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Industry victory in condemnation case

For several months, GPA leaders have been working on the Enbridge v. Avinger Timber condemnation case. Enbridge purchased from Avinger Timber, by way of condemnation, 23.79 acres on which Enbridge operates a natural gas processing plant. The condemnation proceeding resulted in an award to Avinger of \$47,580 as compensation for the property involved. Avinger appealed the award to the Texas District Court where a jury awarded \$21 million in compensation to Avinger, based on the alleged savings to Enbridge of over \$20 million for not having to remove the processing facility and restoring the surface area. Enbridge appealed to the Texas Court of Appeals, which affirmed the trial court's decision.

Even though the court decisions did not favor our industry, GPA did not give up the fight. GPA filed an amicus brief with both the Court of Appeals and the Texas Supreme Court, seeking a reversal of the trial court's decision. As we battled on, we were successful in the Texas Supreme Court reversing and remanding the case on a single issue – **“that the appraisal opinion violated the value to the taker rule by considering the value of the plant and the cost of removal”**.

GPA counsel was the sole group pushing that issue, and parts of the opinion come specifically from our Amicus Brief. We greatly appreciate the efforts of our attorneys, Bob Reis and Alan Daughtry, on this matter. This is a tremendous victory for our industry and our efforts and reinforces the value of GPA engagement. “I want to thank everyone for their support,” said Terry McGill, Enbridge. “I have always believed this was an industry-wide issue and you all came through. Thank you again.”

GPA Pipeline Safety Committee collaborates with others on PHMSA rulemaking

Representatives of GPA, American Petroleum Institute (API), Texas Pipeline Association (TPA) and Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) have been instrumental in organizing and collecting data relative to unregulated natural gas gathering pipelines. This effort was intended to assemble members of the various organizations, prior to the issuance of a “notice of proposed rulemaking” by PHMSA, to discuss and gather information depicting each member company's mileage of unregulated gas gathering pipelines by size, location and past incidents.

Championed by GPA Pipeline Safety Committee Chair Alice Ratcliffe, two meetings were held in Fort Worth, Texas, and each meeting included about 30 representatives of the associations' member companies.

Through these efforts, information was collected for approximately 230,000 miles of natural gas gathering pipelines located in Class 1 areas. Additional details and discussions provided background that could be used as PHMSA contemplates additional regulations for the now federally unregulated natural gas gathering lines.

GPSA reviews bylaws

An ad hoc committee appointed by GPSA President Jerry Bullin, Bryan Research and Engineering, has been tasked with reviewing the association's bylaws to determine if changes are needed to clarify the geographical district to which a member company is assigned. The question was raised after the last directors' election, and during the June board meeting, the ad hoc committee was appointed to review the issue. Jim Marcotte, Daniel Measurement and Control, was asked to chair this effort. It is anticipated that the ad hoc committee will make recommendations in April 2013.

Association staff changes

Your GPA and GPSA staffs are undergoing some changes. As many of our readers know GPA's Director of Technical Services, Kenny Wheat, tendered his resignation as of July 31. The search for his replacement is underway, and we anticipate hiring someone in that position no later than the end of this year. The ideal candidate for this position should have a good knowledge of the midstream industry, strong interpersonal and organizational skills and a Bachelor of Science – a degree in chemical or mechanical engineering is preferred. Anyone interested in this position should send his or her resume to gpa@gpaglobal.org.

Another position that will need to be filled in the near future is that of our Publications Administrator/Receptionist. Judy London, who has been with the association for nine years, has also tendered her resignation effective Sept. 28. Judy elected to leave GPA/GPSA in order to spend more time with her family. Those whom have had the pleasure of working with Judy know she will be hard to replace and sorely missed.

GPSA recognized at Oklahoma State University Medallion Ceremony

GPSA was honored at the recent Oklahoma State University (OSU) College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology's (CEAT) inaugural Medallion Ceremony held in late August. GPSA joined other organizations and individuals who have helped to create endowed faculty positions within the college. The event also recognized the professors who hold those positions. Both groups were presented with bronze medallions, signifying the standard of excellence in research and education established through these chairs and professorships.

In 1989, GPSA established the Robert N. Maddox Professorship in Chemical Engineering at OSU in honor of Dr. Maddox and the impact his research and work had on the natural gas industry. During his lifetime, Dr. Maddox served as an educator and a consultant within the gas and oil business, having consulted with more than 100 separate corporations. He is the only academician to have served on the Editorial Review Board for the GPSA Engineering Data Book and was a member of the board since its inception in 1965. Maddox also received the GPA Hanlon Award in 1985, among many others, for his contributions to the industry.

OSU professor James Smay, current holder of the Maddox professorship, was also present and honored during the ceremony. Smay has been a member of Oklahoma State's faculty since 2002 and in 2007 was named the OSU Rising Star by the Center for Economic Development, Innovation and Commercialization for his efforts in translating research into intellectual property. During his career Smay has received numerous other honors.

GPA Director of Government Affairs Jeff Applekamp attended the ceremony and accepted a medallion from OSU President Burns Hargis on behalf of GPSA. During the ceremony, Hargis explained that the Maddox professorship, along with the other endowed positions, are helping the university "attract and retain the researchers who are vital to the success of our students and our university."

Reminder – new GPSA Data Book edition is available

The 13th Edition of the GPSA Engineering Data Book is available for purchase. This new edition contains updates to all 26 sections from the 2004 edition. The Data Book is considered the worldwide authoritative resource for technical and design information pertaining to the midstream industry and its approved practices and procedures. For more information, including how to order, visit <http://gpsa.gpaglobal.org/databook/>.

GPA to recommend changes for annual awards

Each year at our annual GPA Convention, we recognize a number of outstanding individuals who have provided invaluable service to the midstream industry and our association. Many of these awards come through nominations, and while we will present a revised awards program to the GPA board of directors on Oct. 31, we ask that you begin thinking about potential nominees for 2012 awards that will be presented at the 2013 Convention. The traditional program information can be viewed here: <https://www.gpaglobal.org/awards/>.

IPTC conference rescheduled

The Sixth International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC) has been rescheduled to March 26 – 28, 2013, and will take place at the Beijing International Convention Center in Beijing, China. This is the third year GPA has served as an endorsing association. For more information, visit <http://www.iptcnet.org/2013/>.

GPA Convention sponsorship opportunities

If you are interested in promoting your company at the 2013 GPA Convention, April 7-10 in San Antonio, Texas, you may view a list of available opportunities here: <https://www.gpaglobal.org/convention/sponsorship>.

Contact Crystal Myers, Dollahon PR, with questions: crystal@dollahonpr.com or (918) 894-4455.

Share your expertise at the 2013 GPA Convention

Are you interested in sharing your expertise with midstream industry decision makers? We're looking for speakers for the 2013 GPA Convention, which will be held April 7 - 10 in San Antonio, Texas.

What we're looking for:

Midstream topics (gas processing, gas gathering, fractionation, storage and transportation) that are relevant, timely and informative, relating, but not limited, to these activities:

- Alternative energy
- Compliance
- Computer technology
- Environmental
- Facilities design
- Gas and product treating
- Legislative, regulatory & safety
- LNG
- NGL business or market perspective
- Operations & maintenance
- Pipeline safety
- Project economics and finance
- Research
- Technical data development
- Technology developments in gas processing
- Technology to improve operations
- Training
- Unconventional Gas
- Worldwide developments
- Young professionals

What we aren't looking for

The primary focus of the GPA Convention is sharing knowledge and best practices to benefit the midstream industry as a whole. With that in mind, we are not looking for overly commercial papers with regard to a specific company or service. We receive some great abstracts every year that contain great information but aren't selected because they are too commercial.

How topics/papers are selected

The GPA Program Committee is comprised of industry peers that face the same challenges and opportunities that you do. Members of this committee represent more than 40 different midstream industry companies. As abstracts come in, committee members review each one and select the most appropriate and relevant papers for each convention session.

How to be considered

All authors who send a 200-250 word abstract to GPA by **Oct. 22** will be considered as a potential presenter at the 2013 GPA Convention. Abstracts submitted early will be given priority consideration. Please send your abstract, with full contact information to Johnny Dreyer, GPA director of industry affairs: jdreyer@GPAglobal.org.

Apply for the Environmental Excellence Award

Environmental Committee Chair Grover Campbell encourages GPA members to submit applications for this project-based award, created to honor companies' achievements in energy conservation and environmental support. The self-nomination process is now open for companies to be considered for the award recognition at the 2013 GPA Convention, April 7 – 10, at San Antonio, Texas. The company recognized with this honor will be able to

demonstrate their project at the convention so that other member companies may benefit from this knowledge and information.

The application deadline is **Dec. 31**. Full program details, examples of previously submitted projects and application forms are available here: <https://www.gpaglobal.org/awards/envexcellence/>

Chapter News

Rocky Mountain GPA hosts successful meeting, networking events

GPA would like to congratulate Rocky Mountain GPA on two highly successful events held Sept. 6-7. Their annual meeting hosted more than 200 people for the keynote luncheon and two concurrent afternoon breakout sessions. Additionally, a chapter-sponsored hospitality was well attended after the presentations had completed. The chapter's 11th annual sporting clays event (held the day after the meetings) had been sold out for several weeks.

Upcoming Houston GPA and North Texas GPA annual meetings and events

Two annual chapter events remain for the year.

Houston GPA's (HGPA) annual meeting and golf tournament will be held Oct. 11 at the Pine Forest Country Club, and you are invited to join Houston-area midstream personnel for a continental breakfast, networking and several speakers throughout the morning. Lunch will be served at noon, followed by the golf tournament. Golf is played in foursomes on an 18-hole course with all proceeds benefiting the HGPA scholarship fund. For an agenda overview and online registration, visit <http://www.houstongpa.org/calendar.cfm>.

The North Texas GPA (NTGPA) sporting clays event will be held on Nov. 7, followed by the chapter's annual meeting on Nov. 8 at the Wyndham Hotel and Resorts - Dallas Love. Additional details, including online registration information, will be communicated soon. When available, the links can be found on the NTGPA web site: <https://www.gpaglobal.org/chapters/northtexas/>.

GPA/GPSA Calendar

September

- 20 Houston GPA Annual Shrimp Boil
- 20 North Texas GPA Annual Shrimp Boil
- 21 MidContinent GPA Fall Clay Shoot

October

- 3 GPA Safety Committee Meeting
 - 8-11 GPAE Fall Conference with GasTech
 - 10 Environmental Committee
 - 11 Houston GPA Annual Meeting and Golf Tournament
 - 15 Technical Section B and C Fall Committee Meetings
 - 16 Technical Section A and H Fall Committee Meetings
 - 17 Technical Section M Fall Committee Meeting
 - 30-31 GPA/GPSA Fall Board Meetings
- Also includes: Annual Program Committee, Advocacy Steering Committee, Technical Committee