



eBrief

www.GPAGlobal.org

RESEARCH/TECHNICAL

Registration open for July GPA Midstream GPSA Engineering Data Book Training Course

GPA Midstream offers a five-day in-depth GPSA Engineering Data Book training course to equip individuals with the fundamentals they need to put this valued industry resource 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. The summer training course is scheduled for July 25 - 29 at the Anadarko Training Center in Denver. Students will be tested on the information presented throughout and, after displaying competency in the material taught, will leave with a certificate documenting their successful completion of the GPA Midstream GPSA Engineering Data Book Instruction Course.

Another course is scheduled for October 10 - 14 at the Enterprise Training Facility in Mont Belvieu, Texas, and registration for this offering will open in August.

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

Registration open for GPA Midstream School of Gas Chromatography

GPA Midstream has hosted its annual School of Gas Chromatography since 1973, and it is considered one of the best chromatography schools available worldwide. This hands-on school, scheduled for Aug. 8 - 12 in Tulsa, Okla., is directed toward chromatograph operators, measurement technicians and engineers involved with chromatography, and the curriculum includes basic gas and gas liquid chromatography with an introduction to extended analysis and portable chromatographs. GPA's Analysis and Test Methods Section (Technical Section B) will manage, direct and conduct the school as in past years.

Registration is open and limited to 100 students.

Early Bird Registration (by July 11)

\$700 - GPA Midstream / GPSA Members

\$1,000 - Non-Members

Standard Registration (after July 11)

\$800 - GPA / GPSA Members

\$1,100 - Non-Members

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

GPA Midstream solicits candidates for teaching GPA Midstream Introduction to Midstream Course

After GPA Midstream's initial offering of the GPSA Engineering Data Book (EDB) Training Course, much feedback was received saying there is need to educate new midstream employees about our industry. The first GPSA EDB training course did a good job with this, and with slight tweaks, it could be applicable for a general audience as opposed to its narrower target of engineers. The new course will still use the GPSA EDB as a reference text but will not dive as deeply into technical problem solving and will explain the big picture better. GPA Midstream will share a Request for Proposal (RFP) beginning in June to update the original course and to train on the updated course the last week of September (09/26 - 09/30) in Mont Belvieu, Texas. Proposals will be accepted through June 30. Contact GPA Midstream Director of Technical Services [Martin Erne](#) to receive a copy of the RFP.

Section H completes long-awaited release of GPA 2145-16

Technical Section H - Measurement, Calculations & Handling of Hydrocarbon Fluids Including NGL and Natural Gas has completed revisions to GPA 2145 - *Table of Physical Properties for Hydrocarbons and Other Compounds of Interest to the Natural Gas and Natural Gas Liquids Industries* stemming from the Technical Committee ballot to approve. At the April committee meeting, Section H decided to give it an effective date of January 1, 2017, or six months from the release date, whichever was later, so the new standard will take effect in a little more than six months.

GPA 2145 provides the gas processing industry with a convenient compilation of authoritative numerical values for hydrocarbons and other compounds occurring in natural gas and natural gas liquids, as well as other compounds of interest to the industry. The physical properties selected are those considered most valuable for engineering and analytical computations and the data in the publication were checked, evaluated and recalculated when necessary by the Applied Chemicals and Materials Division of the Material Measurement Laboratory at the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

GPA Midstream standards are available for free download to members in the Publications area of www.GPAGlobal.org.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

GPA Midstream Environmental Committee members go to D.C., secure regulatory wins to push back on methane regulations

GPA Midstream Environmental Committee members Melanie Roberts, Targa Resources, Jeff Stovall, Crestwood Midstream Partners, and John Admire and Paul Tourangeau, DCP Midstream, traveled to Washington, D.C., to join GPA Vice President of Government Affairs Matthew Hite and set out for two high-level meetings with the White House's Office of Management and Budget and EPA's Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and



Environmental Committee members (left to right): Paul Tourangeau, John Admire, Melanie Roberts and Jeff Stovall.

Radiation Janet McCabe at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The purpose of the meetings was to advocate GPA Midstream's position on EPA's proposed methane regulations.

It is important to note that since those April meetings, EPA released on May 13 a suite of three final rules for methane and two information collection requests that will be used as EPA develops a proposed rule to regulate methane from existing sources.

In the aggregation final rule, EPA changed its language to not aggregate sources located beyond a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, which is exactly what GPA Midstream's Environmental Committee

advocated for. On the NSPS OOOO final rule, EPA decided to not regulate pneumatic pumps at gathering and boosting stations, which was also exactly what GPA advocated for. This is great news, and the Environmental Committee is still looking through the 600-plus pages to see if there are other wins within. They are also evaluating the final rule in terms of its impacts and costs on the midstream industry in case litigation is warranted.

GPA Midstream helps secure a 30-day comment extension of PHMSA gas mega rule

GPA Midstream joined an Interstate Natural Gas Association of America-led effort of the natural gas trade associations to request that the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) extend the comment period for the Safety of Gas Transmission and Gathering Pipelines proposed rule. On May 5, PHMSA granted a 30-day extension of the current comment period, so the new comment deadline is July 7.

GPA Midstream's Pipeline Safety Committee has been actively working on the comments because this rule will potentially have a significant impact on the midstream industry. Contact [April Tollette](#) if you are interesting joining this committee.

GPA Midstream comments on EPA's proposed risk management program regulations

GPA Midstream recently filed comments in response to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed rule amending its risk management program (RMP) regulations. GPA Midstream said the proposed changes will create unnecessary burdens on the midstream industry and offered a number of recommendations to the agency in the comments.

"The EPA is moving too fast and the proposed changes are too strict on an already regulated midstream industry," said Johnny Dreyer, GPA Midstream senior vice president. "More stringent regulations are not necessarily the answer, so we have asked EPA to consider enforcing current RMP regulations and EPCRA (Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act) regulations. The West, Texas, incident is one of the reasons for the rulemaking, but these new rules would not have prevented the incident; therefore, enforcing the existing RMP rule is the better option."

GPA Midstream also requested that EPA amend its proposed definition of "catastrophic release" so

that RMP incidents that would have no impact on the public's safety nor the environment do not trigger undue response and burden on the regulated midstream industry.

The association also asked that EPA allow compliance audits to continue as stated under the existing RMP rule and continue with inspections and enforcement instead of layering additional regulation, to remove the independence criteria proposed for third party auditors, and to ensure that information sharing with the public is appropriate to what is most useful for local officials and the public at large.

[View the comments.](#)

GPA Midstream files comments on USFWS proposed revisions to its mitigation policy

The GPA Midstream Natural Resources Subcommittee drafted and filed comments pushing back on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) proposed revisions to its mitigation policy. USFWS is attempting to provide a framework for applying a landscape-scale approach to achieve, through the application of the mitigation hierarchy, a net gain in conservation outcomes or no loss of resources from proposed actions. It is intended to serve as a single umbrella policy under which USFWS may issue more detailed policies or guidance documents covering specific activities in the future.

GPA Midstream's comments focused on the potential impact these new revision would have on the midstream industry. Specifically, the comments raised the point that what USFWS is proposing appears to reach beyond USFWS statutory authority. The comments further highlighted the need for a cumulative analysis of all of USFWS proposed changes in relation to the other proposals changes they have out there and their interrelatedness to each other. The comments also challenged USFWS on what appears to be an attempt to expand their regulatory authority over non-federal lands and non-federal projects.

[View the comments.](#)

STATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

LOUISIANA

Governor signs pipeline information bill

Eminent domain has been and will continue to be an issue for the oil and gas industry. In Louisiana, the governor signed HB313, which is a landowner rights bill. HB313 requires expropriating authorities such as pipeline companies to provide certain disclosures to the landowner: (1) a statement that landowner is entitled to just compensation; (2) a statement that the property may only be expropriated by an authorized authority; (3) a statement that landowner will receive a written appraisal or evaluation of the amount of compensation due; (4) a statement identifying the website of the expropriating authority (pipeline) where the property owner can read the expropriating statutes and providing the statutes if the landowner requests a copy; (5) a statement identifying an agency responsible for regulating the expropriating authority; and (6) a statement that the property owner may hire an agent or attorney to negotiate with the expropriating authority and an attorney to represent the property owner in any legal proceedings involving the expropriation. The provisions of HB313 will become effective January 1, 2017.

The legislative session is due to end on June 6.

OKLAHOMA

Drone bill legislation signed

Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin signed HB2599, which restricts unmanned aircraft from being

flown over "critical infrastructure" less than 400 feet above ground level. GPA Midstream sent a letter to the governor asking her to sign the bill, stating that HB2599 was needed to prevent undue interference of operations at oil and gas facilities. The bill also addresses security and safety for the industry from drones. While Governor Fallin did sign the bill, she later issued an executive order with conditions. The executive order exempts from the law unmanned aircraft used for commercial purposes, and the operator of such commercial purposes must be licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration. While the executive order does dilute the language of HB2599, it still provides protection of industry's facilities from the novice unmanned aircraft operator.

Budget woes

The legislature is desperately looking for ways to close the \$1.3 billion budget hole; some tax exemptions and rebates may be eliminated or cut in half. SB1577 eliminates the exemption from gross production taxes for "economically at-risk oil or gas leases" (wells averaging production of 10 barrels of oil per day or 60 mcf of natural gas per day or less.) SB1577 is estimated to cost the oil and gas industry \$132 million this year. The bill was also amended in the House to limit the amount of the qualifying refunds in 2015 through 2020 to not exceed \$12.5 million per year for all products from qualifying leases. If the amount of claims during a year exceeds \$12.5 million, the Oklahoma Tax Commission will use a percentage to establish the proportionate share of the refund claimed by the taxpayer. The bill has been sent to the governor, who is expected to sign.

There are also various efforts to increase the state sales tax or remove exemptions from sales tax for certain services. Some oil and gas field services, which are currently exempt from sales tax, may be targeted. Language could be added to HB3213 or HB3214. GPA Midstream will continue to monitor these issues.

The legislative session is due to end on May 27, unless a budget compromise is reached, and then a special session will be called.

TEXAS

GPA Midstream responds to RRC Sunset Review recommendations

GPA Midstream recently filed comments supporting the continuation of the Texas Railroad Commission (RRC). This is the third time in 6 years the RRC has come under review by the Sunset Commission. The recommendation by the Sunset Staff Report to move contested cases to the State Office of Administration Hearings (SOAH) was addressed in GPA Midstream's comments. The comments opposed the recommendation, stating lack of industry knowledge and experience of the SOAH. In the past, contested cases were moved to the SOAH, which resulted in costlier and longer hearings. GPA Midstream member companies have a relationship with the RRC and see no need to change. Members from the GPA Midstream Legislative Committee were instrumental in the development of the comments. Hearings will begin sometime in the fall, and GPA Midstream plans to offer testimony at these hearings.

[View the comments.](#)

MEMBERS-ONLY OFFERS

Reminder: GPA Midstream and GPSA members have free access to Hart Energy's weekly Midstream Monitor publication

As part of GPA Midstream's partnership with Hart Energy, any employee of a GPA Midstream or GPSA member company has access to the weekly Midstream Monitor publication. GPA Midstream posts the e-newsletter in the members-only area of our web site, and any employee of a member company may create a free account on www.GPAGlobal.org to access our members-only information.

Midstream Business discounted subscription

GPA Midstream and GPSA members also have access to a greatly discounted one-year subscription to Midstream Business (12 issues), which is the official publication of GPA Midstream. Visit the members-only section of www.GPAGlobal.org for more information.

Learn how to access the Members-Only Area.

GPA MIDSTREAM/GPSA CALENDAR

June

8 - 9 - GPA Midstream Environmental Committee Meeting

9 - Rocky Mountain GPA Lunch & Technical Presentation

10 - Rocky Mountain GPA Spring Golf Tournament

20 - Appalachian Basin GPA 4th Annual Golf Tournament

View details on events listed above

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