



eBrief

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TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

NEW! Introduction to Midstream Training Course - registration open

Created based on requests from our members, GPA Midstream is pleased to offer this new midstream industry overview course, which is scheduled for Sept. 26 - 30 at the Enterprise Training Facility in Mont Belvieu, Texas.

The course uses the GPSA Engineering Data Book as a reference text and teaches students what happens at midstream operating facilities. Students will learn about midstream products, equipment typically found at midstream facilities, and the processes that turn valuable natural gas liquids into fungible products. This course is a great way to immerse new employees fully into the midstream industry. Students will participate in interactive lectures, perform light calculations, and experience working scale models of plant equipment.

[View more course information and find the online registration form.](#)

October GPA Midstream GPSA Engineering Data Book Training Course - registration open

Registration has opened for the five-day in depth GPA Midstream GPSA Engineering Data Book training course, scheduled for October 10 - 14 at the Enterprise Training Facility in Mont Belvieu, Texas.

This course will equip individuals with the fundamentals they need to put the Data Book to practical use. It is designed primarily for early career engineers and secondarily for senior operations, plant or maintenance personnel. The course is limited to 25 students and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

[View more information, including a link to online registration.](#)

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Congressional schedule

After a flurry of activity, Congress went in to recess during the second week of July. This was in large part due to the respective schedules of the Republican National Convention and the

Democratic National Convention. Congress will return for a couple of weeks this September and will then recess until after the November elections. One of the first items Congress needs to address this September is how it will fund the federal government. Usually by this time in the year, Congress has passed the spending bills required to determine how the government will be funded for the following year. Since the current deadline expires at the end of September, Congress will need to come up with a solution prior to Sept. 30. Failing to do so would mean risking a government shutdown prior to November's election.

Another item that Congress will be working on during the recess is an energy bill conference. GPA Midstream has been watching this due to the possible inclusion of H.R. 2295, the National Energy Security Corridors Act, for which GPA Midstream sent a letter of support. This bill would streamline the pipeline permitting process by granting the secretary of the Department of the Interior the power to negotiate rights-of-way for gas pipelines through national park lands. The current process for obtaining a permit takes an Act of Congress which is a lengthy and delayed process. This bill would help build out much needed natural gas infrastructure.

[View GPA Midstream's letter of support.](#)

GPA Midstream raises concerns with PHMSA's gas mega rule

On July 7, GPA Midstream filed comments on the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) proposed rule on the Safety of Gas Transmission and Gathering Pipelines.

"GPA Midstream has a long history of successfully working with PHMSA to protect people and the environment while advancing the safe transportation of natural gas and natural gas liquids that are essential to Americans' daily lives. This proposed rule as drafted will have significant impacts on the midstream industry, and we hope to work with PHMSA to lessen those impacts," said GPA Midstream President and CEO Mark Sutton. "Even under PHMSA's own initial cost estimates for gathering lines, the costs significantly outweigh the benefits. PHMSA projected the costs to be \$15.1 million versus projected benefits to be \$14.2 million. In addition, our membership identified other elements that PHMSA did not take into consideration when formulating the Regulatory Impact Analysis that substantially increased the actual costs that PHMSA is imposing on our member companies."

"This proposed rule in its current state is a huge expansion of federal regulation over gathering lines. PHMSA needs to ensure that this proposed rule is risk-based and that it does not require our members to needlessly use their limited resources in areas where it is unnecessary," Sutton said. "We have significant concerns with the cost benefit analysis. I believe the costs that PHMSA will be passing on to our membership, and ultimately to the public, are much more significant than what they projected."

GPA Midstream Vice President of Government Affairs Matthew Hite said, "While we appreciate working with PHMSA on this proposed rule throughout its lengthy history, GPA Midstream would have preferred more time to adequately and more accurately digest the impacts to our members' operations. This is a 500-page rule with a 500-plus page regulatory impact analysis that has been in final draft for years. The stakeholders, including GPA Midstream, commenting on this expansive over-regulation, are paying the price now because this proposal sat on desks for close to two years. We find it very unfortunate that everyone was rushed to provide comments at the last minute, even after continued requests for this proposal to be released years ago when it was ready. A 90-day period to review and comment on more than a thousand pages of highly technical information was clearly insufficient."

"We have significant concerns with the expansion of federal regulation for gathering lines; the record-keeping scope appears to be a gross overreach of what Congress intended PHMSA to collect, as well as the agency's failure to conduct the congressionally required data analysis on gathering lines. We hope to work with PHMSA to address these concerns and the proposal's confusing language in order to make this a workable regulation."

[View the GPA Midstream comments.](#)

GPA Midstream files two sets of regulatory comments with the USFWS to withdraw proposed policy changes for Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances

On July 5, GPA Midstream filed two sets of regulatory comments with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on its proposed revisions to the Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA) Policy and regulations. CCAAs encourage conservation actions and establish avoidance and mitigation requirements for species that are candidates for listing as threatened or endangered. These are an attractive option to midstream operators because if the action precludes listing, the landowner or midstream operator is not regulated by the Endangered Species Act. If the species is ultimately listed, then the agreement authorizes the landowner or midstream operator incidental take of the species, provided they comply with all CCAA requirements. In other words, the agreements provide landowners with assurances that their conservation efforts will not result in civil penalties or future regulatory obligations in excess of what they previously agreed to.

The GPA Midstream Natural Resources Subcommittee expressed concerns in previous comment letters that the present USFWS regulatory agenda has attempted to implement numerous broad sweeping regulatory and policy changes on a piecemeal basis. GPA Midstream once again expressed concern over the large number of proposed changes being made and the potential cumulative impacts of the changes on landowners and the regulated community.

GPA Midstream further stated that USFWS has not provided the public with an analysis of the combined effect of the CCAA policy and regulation changes when combined with other recent USFWS regulatory changes, nor has USFWS given the public an opportunity to comment on the impact of the CCAA policy and regulation changes when considered cumulatively as part of the larger USFWS regulatory agenda. USFWS should conduct a separate National Environmental Policy Act analysis of the cumulative effects of all the proposed regulation changes when considered together.

USFWS has removed, without any explanation or justification, the standard that CCAAs must "preclude or remove any need to list." GPA Midstream requests that USFWS keep this standard in place or provide a scientific justification for removing the standard in a revised policy with another public comment period. A primary driver for landowners to perform voluntary conservation measures and enroll in CCAAs is the possibility that CCAAs will preclude a species from being listed. Without this incentive, and with added uncertainties from the changes discussed above, CCAAs will be much less practical or attractive to landowners.

[View the GPA Midstream comments - set No. 1.](#)

[View the GPA Midstream comments - set No. 2.](#)

STATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

COLORADO

Ballot initiatives No. 75 and 78

Two petitions are circulating in Colorado that could shut down and at the least cripple the oil and gas business in the state. Petitioners are gathering signatures to place two proposed constitutional amendments on the November ballot. One amendment would require a 2500-foot setback for all new oil and gas development, and the other amendment would allow greater authority by local governments over oil and gas development. In Colorado for an initiative to be placed on the ballot, the petitioners must gather 98,492 valid voter signatures and submit to the secretary of state. The secretary of state has until Sept. 7 to process the signatures and notify the proponents whether enough valid signatures were gathered to place the measures on the ballot for a vote by the registered voters of Colorado. GPA Midstream will continue to monitor what happens with these initiatives.

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota Industrial Commission issues order

On June 29, the North Dakota Industrial Commission (NDIC) issued an order revising the regulations for oil and saltwater gathering pipelines. GPA Midstream filed comments stating the intent of the legislation relied on by the NDIC was only supposed to cover oil and saltwater pipelines and went beyond the intent by including a new and extensive section to regulate natural gas gathering pipelines. The order must now go through a legal review process by the North Dakota attorney general, who after determining no legal problems sends the order to the Administrative Rules Committee for passage. The Administrative Rules Committee meets Sept. 13 and will provide an opportunity to comment at the meeting. However, the standards for denying the provisions of the order, after legal review, are limited. An e-mail was sent to the GPA Midstream working group requesting comments. If none are received, GPA Midstream will not make further comments. We will, however, continue to monitor this issue for our members.

[View the order.](#)

OKLAHOMA

Interim studies

The Oklahoma House has issued a list of interim studies to hold hearings on issues that legislators have identified as possible. Of interest are three interim studies that could result in legislation that may impact the midstream industry: (1) Guidelines for Ad Valorem Property Tax Exemptions of which our members currently use to defray costs of operations and new projects; (2) Examining the setback requirements for oil and gas drilling and gas surface equipment; (3) Evaluating the pros and cons of permitting an owner of rental equipment to put a surcharge on invoices for the purpose of paying personal property taxes on that piece of equipment to the counties in which the equipment is being used, which can increase costs to GPA Midstream members.

TEXAS

Commissioner Craddick calls for recommendations

During the June 21 Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) open meeting, Commissioner Christi Craddick directed staff in each department to put together a list of recommendations that would make each department more efficient. The recommendations could result in rule changes and will be offered at the next RRC open meeting on Aug. 9.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Summer board meetings scheduled for next month

The GPSA Board of Directors will meet on Aug. 16, and the GPA Midstream Board of Directors will meet on Aug. 17, at the Omni Interlocken Hotel in Denver.

The following groups will also meet in conjunction with these meetings:

August 15

GPSA Membership Committee

August 16

GPA Midstream Advocacy Steering Committee
GPSA Executive & Finance Committees
GPA Midstream Program Committee
GPA Midstream Executive & Finance Committee

August 17

GPA Midstream Executive & Finance Committee
GPA Midstream Natural Resources Subcommittee (Environmental Committee)

December board meetings

The winter board meetings for GPA Midstream and GPSA are scheduled for Dec. 5 - 7 at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass in the Phoenix area.

TECHNICAL/RESEARCH

GPA Midstream Technical Committee meetings

GPA Midstream Technical Sections A, B, C, H, M and P will meet on Oct. 4, followed by the main Technical Committee meeting on Oct. 5 at the DoubleTree Dallas Love Field. Meeting agendas will be distributed in mid-September. As a reminder, these meetings are open to all GPA Midstream members' employees with technical interests.

[View a more detailed schedule.](#)

CHAPTER NEWS

2016 GPA Europe Annual Conference - change of location from Istanbul to Athens

Due to the recent attempted coup in Turkey and the ongoing instability led by a three-month state of emergency in Turkey, the Management Committee of GPA Europe has decided to move the location of this joint meeting of GPA Europe and GPA GCC Chapters scheduled for Sept. 21 - 23 from Istanbul to Athens. The program, dates and timing of the meeting are unchanged, and the final hotel location in Athens will soon be published. Conference details will be updated here: <https://www.gpaeurope.com/index.aspx>.

The meeting, where East meets West, represents an excellent opportunity for those interested in gas and gas processing activities in Europe and the Middle East. Twenty papers will be presented on pertinent topics.

For more information, contact Sandy Dunlap: admin@GPAeurope.com.

GPA MIDSTREAM CONVENTION

2017 exhibit applications and sponsorship sign-ups

The 2017 GPA Midstream Convention will be held April 9 - 12 at the Marriott Rivercenter in San Antonio, Texas. Companies interested in exhibiting should make note that our only exhibit option, Vendor Night, consists of a three-hour exhibit session with a restricted number of booth spaces available that is held in conjunction with a reception on the opening day of the convention (Sunday, April 9).

We have 25 spaces available, all 10 x 10 feet, at a space cost of \$2,500 for members and \$3,500 for non-members. These spaces will be delegated through a lottery system for 2017. Companies interested in applying for one of the 25 Vendor Night spaces for 2017 should make note of the following:

- The Vendor Night enrollment period opens on Aug. 22 at 8 a.m. and closes on Sept. 2 at 5 p.m. Central time. Absolutely no additional entries will be accepted after the enrollment period closes.

- All companies interested in a Vendor Night space must register for the lottery using the online sign-up form during the enrollment period - no sign-ups by phone, e-mail or fax will be accepted.
- All companies that sign up using the online form will receive one entry in the Vendor Night lottery; companies are eligible for up to 21 additional entries if they meet the criteria as outlined on <https://gpaconvention.org/2017-exhibit>
- The Vendor Night drawing will take place on Sept. 8 and 25 exhibitors, as well as 5 alternates, will be announced that day. Companies awarded Vendor Night positions are required to pay in full within 30 days or the position will be awarded to an alternate.
- The 2017 GPA Midstream Promotional Opportunities packet outlining all sponsorship, advertising and hospitality options will become available for review on Sept. 8.
- Sponsorship registration will open Sept. 22, and opportunities will be awarded on a first-paid, first-served basis.

[View detailed information about the Vendor Night lottery system.](#)

Contact [Crystal Myers](#) with questions.

INDUSTRY EVENTS

Mark Sutton to speak at Hart Energy's MIDSTREAM Texas Conference

Hart Energy's MIDSTREAM Texas conference is scheduled for Sept. 12 - 14 in San Antonio, Texas, and GPA Midstream President and CEO Mark Sutton, as well as a number of executives from GPA Midstream member companies, are featured conference speakers.

Hart Energy is offering a generous discount to GPA Midstream members interested in attending. That information is posted in the members-only area of GPAGlobal.org. [Learn how to access the members-only area.](#)

Visit www.midstreamtexas.com to view the agenda and register.

International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC) - Nov. 14 - 16

GPA Midstream is a Senior Endorsing Organization for the Tenth Edition of the International Petroleum Technology Conference (IPTC) scheduled for Nov. 14 - 16 at the Bangkok Convention Centre at CentralWorld in Bangkok, Thailand.

IPTC is sponsored by four industry societies - the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers (EAGE), the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG) and the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE). IPTC is a platform to promote knowledge sharing and scientific and technology dissemination on a global scale.

Exploration and Production Public Company Limited is the host organization. Themed "Innovation and Efficiency Excellence for our Energy Future", the conference brochure highlights discussions about innovation, collaboration and streamlining the industry to remain both competitive and sustainable globally.

Registration is open. [Visit the conference website for more information and to register.](#)

COMMITTEE MEMBER NEWS

Honoring the life of Bill Pearce

With great sorrow, Charles Perry and B. Gene Goar alerted us to the passing of Bill Pearce on July 19.

Quoting Gene:

"With Bill's passing , the gas industry has lost an icon in gas treating, gas dehydration, and general gas processing. When Laurance Reid passed away in 1986, he asked Bill to be the LRGCC Overall Conference Chairman, which Bill did for about 10-12 years. He was a true cornerstone of the LRGCC Conference! He will be remembered as a technical giant in the gas processing industry."

GPA MIDSTREAM/GPSA CALENDAR

August

8 - 12 - GPA Midstream School of Gas Chromatography

15 - 17 - GPA Midstream/GPSA Summer Board Meetings

16 - Appalachian Basin GPA Midstream Q3 Speaker Luncheon

18 - MidContinent GPA Midstream Young Professionals

[View details on events listed above](#)

GPA Midstream Association | GPA@GPAglobal.org | (918) 493-3872 | www.GPAglobal.org