



eBrief

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September 2014 eBrief Print Version

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GPA submits comments to U.S. Fish and Wildlife on Northern Long-Eared Bat

GPA's Natural Resources Subcommittee has submitted comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) addressing concerns of listing the Northern Long-Eared (NLE) Bat as either an endangered or threatened species. Led by committee Vice Chair Jimmie Hammontree, Access Midstream, GPA acknowledges support to the USFWS efforts to protect threatened and endangered species when there is sound scientific justification for such a listing. However, with the NLE Bat, legitimate concerns have been expressed by many in the scientific community, state and federal agencies, and members of Congress stating that the USFWS is not using the best available scientific methods or data to justify its proposed listing decision. GPA requested that the USFWS strongly consider the following points when making its listing decision:

- The hibernacula counts used by the USFWS have not generated an accurate portrayal of NLE Bat populations.
- The USFWS stated in its June 30 Federal Register notice that there is substantial scientific uncertainty and disagreement about the analysis and interpretation of how white-nose syndrome (WNS) will spread and affect the bat population.
- Improving research on WNS and identifying solutions to reduce or eliminate its effect on the NLE Bat should be the preliminary focus at this time.
- Should the USFWS proceed with anything other than a "not warranted" listing, GPA respectfully requests that the USFWS issue a "threatened" listing and also promulgate a 4(d) rule to allow activities that are not detrimental to the NLE Bat populations to continue and to create a mechanism to fund additional research on WNS and monitor the success of overall conservation measures.

Our Natural Resources Subcommittee will continue to work with USFWS, and others, to prevent unjust classifications that would hinder midstream operations.

2015 GPA Convention sponsorship registration and hospitality request form are open

Registration for 2015 GPA Convention sponsorship opportunities opened yesterday, and all opportunities are secured on a first-paid, first-served basis. The sponsorship page on the GPA Convention web site will be updated daily to provide a list of what is available. To learn more about all options, download the [2015 GPA Convention Promotional Opportunities packet](#).

The 2015 hospitality requests will be accepted much earlier than in the past, and the deadline to make requests for both public spaces and hotel suites is Nov. 14. GPA will communicate space assignments in mid-December. If we have space left after we assign spaces based on the initial requests up until Nov. 14, those will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

For sponsorship information and to access the registration form, visit www.GPAconvention.org/sponsor-2015.

For the hospitality information and to access the request form, visit www.GPAconvention.org/hospitality.

GPA & GPSA board meeting dates to change for 2015

The timing of board meetings will change in 2015 from the traditional April, June and October meetings. One of the three annual board meetings for both associations has always coincided with the GPA Convention, and when GPA moved the convention dates from March to mid-April several years ago, it was known that the timing for the two board meetings typically scheduled for June and October would also need to change. Starting in 2015, the April board meetings will continue to be held in conjunction with the convention; the other two meetings will change to the third week of August (rather than late June) and the first week of December (rather than late October).

Other groups that traditionally meet in conjunction with the board meetings will continue to do so, which include the GPA Executive and Finance Committee (E&F), GPSA E&F, Advocacy Steering Committee and the Program Committee. We will determine on a case-by-case basis how future meetings of groups that periodically meet with the board will be scheduled.

GPA/GPSA board members, please make a note on your 2015 calendars for the board meeting dates/locations:

April 12-15, Marriott Rivercenter Hotel, San Antonio, Texas

August 18-19, Eldorado Hotel, Santa Fe, N.M.

December 1-2, Hyatt Hill Country, San Antonio, Texas

8th International Petroleum Technology Conference

GPA is a senior endorsing organization of the 8th International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC) that will be held Dec. 10-12.

IPTC is an annual event rotating between Asia Pacific and the Middle East. IPTC is organized to further the advancement of scientific and technological knowledge related to the exploration, development, production, transportation and processing of oil and natural gas. The conference program will be focused on dissemination of new and current technology, best practices and multi-disciplinary activities designed to emphasize the importance of the "value chain" and maximizing asset value. The knowledge, capabilities, and strengths of the participating countries and the sponsoring societies' global membership, over the spectrum of multi-disciplinary technologies, will be central to the success of the conference and the corresponding exhibition.

The IPTC is a collaborative effort among the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers, the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, and the Society of Petroleum Engineers.

The conference is set to take place at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, returning to Malaysia for the first time since 2008. Recent past events have been held in Doha, Bangkok and Beijing.

For comprehensive information, please visit the event web site: <http://www.iptcnet.org/2014/kl/>

Form EIA-915 Update

A GPA ad hoc task force continues working with the Energy Information Administration (EIA) on proposed Form EIA-915 (Monthly Gas Processing and Liquids Report). EIA collects three types of data – public, confidential and Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA). CIPSEA-protected data is the highest level of confidential data EIA collects and is only used for statistical purposes. GPA strongly believes that Form EIA-915 should be provided CIPSEA protection, which would alleviate many of the issues that GPA members have with the data collection/dissemination concerning Form EIA-915.

The latest activity includes GPA providing two edited versions of Form EIA-915 for EIA's consideration. One version would contain the data GPA feels gas processors can provide if CIPSEA would apply. The second version would illustrate the data GPA feels gas processors can provide if CIPSEA would not apply. GPA representatives are scheduled to meet with EIA next week in Washington, D.C., to further this discussion.

Preserving the ongoing confidentiality of the foregoing information is critical to maintain a level playing field in the highly competitive midstream sector of the oil and gas business. GPA and its members remain committed to the cooperative relationship we have enjoyed with the EIA and will continue dialogue on issues concerning Form EIA-915.

ASTM Natural Gasoline Specification to be balloted

ASTM Subcommittee D02.A0 has submitted Work Item WK45419 – *Specification For Natural Gasoline as a Blendstock in Ethanol Fuel Blends or as a Denaturant for Fuel Ethanol* to the balloting committee, and results of the vote will be noted at the D02-H Liquefied Petroleum Gas meeting in December. The subcommittee expects the ballot to pass with no negative votes. The Environmental Protection Agency has expressed concern over the current sulfur limits. The current U.S. sulfur limit for denatured fuel ethanol is 30 ppm. Effective Jan. 1, 2017, the sulfur limit for denatured fuel ethanol will be 10 ppm [40 CFR 80.385 (e)(2)] and the sulfur limit for certified denaturants will be 330 ppm [40 CFR 80.1611 (a)(1)].

GPA 2377 published

GPA Technical Section B – Analysis & Test Methods has completed all revisions to GPA Standard 2377-14 – *Test for Hydrogen Sulfide and Carbon dioxide in Natural Gas Using Length of Stain Tubes*, and it is available for purchase in the GPA Publications area on our web site.

The standard covers the determination of the concentration of H₂S and CO₂ in natural gas using a length of stain tube. The range covered is 3 ppmv to 5% by volume H₂S and 0.25 to 10% by volume of CO₂. The method as written is applicable to the determination of H₂S and CO₂ in hydrocarbons and in air.

GPA and GPSA members receive substantial discounts on GPA publications. To purchase GPA 2377-14 or other GPA publications, visit www.GPAGlobal.org/publications.

GPSA Engineering Data Book download includes errata

Registered holders of the 13th Edition of the GPSA Engineering Data Book were recently sent information about how to download the complete FPS or SI electronic versions that have been updated with the 2013 and 2014 errata pages included. Anyone who purchases an electronic copy of the book from this point forward will receive the most current version. Contact Debbie Beaver, GPA director of technical services, with questions: dbeaver@GPAGlobal.org.

GPA/GPSA Calendar

September

- 17 Permian Basin GPA Liquids Handling Tech Training
- 17-20 GPA Europe Annual Conference
- 18 23rd Annual North Texas GPA Shrimp Boil
- 18 Houston GPA Annual Shrimp Boil
- 24 GPA Safety Committee Meeting
- 25 North Texas GPA East Texas/North Louisiana Shrimp Boil/Kickoff

October

- 3 MidContinent GPA Fall Clay Shoot
- 3 Appalachian Basin GPA Clay Shoot
- 9 Houston GPA Annual Meeting & Golf Tournament
- 16 North Texas GPA Young Professionals Golf Tournament
- 22 Technical Sections A, B, C, H & M Meetings
- 22-23 GPA/GPSA Fall Board Meetings
- 23 Technical Committee Meeting
- 29 North Texas GPA Sporting Clays

