



Weekly Update June 2 2011

APGA Sends Out Membership Satisfaction Survey

Yesterday, APGA sent out its annual membership satisfaction survey. The survey was developed by the APGA Membership Committee to assess member views of APGA's performance, value, and the quality of services provided. The survey also seeks input on additional services that APGA may offer that will provide value to its members. [The survey is broken into five segments: background; membership value; advocacy; communications; education and is available to take here.](#)

APGA and the Board of Directors will use the results of this survey to identify the value of the services APGA provides as well as areas where improvement is needed. APGA has always been, and continues to be, a member-driven organization. As such, this survey plays a critical role in our strategic planning and helps ensure that APGA meets the future needs of its members.

We strongly encourage you to take the time to complete the survey so that we may continue to improve the value of your APGA membership. It should take no more than 10-15 minutes to complete. Your input will help make APGA better and increase the overall value of membership. If you have any questions on the survey or need additional information, please contact Dave Schryver of APGA's staff by email at dschryver@apga.org or by phone at 202-464-2742.

APGA Submits Comments to FERC in Response to NOPR Addressing Bidding by Affiliates in Open Seasons for Pipeline Capacity

On May 31, APGA submitted comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in response to a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) that addresses bidding by affiliates in open seasons for pipeline capacity. In its NOPR, FERC proposes to prohibit multiple affiliates of the same entity from bidding in an open season for pipeline capacity in which the pipeline may allocate capacity on a *pro rata* basis, unless each affiliate has an independent business reason for submitting a bid. FERC also proposes to prohibit affiliates from releasing capacity obtained in an open season pursuant to a *pro rata* allocation to another affiliate or otherwise allow an affiliate to obtain such capacity from another affiliate. This is an important issue to public gas systems since approximately 95 percent of them are captive to one pipeline.

APGA's comments express support for FERC's proposal, stating that these "two proposals will work in tandem to prevent entities with multiple affiliates from engaging in anticompetitive practices when a pipeline allocates capacity on a *pro rata* basis following an open season."

APGA's comments also propose that FERC regulations be revised "to require that, if affiliates of the same entity do participate in open seasons for pipeline capacity, each be required to identify itself as such in its bid and that any award of open season capacity likewise note that fact." This revision is proposed to address the fact that corporate names can often times be deceiving in that affiliation between and among entities is often not self-evident from the name of the entity.

A copy of APGA's comments is available on the APGA website at www.apga.org/comments. If you have any questions on APGA's comments and/or this article, please contact Dave Schryver of APGA's staff by phone at 202-464-2742 or by email at dschryver@apga.org.

PHMSA to Conduct Webinar on Distribution Integrity Management June 8

Next Wednesday, June 8 at 10:30 am EDT the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) will conduct a webinar on Distribution Integrity Management Programs (DIMP). Members of the state and federal Distribution Integrity Management Program Implementation Team recently completed a series of pilot inspections of six gas distribution operators' distribution integrity management programs (DIMP), including two APGA members – Mesa, AZ and Clarke-Mobile Counties Gas District, AL, who each used the Security and Integrity Foundation's (SIF) SHRIMP program to create their DIMP plans. The purpose of the webinar is to discuss the Team's findings and general observations from the pilot inspections; the expectations for operators in implementing their plan; the DIMP inspection forms; and a question and answer session. Lyndon Boltz of Mesa will participate in the June 8 webinar representing APGA and public gas utilities.

The APGA Security and Integrity Foundation (SIF) has already discussed the findings of the pilot audits with the audit Team and made modifications to the SHRIMP program and written plan to address the Team's findings.

Anyone may attend this free webinar. To help assure that adequate space is provided, all attendees are required to register for the webinar at <http://opsweb.phmsa.dot.gov/webinars>.

Refer to the DIMP Web site for additional information: <http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/dimp/index.htm>. Copies of the presentations will be available on the DIMP website within 30 days following the webinar. For further information contact John Erickson of APGA's staff at 202-464-2742, ext 1002 or jerickson@apga.org.

HURRY!! June 15 is the deadline for 2011 APGA Marketing & Sales Award Submissions

Enter your submission today for the 2011 APGA Marketing & Sales Award competition. This award encourages APGA members to submit their best marketing or sales program, project, or customer service campaign for recognition. Judging will focus on specific gas marketing or projects and programs with measurable results and ask the system to specify a key project individual(s). APGA asks your permission to post entries on its website.

Criteria for Entry

- The gas marketing or sales program, project, promotion, or service must be active in 2010/2011 and have measurable results to demonstrate value.
- Appliances (if applicable) must have been installed in 2010.
- Supporting collateral and documentation must be sent in electronic format to bbeauregard@apga.org.

Entries must be received by Wednesday, June 15, 2011, to be eligible.

The winning public gas system will be presented the award at the 2011 APGA Annual Conference in Memphis, TN in July. The winning public gas system will also be invited to send a representative to make a presentation on their award winning program at the April 2012 Marketing & Sales Trends and Training Conference.

If you have any questions, please contact Bob Beauregard at 202-464-2742 or by email at bbeauregard@apga.org.

MGAG and Mayors Take the Hill

On Tuesday, May 24 and Wednesday, May 25, members of the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia (MGAG) and four mayors of APGA member cities lobbied their Congressional Representatives on Capitol Hill.

Mayoral and MGAG Attendees

Mayor Larry Guest – City of Elberton
Mayor Kenneth Usry – City of Thomson
Mayor William Evans – City of Sparta
Mayor Bill Yeararta – City of Sylvester
Chris Stripplehoff-VP of Member Services, MGAG
Scott Tolleson- Manager, Member Services –
MGAG

APGA joined with the mayors and MGAG to meet with Congressional members and their staff that included the offices of Representatives Barrow, Braun, Graves, Kingston, (David) Scott Westmoreland, etc. and also with Senator Isakson. The visits with these Congressional members afforded the group the opportunity to discuss a number of issues of importance and to hear their perspectives on them.

The MGAG group and its mayors emphasized the discussion of: the New Alternative to Give Americans Solutions Act (NAT Gas Act), Reform of Section 5 of the Natural Gas Act, Pipeline Safety, and the Export of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). As is common, Member reactions to

these issues varied and their feedback was helpful and instructive as to where these issues are on their respective lists of priorities.

Moreover, an unfortunate, but common theme with each office was the general difficulty in obtaining Congressional consideration of almost any issue due to the focus on the deficit and long-term debt. However, the opportunity to make the Georgia Delegation aware of the issues of importance to cities across the state and to keep pushing them to act on them was invaluable.

If APGA members have any questions about this article, please contact Scott Morrison by phone at 202-464-2742 or by email at smorrison@apga.org.

APGA Speaking Engagements

June

June 7-10

NAPSR Western Regional Meeting, Flagstaff, AZ

John Erickson

June 9, 3pm EST

Florida Gas Utilities Annual Meeting, St. Augustine, FL

Scott Morrison

June 21

At Atmos Energy's Natural Gas Workshop, Franklin, TN

Scott Morrison

June 29-July 1

NAPSR Eastern regional meeting, Cumberland, MD

John Erickson

June 15

Texas Gas Association, Houston, TX

Bert Kalisch

July

July 19

Ohio Gas Association Market Conditions Conference - Columbus, OH

Dave Schryver

July 28-29

Louisiana Pipeline Safety Seminar, New Orleans, LA

John Erickson

August

August 30- Sept 2

NAPSR National meeting, Savannah, GA

John Erickson

Bert Kalisch

Weekly Storage Report: Storage increases to 2,107 Bcf.

Here is the weekly EIA Summary Report issued on Thursday, June 2, 2011, that reports last week's storage report highlights for Friday, May 27, 2011. A 83 Bcf increase has been reported.

Summary

Working gas in storage was 2,107 Bcf as of Friday, May 27, 2011, according to EIA estimates. This represents a net increase of 83 Bcf from the previous week. Stocks were 237 Bcf less than last year at this time and 42 Bcf below the 5-year average of 2,149 Bcf. In the East Region, stocks were 116 Bcf below the 5-year average following net injections of 51 Bcf. Stocks in the Producing Region were 125 Bcf above the 5-year average of 795 Bcf after a net injection of 18 Bcf. Stocks in the West Region were 51 Bcf below the 5-year average after a net addition of 14 Bcf. At 2,107 Bcf, total working gas is within the 5-year historical range.