

## **APGA Weekly Update, June 30, 2016**

### **APGA Speaks at Texas Gas Association Conference**

On June 30, APGA's Vice President of Operations, John Erickson, spoke to the more than 300 attendees at the 2016 Texas Gas Association's Operations and Maintenance Conference in San Marcos, Texas. Along with Kent Hobart of the Southern Gas Association, John discussed the climate for natural gas in the U.S. He cited impediments to production such as limitations on production from federal lands and state and federal actions to restrict fracking. He also cited impediments to the delivery of gas, including groups opposed to new pipeline construction and proposed safety regulations that could significantly increase the cost of transporting gas. Finally, he discussed issues affecting the end-use of natural gas, including the EISA 2007 requirement that eliminates all fossil fuel-generated energy use in federal buildings by 2030, net zero buildings, and the Department of Energy's furnace efficiency rule. Despite these impediments, natural gas has a great story to tell. Natural gas is clean burning, efficient and economical, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption and cost when compared to electric appliances. He encouraged the attendees to go to APGA's website and view the Look Closer campaign that provides excellent information that clearly explains the rationale for promoting the direct-use of natural gas.

For questions on this article, please contact John Erickson of APGA staff by phone at 202-464-0834 or by email at [jerickson@apga.org](mailto:jerickson@apga.org).

### **PHMSA Increases Maximum Penalties for Pipeline Safety Violations.**

On June 30, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) published in the Federal Register an Interim Final Rule (IFR) to revise references in its regulations to the maximum civil penalties for violations of the Federal Pipeline Safety Laws, or any PHMSA regulation or order issued thereunder. Under the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, which further amended the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, federal agencies are required to adjust their civil monetary penalties effective August 1, 2016, and then annually thereafter, to account for changes in inflation. Effective on August 1, the maximum penalties rise to \$205,638 for each violation for each day the violation continues, except that the maximum administrative civil penalty may not exceed \$2,056,380 for any related series of violations.

For questions on this article, please contact John Erickson of APGA staff by phone at 202-464-0834 or by email at [jerickson@apga.org](mailto:jerickson@apga.org).

### **APGA Attends ASHRAE Summer Meeting**

Over the last two weeks, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) held their summer Technical Committees, Task Groups and Technical Resource Groups meetings in St. Louis. During this time, ASHRAE held well over a hundred meetings that deal with topics such as appliance testing procedures, sound and vibration, water and green building standards, and

building energy efficiency standards. Due to the sheer size of the event and numerous meetings, APGA staff will continue to update members as details emerge from the various meetings.

APGA would like to highlight three pieces of encouraging news. As a result of APGA's attempts to include source energy in ASHRAE 100 last year, we have successfully been able to raise the need for ASHRAE to consider using source energy in multiply other standards.

The committee tasked with maintaining standard 100 has approved for public comment an alternative compliance path option that uses of source energy. Standard 100 establishes minimum standards for commercial building retrofits.

Along very similar lines, the committee voted to turn down a proposal that would only allow the use of site energy regarding ASHRAE standard 189.1, which establishes standards for new commercial buildings. The committee is "fine tuning" a compliance track based on source energy which it hopes to have ready for publication in 2017.

Finally, Standard 214p, Standard for Determining and Expressing Building Energy Performance in a Rating Program, was approved by the committee for publication/public review. This is the standard where ASHRAE references rating programs like the HERS rating program that utilizes source energy.

For questions on this article, please contact Dan Lapato of APGA staff by phone at 202-464-0834 or by email at [dlapato@apga.org](mailto:dlapato@apga.org).

### **EIA Reports Storage Increase of 37 Bcf to Put Working Gas Storage at 3,140 Bcf**

Here is the weekly EIA Summary Report issued on Thursday, June 30, 2016, which reports the week's storage report highlights for Friday, June 24, 2016. A 37 Bcf increase has been reported.

Working gas in storage was 3,140 Bcf as of Friday, June 24, 2016, according to EIA estimates. This represents a net increase of 37 Bcf from the previous week. Stocks were 582 Bcf higher than last year at this time and 637 Bcf above the five-year average of 2,503 Bcf. At 3,140 Bcf, total working gas is above the five-year historical range.