Updates and Information

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UPDATES AND INFORMATION

TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING & CONSTRUCTION
February 17 - 19, 2014; Hyatt Regency - Austin, TX
The SGA Technical Conference on Environmental Permitting & Construction is designed to provide professionals in the pipeline design and construction industry a better understanding of the requirements associated with permitting complex projects and ensuring they are constructed per the federal, state, and local regulatory requirements.
NEW WORKSHOP - NEGOTIATING & PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS

In conjunction with the Technical Conference on Environmental Permitting & Construction

February 19, 2014; Austin, TX

In mastering regulatory processes, environmental professionals working in the energy industry need to work cooperatively with stakeholders, engage in complex multi-party negotiations, respond to the public, manage project teams, work effectively inside their organizations, and build and repair relationships. This half-day training will develop more effective strategic communication, negotiation, and critical thinking skills. Learn more about this workshop by visiting the web page.

NATIONAL MUTUAL ASSISTANCE MOCK DRILL

January 21-24, 2014

Please plan to participate in a Mutual assistance mock drill SGA, AGA, MEA (Midwest Energy Association) and NGA (Northeast Gas Association) are partnering to deliver in late January. The drill will consist of a series of communications and conference calls designed to mirror the impacts and responses created by a natural disaster. Goals for the drill are to:

- Test effectiveness of existing aid agreements in place throughout the industry, both at the regional level and the national level;
- Test companies in their ability to respond quickly with commitments to provide resources to companies needing aid;
- Give member companies a chance to simulate steps they would take internally to activate an internal emergency mutual aid process;
- Identify actions needed to enhance industry forms or other resources used to convey what is needed by companies in emergency situations; and
- Identify circumstances which might warrant AGA having to reach out to governmental agencies for support (FEMA, DHS, etc.)

For more information contact Kent Hobart

MUTUAL ASSISTANCE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

May 14 - 16, 2014; New Orleans LA

Emergency Management in the pipeline industry has received a large amount of attention over the last couple of years. Questions are being asked by emergency responders and the general public - "Are you ready for a pipeline emergency should you have one? Is your emergency plan effective and has been tested for an emergency in my back yard?"

This workshop is conducted annually and combines training and education for managing both natural disasters and third party damage emergencies. This workshop is beneficial for key personnel involved in emergency planning and response, field operations management, public awareness professionals, corporate communications experts that deal with media outlets on a day to day basis, and technical support personnel that work with regulatory agencies during a time of a pipeline incident.

BRING THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP TO YOUR LOCATION

Can’t attend this event in May? Maximize your company’s exposure to this important training by bringing this workshop to your location. For more information contact Kent Hobart
SPRING GAS CONFERENCE AND EXPO
March 17-19, 2014 Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center; Columbia, SC

Registration will open soon for the 2014 conference co-sponsored for the first time with APGA and the Carolina Public Gas Association. The conference features multiple classroom and hands on sessions designed for field, engineering and supervisory level professionals. Sessions scheduled for this year include:

- Intro to DOT 192
- Pipeline Inspection
- Basic and Advanced Service Tech
- Measurement and Controls
- Welding Inspection
- Regulating Devices (OQ)
- Leak Investigation (OQ)
- Excavation Safety
- Safe Driving
- Valve Maintenance
- Valve Applications
- Cathodic Protection
- Leak Classification
- Large Volume Metering
- Environmental Workshop
- HDD
- Mapping & GIS
- Distribution System Design
- Introduction to the Natural Gas Industry

For more information contact Kent Hobart

EVERYTHING DIM WORKSHOP
Registration will open soon for this 1 and ½ day workshop featuring subject matter expert presentations and the opportunity for open roundtable between workshop attendees. Topics on the agenda include:

- Panel Discussion with PHMSA and State Regulators
- Risk Formulas and Modeling
- Data Collection
- Material Traceability

For more information contact Kent Hobart

ONE MINUTE UPDATE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL INTEREST GROUP
Click here to view recent communication and learn more about what this Interest Group is involved in.

ONE MINUTE UPDATE TO THE GAS CONTROL INTEREST GROUP
Click here to view recent communication and learn more about what this Interest Group is involved in.

CONNECTING WITH YOUR PEERS - "CONNECT@SGA"

Read more and learn how to "Connect@SGA."

Discussions conducted in October/November:
- Energized House Lines
- Circle Of Safety Experience
The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners held its 125th Annual Meeting November 16-20 in Orlando, Florida. The meeting featured a robust agenda that touched on a variety of important topics including lost and unaccounted for gas, the implications of upcoming pipeline safety rules and regulations and an examination of emissions from natural gas production operations.

Of note, natural gas pipeline replacement and expansion efforts were prominently featured throughout the meeting. Both the Gas and Consumer Affairs Committees featured sessions and panels to review such efforts.

During the meeting, Colette Honorable, Chair of the Arkansas Public Service Commission, was named President of NARUC. During her inaugural speech, President Honorable named pipeline safety as her top priority, highlighting the industry's replacement and modernization efforts and calling on commissioners to engage with their utilities to implement programs that will accelerate the replacement of pipelines no longer fit for service.

Note: This article above re-printed here with permission from AGA. For more information contact: Ashley Duckman (ADuckman@aga.org). From “State Advocacy in Action”.

PRACTICAL IN-LINE INSPECTION WORKSHOP
This workshop provides operations and maintenance engineers in pipeline companies with the knowledge to establish and manage an intelligent pigging program that contributes optimum value toward improved pipeline integrity. This workshop partners include DNV Columbus and Kiefner & Associates. To maximize hands-on training, this workshop is conducted at T.D. Williamson's facilities in Tulsa OK.

This workshop is tentatively scheduled for May 6-8, 2014. Please let us know if you or your company is interested: [click here]

INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT FOR GAS TRANSMISSION PIPELINES WORKSHOP
This workshop goes beyond understanding U.S. PHMSA IMP regulations and ASME B31.8S, Managing the Integrity of Gas Pipelines, and focuses on the future of IMP. Workshop instructors will provide an overview of IMP basics as well as regulatory requirements and processes. Instructors will then look specifically at the impact of IMP regulations that are on the horizon.

This workshop is tentatively scheduled for May 20-22, 2014, in Houston. Please let us know if you or your company is interested: [click here]

ADVANCED IN-LINE INSPECTION
This workshop provides operations and maintenance engineers in pipeline companies with the knowledge to establish and manage an intelligent pigging program that contributes optimum value toward improved pipeline integrity. The techniques applied for assessing various threats and upon the analysis of the results of in-line inspections are detailed.

This workshop is tentatively scheduled for June 3-5, 2014, at DNV's facilities near Columbus OH. Please let us know if you or your company is interested: [click here]
**ADVANCED PIPELINE DESIGN WORKSHOP**

Based on feedback from membership, the SGA is currently working on the development of a two - three day workshop to address training in horizontal directional drill planning and pipeline tie-in and bypass planning. This workshop will be similar to the [Intro Pipeline Design Workshop](#) with hands-on exercises and workshop group activities. Our first workshop is planned for the second or third quarter in 2014. To be notified of our first workshop offering, please let Gary Hines ([ghines@southerngas.org](mailto:ghines@southerngas.org)) know.

**ZIPGAUGE**

The ZipGauge is designed to quickly measure the slope angle of an excavation and verify compliance with the OSHA Maximum Allowable Slopes. This product was first introduced at the Safety & Health Roundtable in 2005. [Click here](#) to learn more and to place an order.

**SGA ONLINE ACCESS - CHANGES COMING SOON**

The Southern Gas Association has been working hard over the last year to improve the database that we use to manage membership, event registrations, product sales, and where you as a member can manage your records. With those changes comes a transition to a new Association Management System that will "Go Live" the second week of December. While we have performed testing on our end, there will no doubt be some items that may not go as planned (as with any IT related project). With that said, we wanted our membership to know that we will continue to keep you up to date and communicate with you things to expect once we make that transition. Questions as we transition can be directed to Gary Hines ([ghines@southerngas.org](mailto:ghines@southerngas.org))

**THANK YOU TO OUR 2013 SPONSORS**

Visit our Blog to see who sponsored operations events in 2013. Our Associate Members and Sponsors help make our programs successful and we appreciate their support.

**EVENT CALENDAR**

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TRANSMISSION PIPELINE DESIGN WORKSHOP
March 17-20, 2014; Columbia Convention Center - Columbia, SC

MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE
April 2-4, 2013; Disney's Yacht and Beach Club - Lake Buena Vista (Orlando), FL

MUTUAL ASSISTANCE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP
May 14 - 16, 2014; Intercontinental Hotel New Orleans - New Orleans, LA

Many of our workshops are available to bring to your location. Some of our workshops are scheduled based on demand. Check out our full list of onsite workshops to indicate your interests. Or contact Member Services.

SGA NETWORK

NETWORK NEWS - NOVEMBER/DECEMBER ISSUE
Visit our Communications Center to access the current issue, full of ideas on ways to use the Network in your organization, as well as information about upcoming events.

GAS MACHINERY RESEARCH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT TO MEMBERS
Read Craig Linn, Williams, GMRC Chairman of the Board, report to members (delivered October 2013):

Click here

NORM SHADE RECEIVES THE EDWARD N. HENDERSON AWARD
Norm Shade, president, ACI Services, received the Distinguished Service (Edward N. Henderson) Award, at the Gas Machinery Conference (October 6-9, 2013; Albuquerque NM). This award is presented for outstanding service not only to GMRC but to the industry. Past recipients include Ed Henderson, Don Crusan, Bob Bass, Winston Johnson, Marsha Short, Orin Flanigan and Eric Thomas. Read Norm's GMRC Henderson Award Acceptance speech.

BLOG HIGHLIGHTS

The SGA Blog is a great way to keep up with everything going on at Southern Gas Association:

- SGA Forecasting Survey
- Potential Gas Committee Estimate of Reserves in the U.S.
- Meet the 2014 SGA Board of Directors.
- Arthur Corbin wraps up his Year as Chairman of the Board
- FEMA On-Line Course: Protecting Critical Infrastructure Against Insider Threats

If you are reading this Newsletter from a hard copy, you may view online from the SGAwebsite. (Communications - Newsletter)

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