafin

The GPA Young Professionals (YPs) have planned two interactive sessions, which will actively engage attendees. In the first session (Sunday, April 15), keynote speaker Ford Brett, PetroSkills, will provide practical tips on leadership, common challenges facing the industry's younger workforce and how to overcome those challenges in the early stages of their career. This will be an open forum with audience participation being a key part of its success.

The second session (Monday, April 16) will focus on various topics pertaining to troubleshooting and optimization. The agenda for this session includes an overview of what the audience can expect, followed by a list of case studies presented by Jeff Bartels, Burns & McDonnell, and Kenneth Netardus, Enterprise Products. During this session, participants will be asked to develop possible solutions to the issues posed within the given case studies. This will be a great learning opportunity that we hope no one will miss.

The GPA YP events are a great opportunity to network, learn, and not to mention, have fun. For those already planning to attend, make sure to get there early because history has shown that not only YPs are eager to learn from these valuable sessions. One last thing: don't forget your business cards!

This promises to be another great event, and I look forward to meeting you all in New Orleans.

Gelareh Chafin
Chair, GPA Young Professionals

GPA School of Gas Chromatography – registration is open and filling quickly!

Registration is open for the 2012 GPA School of Gas Chromatography, which will be held Aug. 6 – 10 at the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma. This intensive one-week school is held annually and has proven to be one of the best available worldwide. Due to popular demand, GPA will take up to 100 students this year. GPA's Analysis and Test Methods Section (Technical Section B) will manage, direct and conduct the school.

Registration began March 5 and will be taken on a first come, first served basis. Thirty-six students have registered as of March 22.

Register before July 12 and SAVE \$100 per registrant!

Early Bird Registration (by July 11)

\$525 – GPA / GPSA Members

\$800 – Non-Members

Standard Registration (after July 11)

\$625 – GPA / GPSA Members

\$900 – Non-Members

For additional information or to register go to: <https://www.GPAglobal.org/chromo/>

GPA Convention update

"Mapping Midstream's Future"

April 15 – 18, New Orleans

More than 1,700 midstream professionals have registered for the 2012 GPA Convention, which is just a few short weeks away. We are on pace to rival, if not surpass, last year's attendance of more than 1,900.

Interested in seeing who's registered? Click here to view a current registration list:

<https://www.gpaglobal.org/convention/registrations/>.

For those who are still considering whether to join us, please keep in mind that advanced registration will close at end of business on Monday, April 2. Anyone wishing to attend after this date must register on site, beginning April 15 at noon. Register online here: <https://www.gpaglobal.org/convention/register/>.

For those who have already registered, please keep an eye on your inbox for important GPA Convention e-mails, which we'll be sending out in the next couple of weeks.

Sponsorship opportunities for the 2012 conference are closed. Look for 2013 GPA Convention sponsorship opportunities to open in August.

Chapter News

An update from Permian Basin GPA
A note from PBGPA Chair Jeff Stake

"Our recent Permian Basin GPA training and happy hour was a huge success. After a fantastic catered barbecue lunch, we jumped into a few hours of technical training over Amine treating. The training, provided by Univar, covered the technical aspects of system design, types of amine and associated issues, system troubleshooting and general absorption theory. I can honestly say that all 50 attendees learned something. After the training, more than 30 of the attendees and a few other gas processing professionals joined us for the evening social. We intend to continue holding these trainings and social events, and if the current trend continues, they will keep getting bigger and better. We want to encourage all the gas processing professionals in the area to come out and join us. Please feel free to contact me directly for registration information or dates of upcoming events."

- Jeff Stake – JCStake@Nalco.com (915) 490-9033

GPA Europe 29th Annual Conference – Berlin, Germany

The Annual Conference of GPA Europe (GPAE) will be held May 23-25 at the Hotel Palace in Berlin-Chalottenburg, one of the "leading hotels of the world." Registration is open. Complete program details and available networking opportunities can be found on the GPA Europe web site: <http://www.gpaeurope.com/>.

GPAE moved the conference from its traditional September date to May for 2012 because they will be involved in the GasTech exhibition in London in October 2012. This conference will return to its September date in 2013.

GPA/GPSA Calendar

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

April

15-18 GPA Convention

Gas Processors Association

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