



Weekly Update October 1, 2009

Register Today for the Gas Utility Management Conference Scheduled for November 3 & 4

Join us in beautiful Charleston, South Carolina for the annual APGA Gas Utility Management Conference (GUMC). The conference is an add-on to the APGA fall Board Meeting and will be held on November 3 & 4 at the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina. This conference provides public gas system managers with information on a broad variety of issues that impact public gas systems. Issues covered will include: rate making, marketing, operations challenges, and legislative and regulatory initiatives. The information provided at this conference will help public gas system managers better manage the day-to-day operations of their system. The schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, November 3:

- Jeff Oliver of Rinnai America will share success stories of partnering with gas utilities to increase load in multi-family housing. Jeff will also discuss the best practices for building an alliance with your local housing authority.
- Three public gas systems honored at the APGA Annual Conference will share their award-winning marketing/education programs with GUMC attendees.
- Fellon-McCord will provide an overview of rate designs and discuss new trends that are occurring.
- An update on some of the key legislative issues, such as an energy bill, climate change and over-the-counter derivatives regulation that will likely have an impact on public gas systems.
- Jane Goolsby, State Director for U.S. Senator Lindsay Graham, will speak on the role of congressional state offices and tips on building an effective working relationship with state and Washington DC offices.

Day one will conclude with a networking reception.

The conference will resume on Wednesday, November 4 with a focus on the Distribution Integrity Management Programs (DIMP) rule and the impact it will have on the operations of public gas systems. John Erickson, APGA's Vice President for Operations, will provide an overview of the rule and there will also be a presentation from a gas system on the steps that are being taken to prepare for the DIMP rule. There will also be a presentation on the model plan that APGA working with and through the APGA Security and Integrity Foundation (SIF) has developed to assist systems with developing their own integrity management plan. The plan, known as SHRIMP which stands for Simple Handy Risk-based Integrity Management Plan, will work like TurboTax – asking questions about the gas piping and its maintenance history and create a written plan for a system that meets all of the requirements of the rule.

Information on the Gas Utility Management Conference, including how to register, is available on the homepage of the APGA website at www.apga.org. The deadline for obtaining the group room rate with the hotel is September 30. If you have any questions on this article or the GUMC, please call APGA staff at 202-464-2742.

Sign up to learn about SHRIMP!

The Distribution Integrity Management Programs (DIMP) rule will be issued any day now and will require utilities to develop a written DIMP plan meeting specific requirements and customized for the unique construction and maintenance history of each utility. The APGA Security and Integrity Foundation (SIF) have developed the SHRIMP on-line DIMP plan development tool to make writing a plan easy and inexpensive. APGA's John Erickson will demonstrate how SHRIMP can be used to write your DIMP plan and answer questions about the rule and SHRIMP on October 20 at 2 30 p.m. To sign up for this informational webinar please go to: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/124465530>.

Members and Vendors – Register for the 2010 M&S Trends and Training Conference

A team of dedicated system and vendor reps have worked hard on the program for the 2010 Marketing & Sales Trends & Training Conference planned for March 29-31, 2010, in Pensacola, Florida. The conference, sponsored by APGA, the Alabama Natural Gas Association and the Florida Natural Gas Association, begins at 1:00 pm on Monday, March 29 and concludes at 11:30 am on Wednesday, March 31. The venue is the Hilton Pensacola Beach Gulf Front hotel, a 4-star hotel at a great \$125/day rate. See the hotel at www.pensacolabeachgulffront.hilton.com

The MSTTC program will provide attendees with exceptional networking opportunities and valuable information, ideas and tools that will be taken back and utilized at their home systems. Program Highlights:

- Sales training (tools to use) by the SMEI, Sales & Marketing Executive International.
- Training in selling to the multi-family housing market by Rinnai America and Central Florida Gas.
- Training in the use social media to improve sales by Quest Fore, Inc.
- Training in applying for grant monies to pursue fleet vehicle conversions to natural gas by the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition.
- Accountant training and its relation to marketing and sales efforts and goals.
- Training in enhancing customer service and integrating the efforts of customer service and marketing by Okaloosa Gas and Central Florida Gas.
- Gaining understanding of technology developments and their Impact on sales and marketing efforts by the Gas Technology Institute.
- Learning about the successful marketing campaigns honored in the 2009 M&S Award competition – Charlottesville, ESP and SEAGD.
- Learning how to collaborate with vendors on sales calls.
- Participating in “vendor speed sessions” where every conference attendee gets a 15-minute presentation from each exhibiting vendor on their respective product or service
- Gaining understanding of current and proposed climate change and energy legislation and its impact on gas supply and revenue

[To register for the 2010 MSTTC please click here.](#)

For additional information, please contact Bob Beauregard at 202-464-0831 or bbeauregard@apga.org.

Participants in Plastic Pipe Failure Database to Be Made Public

After much discussion the Plastic Pipe Database Committee (PPDC) has decided to release the names of operators who are voluntarily submitting information on plastic pipe failures. The PPDC is a committee of industry and government experts who review data on plastic pipe failures submitted by participating distribution systems to look for trends that may indicate whether any type of plastic or fitting is failing prematurely. The PPDC's efforts have resulted in several advisory bulletins from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) notifying utilities to be alert for problems with certain plastic piping components.

Confidentiality of both the identities of the systems providing failure data and the failure data itself has been a contentious issue. Until now neither the identity of participating utilities nor the data on individual failures has been publicly available. Several states have expressed interest in knowing which utilities voluntarily submit data and in seeing state-specific data. This resulted in a proposal by PHMSA in the recent Distribution Integrity Management Programs (DIMP) rule to mandate that all utilities submit failure data to PHMSA. As a compromise the PPDC agreed to allow more participation by states in the data analysis process and to release the names of participating utilities. Failure data will remain confidential.

Confidentiality has not been a major concern of public gas systems since, as government entities, most information is already public under so-called "Sunshine Laws." Public gas systems that currently do not submit data to the PPDC may, however, be pressured by their state regulators to participate. You should be prepared to respond with explanation why you do or do not provide data to PPDC. APGA encourages all members to participate in the PPDC – PPDC promotes gas safety by providing an early warning of problems with certain plastic pipe and components.

For information on the PPDC logon to <http://www.apga.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3313>.

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

Congress passes stop gap measure to continue LIHEAP and other government spending

As the government's fiscal year expired on September 30, Congress had not finished any of the 12 appropriations bills that fund government programs for FY 2010 including the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Instead, Congress passed a stop-gap measure called a Continuing Resolution that will fund the government for an additional 30 days. The U.S. Senate on Wednesday, September 30 approved the Conference Report for the Fiscal Year 2010 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill by a vote of 62 to 38. The report includes the continuing resolution allowing the federal government to maintain operations through October 31, 2009. The House approved the Conference Report on Friday, September 25, 2009, and it will now go to the President for his signature.

LIHEAP spending is contained within the Labor-Health and Human Services & Education Appropriations bill. Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees provided \$5.1 billion for LIHEAP in FY 2010, the full amount authorized by Congress to spend. Congress is expected to maintain this level of funding for LIHEAP as both the House and Senate work to pass all of the appropriations bills in the next 30 days.

If you have any questions on this article please contact Nate Hill at 202-464-2742 or nhill@apga.org.

Weekly Storage Report

Here is the weekly EIA Summary Report issued Thursday, September 10, 2009. A 64 Bcf **increase** has been reported.

EIA Storage Report Highlights for **Friday, September 25, 2009**:

Summary

Working gas in storage was 3,589 Bcf as of Friday, September 25, 2009, according to EIA estimates. This represents a net increase of 64 Bcf from the previous week. Stocks were 491 Bcf higher than last year at this time and 481 Bcf above the 5-year average of 3,108 Bcf. In the East Region, stocks were 144 Bcf above the 5-year average following net injections of 38 Bcf. Stocks in the Producing Region were 266 Bcf above the 5-year average of 879 Bcf after a net injection of 19 Bcf. Stocks in the West Region were 71 Bcf above the 5-year average after a net addition of 7 Bcf. At 3,589 Bcf, total working gas is above the 5-year historical range.