

American Public Gas Association

Weekly Update – February 10, 2010

Sign Up Today for the Free Operations and Safety Roundtable Conference Call

APGA is pleased to announce that at 2 pm Wednesday, February 17 the APGA Operations and Safety Committee will conduct the second monthly Operations and Safety Roundtable via a conference call. The first topic is “How utilities respond to calls about possible gas odors,” focusing on how calls are received, logged in and dispatched. The second roundtable will cover what personnel do when they arrive at the location of the odor call. The first half of the roundtable will also have several members of the Operations and Safety Committee describing their odor investigation procedures, the call will then be open for discussion by all call participants. The call in number is 1-800-377-8846, passcode: 368617#.

As an added feature, those of you with internet access may also log in via APGA’s GoToMeeting site and be able to see the presentations as well as hear the presenters. Register now at:

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/423813219>

For further information please contact John Erickson, APGA Vice President, Operations 202-464-2742, ext 1002 or jerickson@apga.org.

MSTTC Program Adds Two Exciting Speakers

Recently you received the large colorful postcard giving you detail on the March 29-31, 2010, Marketing & Sales Trends and Training Conference in Pensacola Beach, Florida. Since then, two exciting speakers have been added to the program. Conference sponsors APGA, ANGA and FNGA are pleased to pass this news along.

Bill Cantrell, retired President of TECO Peoples Gas and newly selected Executive Director of the CRE will speak about his passion for natural gas marketing and communication. Bill’s experience is vast, including past chair of Florida Natural Gas Association (FNGA), past marketing chair of Southern Gas Association (SGA) and immediate past chair of the American Gas Foundation. Under his leadership, TECO Peoples was one three utilities with the foresight to establish the Council for Responsible Energy (see www.comfortableresponsible.org).

Dr. Ken Morgan, Director of the TCU Energy Institute, will keep you on the edge of your seats with his address on shale gas and how that new and vast supply of natural gas is a “game changer” for our industry and our nation.

For an updated program and information on registration and the conference hotel, please visit www.apga.org/msttc. To ensure the best hotel rate we suggest you register by March 8. Also look for our discounted group rates available.

For further information, please contact any of the following three persons;

Brad Pitt, Riviera Utilities – 251-943-5001; bpitt@riviera-utilities.com
Jill Grove, ESP - 850-474-5318; jgrove@ci.pensacola.fl.us
Bob Beauregard, APGA – 202-464-2742; bbeauregard@apga.org

APGA Comments on Compression Coupling Failure Reporting Requirements

On February 4, APGA filed written comments on a proposal by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to require operators to report information about compression coupling failures. Several high profile incidents in Texas, Ohio and Minnesota where the leak originated at compression couplings has raised concern about whether there could be a trend for certain couplings to fail. PHMSA agreed with APGA that the available data does not indicate any trends; however coupling failure data is very sparse. The data collection proposed by PHMSA would require operators to include on the annual report they submit to PHMSA, information about any event where a hazardous leak occurred on a compression coupling. This would help the government and industry to evaluate trends in coupling failures. This is similar to the current voluntary reporting of plastic pipe failures, which has proven successful at identifying problems with certain plastic pipe and components.

APGA's comments pointed out that some of the information PHMSA was asking operators to provide would not be known by the operator. We also suggested further defining what is considered a compression coupling. We pointed out that utilities would have to modify their procedures and train field personnel to collect the data requested by PHMSA, urging PHMSA to provide at least six months between the date the rule is final and the time when PHMSA will require coupling failure reporting. APGA's comments can be read at www.apga.org.

For further information please contact John Erickson, APGA Vice President, Operations 202-464-2742, ext 1002 or jerickson@apga.org.

Join Us At The Operations Conference March 22-24

The 2010 Operations Workshop & Conference sponsored by the American Public Gas Association and the Security & Integrity Foundation (SIF) will include educational sessions for all levels of utility operations from field workers to management in Springfield, MO March 22-24. At the Springfield Utilities' training center, the SIF will offer operator qualification training in covered tasks, including both written and hands on evaluation. Classroom sessions will include public awareness, integrity management, preparing for a compliance audit, and more. Speakers will include Mike Israni of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) who will discuss the Distribution Integrity Management Programs (DIMP) rule, Ken Cuccinelli of Questfore who will discuss public awareness effectiveness assessment and others. Wednesday morning will include a half-day working seminar on how to use SHRIMP to create a written DIMP plan. There will also be an exhibit of the latest in operations products and services from APGA associate members. Registration information can be found at www.apga.org.

For further information contact John Erickson, APGA Vice President, Operations 202-464-2742, ext 1002 or jerickson@apga.org.

2011 Natural Gas Calendar – Commitment Deadline Extended

We had asked all public utilities to communicate their 2011 Natural Gas Calendar order commitments by February 15. However, some systems will need to get approval for a calendar purchase at Board meetings scheduled after Feb 15. For that reason, we are extending the commitment deadline to March 1.

To date, we have received order commitments for 23,150 2011 calendars however, we need an order commitment of 75,000 calendars to proceed with production.

For planning purposes, assume the following calendar prices based on quantity:

- 250-999 - \$1.99/calendar
- 1,000-4,999 - \$1.93/calendar
- 5,000-9,999 - \$1.88/calendar
- 10,000 and over - Negotiated price

If you want envelopes please add \$0.05/calendar.

Prices are an approximation because we can't predict whether printing and shipping costs will rise or by how much.

If your system is one of the many public gas systems that does not have a formalized marketing plan, the APGA calendar can be the one marketing initiative that costs little and pays big dividends in customer good-will. It can also potentially increase their usage of natural gas appliances in their homes.

Reply with your 2011 calendar order commitment by March 1, 2010, to Bob Beauregard at bbeauregard@apga.org or 202-464-2742.