



## Weekly Update September 16, 2010

### Hurry! Register for the APGARF/GTI R&D Forum

The APGA Research Foundation (RF), in partnership with the Gas Technology Institute (GTI), will host the R&D Forum in Chicago on October 13-14, 2010 and is inviting all APGA members to attend this important event, especially those not yet supporting R&D through the RF. We will make it easier for the first 30 registrants by covering their hotel costs. Food costs will be covered for all attendees. Please join us by registering now at [www.apgarf.org/2010Forum](http://www.apgarf.org/2010Forum). We also ask you to encourage one of your Board members to join you on the trip.

The Forum will demonstrate the value of R&D to public gas systems on a broad level. This is an opportunity to learn about new sources of domestic supply, technologies that will help you to reduce operating costs while improving customer satisfaction, and new environmentally-friendly end-use appliances.

The R&D Forum program begins at noon CT on Wednesday, October 13 at GTI with lunch followed by a half-day of informative presentations, tours, and live demos focused on gas utility operations R&D. You will also get a sneak peak at some emerging technology. The evening's activities will include a reception and dinner. On the morning of October 14, the R&D Forum will continue with another half-day of R&D presentations, tours, and live demos focused on natural gas supply and end-use technologies. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. For those flying home on the 14th, a shuttle has been arranged from GTI to O'Hare after lunch.

Accommodations are at the Radisson Hotel O'Hare. The hotel provides a complimentary 24-hour O'Hare airport shuttle. The hotel has also agreed to shuttle between the hotel and GTI at specific times.

The RF Board looks forward to seeing you in Chicago! Again, space and hotel rooms are limited.

Please call Bob Beauregard at APGA 202-464-0831 or Mary Kos at GTI 847-768-0950 with your attendance confirmation or questions.

To register, please go to [www.apgarf.org/2010Forum](http://www.apgarf.org/2010Forum) or [www.apga.org/RFForum](http://www.apga.org/RFForum) .

A letter to the membership

Dear APGA Members,

Beginning in mid-August, I met with about 250 APGA members in 10 locations in eight states over a 20-day period. Overall, I believe the meetings were well-received and served an important purpose—to personally brief APGA members (many of which had never before attended an APGA meeting) and hear first-hand about the issues that have their attention.

Looking back to the roundtable discussions the one topic that dominated the discussion during most sessions was natural gas vehicles. With advances in natural gas production technology that now brings us an abundant and domestic supply, where are the necessary and appropriate investments in natural gas vehicle infrastructure, and the policy and tax incentives necessary to spur the manufacture and purchase of NGVs? As the national advocate for public gas utilities in Washington, it is APGA's role to increase the federal focus on this issue. And, public gas utilities are well-situated to coordinate with other local governmental agencies to elevate the visibility of NGVs in their communities by purchasing vehicles and facilitating the deployment of infrastructure.

Another common question was whether APGA could continue in the future to provide these smaller briefings for members that have little to no travel budgets. The answer to this request is a resounding "Yes". It is clear many of our members are only able to attend an APGA meeting if the location allows them to travel to-and-from in the same day. To deliver personal briefings regionally on a bi-annual basis is a commitment we can keep. Upon my return to APGA, we sent a brief survey to attendees asking for feedback on the briefings and thanking them for taking time to attend. To date, with just a few surveys in, the results are very positive. I will report back to you with more on this at a later time.

I also express my gratitude to the APGA volunteers that invested their time to set up the meeting sites, lunches and help promote the event. A special "thank you" goes to Jeff English (San Antonio, TX), Ben Andrews (Oak Ridge, TN), Owen Reeves and Larry Herald, (Leitchfield, KY), Tae Eaton, (Jackson, TN), Jimmie Butler (Huntsville, AL), Chris Latch (Tupelo, MS and Hattiesburg, MS), Gary Long and Jose Lozano (West Destin, FL), Chris Strippelhoff (Commerce, GA), and Jimmy Sprouse (Rock Hill, SC).

Sincerely,

Bert Kalisch

### **Congress reconvenes with full plate and limited time**

Both the House and Senate reconvened on Sept. 13, with a targeted adjournment of Oct. 8, ahead of the midterm elections to be held November 2. However, there have been some indications the House may adjourn even earlier. The Senate has more on its plate and will likely remain for the full session. The only truly must-pass legislative item for the fall session before the elections is a continuing resolution ("CR") to fund the government beyond Sept. 30. The Senate has not yet voted on any of the 12 annual appropriations

measures. The House has voted on a few. The remainder of the period could be spent on proposals such as small business incentives and infrastructure spending.

Notably, what does not get done before the election will be pushed into what promises to be a busy lame duck session, which is the period that Congress is in session after Election Day and before the start of the new Congress in January 2011. Legislation during the lame duck could include possible consideration of the tax “extenders” bill if an agreement cannot be reached prior to the election, and taking action to prevent the expiration of the current tax rate for some duration. Appropriations measures will also surely be taken up during this time, with an omnibus appropriations package or long-term continuing resolution possible.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has said that the Senate will not pass legislation this year that imposes a price on carbon. Despite the efforts of several senators for months to reach a compromise on carbon regulations, Reid said that incremental steps will be the only practical approach for advancing climate and renewable energy proposals this fall and next year.

Reid left the door open for bringing broader energy legislation to the Senate floor for debate during the lame duck session. Reid said he is focused on a broader energy bill with provisions that could garner 60 votes. Those provisions could include a Renewable Electricity Standard (RES), the NAT GAS Act that mainly includes government support for the conversion of heavy trucks to natural gas, Home Star energy efficiency bill, oil spill liability and other energy provisions.

The focus on carbon regulations now shifts to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which plans to finalize its “tailoring rule” in 2011 that will require large emitters over 100,000 metric tons of emissions to consider greenhouse gases when applying for clean air act permits in the future. These regulations would only impact very large emitters such as coal-fired electric generators. The long-term concern for many emitters, including public gas systems, is that the EPA could in the future seek to apply similar carbon constraints to smaller emitters.

If you have questions on this article contact Dave Schryver at 202-464-2742 or [dschryver@apga.org](mailto:dschryver@apga.org).

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

The 2011 Marketing & Sales Trends and Training Conference (MSTTC) is set for April 4-6, 2011, in Pensacola Beach, Florida. The venue will be the beautiful Hilton Pensacola Beach Gulf Front. And once again APGA, ANGA and FNGA will join together to co-sponsor this important and exciting annual event. Please plan on traveling to Pensacola, Florida next April.

The MSTTC Task Force is just beginning its work but their charge is to make the 2011 conference more valuable and memorable than the 2010 conference. Keep a look-out for a colorful oversized postcard coming your way announcing the 2011 MSTTC and the

2011 SIF Operations Conference. The latter conference will take place at the same hotel and start immediately after conclusion of the MSTTC.

For more information, please contact Sheila Deringis at 202-352-1193 or [Sheila@apga.org](mailto:Sheila@apga.org) or Bob Beauregard at 202-464-2742 or [bbeauregard@apga.org](mailto:bbeauregard@apga.org)

### **Over 260 Attend the Natural Gas Fall Workshop at “Leak City”**

Over 260 people attended the Natural Gas Fall Workshop in Athens, AL at the “Leak City” training facility September 13-16. The workshop, co-sponsored by APGA, Athens Utilities Board, Alabama Natural Gas Association, Alabama Public Service Commission, Southern Gas Association, Mississippi Natural Gas Association, Mississippi Public Service Commission, Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia, Tennessee Gas Association and Tennessee Regulatory Authority, featured classroom and hands-on training for all levels of gas distribution operations and maintenance personnel. Over 200 individuals completed both written and hands-on evaluations in operator qualification covered tasks sanctioned by the APGA Security and Integrity Foundation (SIF). The workshop concluded with a half day roundtable conducted by APGA covering Distribution Integrity Management Programs (DIMP), public awareness and a number of other operations topics submitted by the attendees.

APGA would like to thank all the people and organizations that helped make this event a success, especially our hosts Steve Carter and his co-workers at Athens Utilities. For more information please contact John Erickson, APGA Vice President, Operations 202-464-0834 or [jerickson@apga.org](mailto:jerickson@apga.org).

### **Weekly Storage Report: Storage increases to 3,267 Bcf**

Here is the weekly EIA Summary Report issued on Thursday, September 16, 2010, that reports last week's storage report highlights for Friday, September 10, 2010. A 103 Bcf increase has been reported.

#### **Summary**

Working gas in storage was 3,267 Bcf as of Friday, September 10, 2010, according to EIA estimates. This represents a net increase of 103 Bcf from the previous week. Stocks were 182 Bcf less than last year at this time and 192 Bcf above the 5-year average of 3,075 Bcf. In the East Region, stocks were 7 Bcf above the 5-year average following net injections of 54 Bcf. Stocks in the Producing Region were 111 Bcf above the 5-year average of 899 Bcf after a net injection of 36 Bcf. Stocks in the West Region were 73 Bcf

above the 5-year average after a net addition of 13 Bcf. At 3,267 Bcf, total working gas is within the 5-year historical range.