



Weekly Update November 25, 2009

Mark Your Calendars: Distribution Integrity Management Programs Rule Webinar on Dec. 16

Publication of the final Distribution Integrity Management Programs (DIMP) rule will take place any day now. To help members understand the requirements of the rule, APGA will conduct a one-hour webinar beginning at 2 pm EST Wednesday, December 16. Webinar technology allows you to not only hear the presenters but also see via the internet the slides and other visual aids to which the speakers are referring. The main presenter will be APGA's John Erickson, who will describe what utilities must do to comply with the new rule. We will also invite the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and one or more state regulators to participate. Presentations will be followed by questions from the audience. There is no cost to participate in the webinar; however you must contact APGA to receive information necessary to log in. To register for the webinar please go to:

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/241947491>.

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

FERC Initiates Section 5 Proceedings Against Three Pipelines

At the November 19 Open Meeting of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the Commission unanimously approved initiating Section 5 proceedings against three pipelines to determine if those pipelines are charging unjust and unreasonable rates. Based on the Form 2 data the pipelines are required to submit to FERC, the Commission has determined that Northern Natural Gas Company, Great Lakes Gas Transmission LP, and Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America LLC, may be substantially over-recovering beyond a just and reasonable rate as mandated under the Natural Gas Act. In determining the pipelines that it would institute a Section 5 filing against, in addition to the Form 2 data, the Commission considered the costs and the risks of litigation, the level of infrastructure investments, and the existence of a rate moratorium or come-back provision.

In a statement that accompanied the announcement, Chairman Wellinghoff communicated that "Because the Commission lacks refund authority under Section 5, it is appropriate to expedite resolution of these proceedings." The Commission has directed that an initial decision be issued within 47 weeks of the designation of a presiding judge.

APGA released a statement commending the Commission for its decision to initiate Section 5 proceedings. APGA further communicated that the current regulatory process to ensure just and reasonable rates under the Natural Gas Act is broken. It favors regulated pipeline

monopolies over consumers by allowing them to keep overcharges collected after a Section 5 proceeding is initiated (whether by complaint or by Commission action) rather than giving consumers their money back if the rates are shown to be excessive. APGA urged Congress to correct this inequity by passing legislation, such as S. 672 – *The Natural Gas and Electricity Review and Enforcement Act* introduced by Senator Cantwell. This type of legislation would allow the Commission to set a refund-effective date commensurate with the date on which the Commission initiates a Section 5 proceeding or on which a consumer complaint is filed under Section 5. It would also allow the Commission to treat regulated pipelines just as it currently treats electric utilities under the Federal Power Act.

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.

PHMSA Advisory Committee To Consider Two Rules This December

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has announced that the Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee (TPSSC) will meet in Alexandria, VA December 9-10 to discuss two proposed rules: (1) "Pipeline Safety: Updates to Pipeline and Liquefied Natural Gas Reporting" published in the Federal Register on July 2, 2009 (74 FR 31675); and (2) "Pipeline Safety: Periodic Updates of Regulatory References to Technical Standards and Miscellaneous Edits" published in the Federal Register on July 22, 2009 (74 FR 36139). PHMSA staff will also brief the committees on several regulatory and policy initiatives. TPSSC is a congressionally-established committee composed of government industry and public representatives that advises PHMSA on the technical feasibility, practicability, and cost-effectiveness of each proposed pipeline safety standard.

The committee will meet on Wednesday, December 9, 2009, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. EST and on Thursday, December 10, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST. Attendees should register in advance at <https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/meetings/Mtg62.mtg>. Onsite registration will be available starting at noon on Wednesday. The meeting will not be web cast; however, presentations will be available on the meeting website within 30 days following the meeting. The meeting will be at The Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria, VA 22314. The phone number is 1-866-837-4210.

Several members of the APGA Board will be in DC that week and are expected to attend, as will Mike Comstock, APGA's representative on TPSSC. For further information please contact John Erickson, APGA Vice President, Operations 202-464-2742, ext 1002 or jerickson@apga.org.

Join APGA for the 2010 Marketing & Sales Trends and Training Conference this March!

The APGA, ANGA and FNGA have worked together to create a fantastic value-packed program for the March 29-31, 2010, Marketing & Sales Trends and Training Conference in Pensacola, Florida. Accountants take note; there is opportunity for two hours of CPE. We are now investigating whether our SMEI and Forum Sales Training presentations would also qualify

for continuing education credits. Please see below the latest program and links to the hotel and attendee and vendor registration forms.

To register and or to learn more about this great conference please go to www.apga.org. To book your hotel room please visit Hilton Pensacola Beach Gulf Front - go to www.Hilton.com/PensacolaBeach.

For additional information, please contact Bob Beauregard at 202-464-2742 or bbeauregard@apga.org

2010 MSTTC

Monday, March 29

1:00 pm – 1:05 pm	Welcoming Comments – Mark Blythe, CPS Energy
1:05 pm – 1:45 pm	Climate Change and Energy Legislation and its Impact on Gas Supply and Revenue – Charlie Young, City of Hamilton; Jeff Tuttle, CPS Energy
1:45 pm – 2:30 pm	Training your Sales Staff – Willis Turner, CAE, CSE, President/CEO, Sales & Marketing Executives International, Inc. (SMEI)
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Selling in a Down Economy - Jeff Baker, Forum Sales Training
3:30 pm – 3:45 pm	Break
3:45 pm – 4:30 pm	Integrating Customer Service and Marketing – Gary Long, Okaloosa Gas and Sandy Wellborn, Central Florida Gas
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Vendor Speed Sessions
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Reception
Dinner on your own	

Tuesday, March 30

7:00 am – 8:00 am	Continental Breakfast
8:00 am – 8:45 am	Technology Advancements Crucial to Customer Retention and Growth – Ron Snedic, GTI
8:45 am – 9:30 am	Cracking the Multi-Family Housing Market – Jeff Oliver, Rinnai America; Aleida Socarras, TECO Partners
9:30 am – 10:30 am	Vendor Speed Sessions
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Break
10:45 am – 11:30 pm	Using Social Media to Improve Sales and Customer Satisfaction – Ken Cuccinelli, Quest Fore
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Buffet Lunch
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Partnering with Vendors to Improve Sales and Messaging - Vendors representing four different products/services
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Grant Applications for Fleet Conversions. Alabama's Big Green Vehicle WIN - Mark Bentley, Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition; Jason Padgett, North Baldwin Utilities
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Break
3:15 pm – 4:15 pm	Accounting 101, Phase I – Rod Ballard, Jackson-Thornton (Earn 1-hour of CPE)

4:30 pm – 6:30 pm Pool-side cooking show and Reception

Dinner on your own

Wednesday, March 31

7:00 am – 8:00 am Continental Breakfast

8:00 am – 9:30 am Successful Marketing/Customer Service Campaigns – 2009 APGA M&S Award Winner and Finalists

9:30 am – 10:00 am Accounting 101 Phase II – Burton Benkwith, Jackson-Thornton (Earn 1-hour of CPE)

10:00 am – 10:30 am Break

10:30 am – 11:15 am Key Note Speaker – From another walk-of-life, another industry to teach some lessons about great customer service, marketing and leadership

11:15 am - 11:45 am Door Prize Presentations

11:45 am Adjourn