



## Weekly Update January 14, 2010

### **APGA Pushes for Passage of Extension of Natural Gas Tax Credit**

On January 13, APGA signed onto a letter with the American Gas Association and Natural Gas Vehicles for America to the Senate Finance Committee pushing for passage of legislation that extends the tax credit for natural gas when used as a transportation fuel. The natural gas tax credit, which provides a .50 cent per gallon tax credit for use of natural gas transportation fuel, would most likely be passed as part of a package to extend expiring tax-credit provisions.

As gasoline prices have risen, policymakers and others have expressed concern about America's growing dependence on foreign oil. There has been a growing recognition that every gallon equivalent of natural gas used in vehicles is one less gallon of petroleum that has to be imported. In late 2008, APGA's Board adopted a resolution expressing support for federal and state incentives, such as the natural gas tax credit, that encourage the use of natural gas vehicles.

The natural gas tax credit was passed by the House on December 9<sup>th</sup> as part of a tax-credit extender package. It is unclear when the Senate will move to pass a similar tax-extender package. A copy of the joint association letter is available on the APGA website at [www.apga.org](http://www.apga.org). If you have any questions on this article, please contact Dave Schryver of APGA's staff by phone at 202-464-2742 or by email at [dschryver@apga.org](mailto:dschryver@apga.org).

### **Deadline for Pipeline Safety Grants Extended To January 18**

The Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) program, first authorized in the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002, offers new opportunities to strengthen the depth and quality of public participation in pipeline safety matters. Section 9 of the Act, titled: "Pipeline Safety Information Grants to Communities" authorized the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to local communities and organizations for technical assistance relating to pipeline safety issues.

The TAG program was then amended by Section 5 of the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act of 2006. However, FY 2009 was the first year in which PHMSA has received appropriations to fund the grant program. These grants will allow communities and groups of individuals to obtain funding for technical assistance in the form of engineering or other scientific analysis of pipeline safety issues and help promote public participation in official proceedings.

For purposes of grants eligibility, local communities are defined as cities, towns, villages, counties, parishes, townships, and similar governmental subdivisions, or consortiums of such subdivisions. A nongovernmental group of individuals is eligible for a grant under the TAG program if its members are affected or potentially affected by pipeline safety issues. Several APGA members applied for and received grants in 2009. APGA is collecting information about these successful programs to assist other systems that may want to apply for similar programs.

There is a total of \$1,000,000 available for these grants with a \$50,000 ceiling per grant. The application and grant information are available at <http://www.grants.gov>. Go to *Find Grant Opportunities*, click on *Basic Search*, go to search by Funding Opportunity Number DTPH56-10-SN-0002.

For further information please contact John Erickson, APGA Vice President, Operations at 202-464-2742, ext 1002 or [jerickson@apga.org](mailto:jerickson@apga.org).

### **APGA Sends Out Nominations for the Public Gas Policy Council**

On January 7, APGA faxed a form to its members to nominate officials to the APGA Public Gas Policy Council (PGPC). This year APGA members can also fill out and submit their PGPC nominations completely online at [www.apga.org/pgpc](http://www.apga.org/pgpc). The PGPC is made up of locally-elected and appointed officials from public gas communities. The PGPC meets annually in Washington, D.C. The 2010 meeting will be held on May 4-5. During the Washington meeting, participants receive updates from APGA and congressional staff on legislative issues effecting public gas systems and meet with key members of Congress and their staff to discuss issues of concern to public gas systems. Public gas systems and their locally-elected officials visited over 80 congressional offices during the 2009 meeting and received a presentation on regulatory issues from the outgoing Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) chairman Joe Kelleher.

The primary purpose of the PGPC is to assist APGA in moving important legislation forward, to oppose harmful legislation, and to provide advice on other legislative related issues of importance to APGA. Locally elected and appointed public officials have a strong, persuasive, and authoritative voice with their elected representatives in both the House and Senate here in Washington. Having a core group of elected officials to carry the public gas message to Congress significantly strengthens APGA's advocacy efforts.

The deadline for submitting nominations is February 12. You can send your nominations to Nate Hill at APGA by fax at 202-464-0246 or by e-mail at [nhill@apga.org](mailto:nhill@apga.org). Once nominations are received, appointments to the PGPC will be made by the Chair of the APGA Board of Directors. If you have an elected or appointed official from your community that would be a good advocate for public gas, APGA strongly encourages you to submit a nomination for that individual.

If you have any questions regarding the PGPC, please contact Nate Hill at APGA by phone at 202-464-2742 or email at [nhill@apga.org](mailto:nhill@apga.org).

### **2011 APGA Calendar – A Maybe...**

Sales of the 2010 APGA calendar was far less than expected and the revenue was only one-tenth of what we originally budgeted. As a result, APGA will proceed with production of the 2011 calendar only if a

minimum order commitment of 75,000 calendars is achieved. We ask you to respond with your order commitment no later than February 15, 2010.

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

**Suggested Retail Costs:**

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.*

If your system is one of the many public gas system 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 Feb 15, 2010, to Bob Beauregard at [bbeauregard@apga.org](mailto:bbeauregard@apga.org) or 202-464-2742.

**Industry Event: GFEN Customer Care Workshop**

Please consider attending the 2010 GFEN Customer Care Workshop in Houston, TX on April 20-21. Space is limited so please act fast. The below email and links provide you detail on the Workshop agenda, the hotel and the registration form.

Click here for the registration form and draft agenda for the next Gas Foodservice Equipment Network – Customer Care Workshop (CCW). This event will be held in Houston Texas on April 20 and 21 2010. Our space is a little smaller than the last CCW and is strictly limited to 50 attendees for the workshop and 40 for the tour. I believe we had almost 60 attendees at the last CCW, so please send in your registration form early to assure your space. The workshop is free to current GFEN members and just \$250 to non-members.

We have a special block rate of \$129/night set up for a limited number of rooms at the Hyatt Regency next to the CenterPoint Energy Tower where the workshop will be held. Click here to book your room under this special rate: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/April2010Workshop>. Free parking and WiFi are included with this block rate as well.

**Weekly Storage Report**

Here is the weekly EIA Summary Report issued on Thursday, January 14, 2010, that reports last week's storage report highlights for Friday, January 8, 2010. A 266 Bcf **decline** has been reported.

## **Summary**

Working gas in storage was 2,852 Bcf as of Friday, January 8, 2010, according to EIA estimates. This represents a net decline of 266 Bcf from the previous week. Stocks were 103 Bcf higher than last year at this time and 121 Bcf above the 5-year average of 2,731 Bcf. In the East Region, stocks were 6 Bcf above the 5-year average following net withdrawals of 146 Bcf. Stocks in the Producing Region were 62 Bcf above the 5-year average of 844 Bcf after a net withdrawal of 100 Bcf. Stocks in the West Region were 53 Bcf above the 5-year average after a net drawdown of 20 Bcf. At 2,852 Bcf, total working gas is within the 5-year historical range.