CONGRATULATIONS TO KIM COCKLIN FOR A SUCCESSFUL 2012 YEAR AS CHAIRMAN!

Kim Cocklin, President & CEO, Atmos Energy, has completed his year as Chairman of the Board for SGA. SGA enjoyed a strong and successful year under Kim's leadership and under his theme of, "Promoting Partnership, Innovation and Employee Excellence". Read more about the 2012 Association highlights.

WORKSHOPS

Need Your Feedback
The following popular workshops are scheduled based on demand. Please click the links below to learn more about these workshops and let us know if your company would be interested in these workshops being scheduled in 2013:

- Practical In-Line Inspection
- Pipeline Repair Methods
- Integrity Management for Gas Transmission Pipelines
- Advanced In-Line Inspection

MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

We are proud of the many SGA member companies who participated (and continue to participate) on the Northeast Gas Association Mutual Assistance conference calls. As with any storm there will be lessons learned. The SGA Operating Sections are already planning sessions at upcoming meetings to focus in these areas. Remember that it is important to have an executed SGA Mutual Assistance Procedures and Guidelines document before an event. It is very difficult for other natural gas operators to respond to a request for mutual aid if an agreement is not in place. View photo of Sandy Destruction. Contact: Gary Hines

ABANDONED PIPELINE MARKING PRACTICES

Info-Share Survey
This brief survey captures feedback around abandoned pipeline marking practices. Those responding will receive the results. Please complete this survey by December 14. To take the survey, please click here. SGA contact: Gary Hines
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RELEASES YEAR END REPORT
The purpose of the Executive Council is to provide insight to SGA for use in development and evolution of its executive initiatives so that they are properly aligned with member company needs.
Access the Council's Year End Report

HOW TO CONDUCT SKILL PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS
This one-day workshop allows participants to discover the principles of effective evaluation through analysis of seven typical scenarios that cover the assessment of technical tasks. This workshop can be brought to your location and is often offered based on demand as part of SGA conferences.
SGA contact: Gary Hines

SAFETY & HEALTH INTEREST GROUP UPDATE
Work is already underway to build the agenda for the 2013 SGA Environmental, Safety & Health and Training Conference scheduled for June 4-6 in St. Louis. The Safety & Health Committee would like your help in identifying those topics you'd most like to see on the agenda. Please take our short survey to help shape the discussion. Thank you in advance for your participation, we hope to see you in St. Louis!
SGA contact: Kent Hobart

ACCELERATED REPLACEMENT PROGRAM
Webinar Series
A major element in PHMSA's new strategic plan is to accelerate the replacement of aging pipeline and distribution infrastructure. The SGA Accelerated Replacement Programs Advisory Committee is hard at work developing content for a webinar series designed to assist operators as they develop their own programs in this arena. The webinar series will feature subject matter experts sharing experiences in a lessons learned format and is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2013.

Committee members Doug Kiel, Laclede; Gary Hebbler, Duke Energy; Jerre Johnson, Alagasco and Josh Cummings, CenterPoint Energy, have identified preliminary topics in a number of areas including:
- Long Term Planning
- Project Prioritization
- Strategic Decision Making Based on Approved Recovery Mechanisms
- Materials Management
- Contractor Management
- Regulatory Compliance Oversight
- DIM Compliance/Coordination
- GIS Systems
- External Communications

SGA contact: Kent Hobart

DISTRIBUTION INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT INTEREST GROUP
Thanks to valuable feedback gained through a survey of the SGA DIM Interest Group the DIM Committee has identified topics to be included on the agenda for the Everything DIM Workshop scheduled for March 12 and 13 in Charlotte. Highlighting the agenda will be a panel discussion featuring regulators from PHMSA and a number of Southeastern states. To provide input on the topics you'd like to see these regulators share, please take a minute and respond to the survey. The agenda will follow a speaker and panel discussion format covering the following areas of focus:
- Measuring Program Effectiveness
- GIS and Data Integrity
- Overcoming the Hurdle of Limited GIS data
- Leak Management as Part of the DIM Rule
- Public Awareness and Damage Prevention
- Cross Bore Programs

Workshop Chair: Jared O'Neil, Lexington Utilities / Vice-Chair: Deana Keller, Piedmont Natural Gas
SGA contact: Kent Hobart
ABOUT SGA COMMITTEES
SGA has over 300 volunteers working on nearly 50 committees. Working on committees accelerates learning and connects peers.

Many of SGA’s committees operate more like Task Forces. They work on specific projects relevant to what they are doing at their own companies. Meetings are conducted by conference calls or webinar as often as practical and only in person when necessary. Most committees usually meet just twice each year - once to work on their project and once again at their hosted roundtable or workshop.

Contact Gary Hines for more information.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS
The following Committees have scheduled meetings to start the planning process for their hosted roundtables (all part of the SGA Operating Conference - July 22-24; Houston).

You can help shape the discussion by submitting topics for consideration for any of these Committees to Gary Hines.

- **Underground Storage**
  - Monday, February 11, 2013 1:00 to 5:00

- **Midstream**
  - Tuesday, February 12, 2013 8:00 to 12:00

- **Pipeline Construction Operations & Maintenance** (PCOM)
  - Tuesday, February 12, 2013 1:00 to 5:00

- **Distribution Construction Operations & Maintenance** (DCOM)
  - Tuesday, February 12, 2013 1:00 to 5:00 and Wednesday February 13 8:00 to 11:00

- **Distribution Engineering** (DE)
  - Tuesday, February 12, 2013 1:00 to 5:00 and Wednesday February 13 8:00 to 11:00

- **Distribution Integrity Management** (DIM)
  - Tuesday, February 12, 2013 1:00 to 5:00 and Wednesday February 13 8:00 to 11:00

- **Distribution Regulatory Compliance** (DRC)
  - Tuesday, February 12, 2013 1:00 to 5:00 and Wednesday February 13 8:00 to 11:00

- **Group Dinner**
  - Tuesday, February 12, 2013 7:00 to 9:00

- **PCOM/TIM Joint Planning Session**
  - Wednesday, February 13, 2013 8:00 to 10:00

- **Transmission Integrity Management** (TIM)
  - Wednesday, February 13, 2013 10:00 to 3:00

EVENTS CALENDAR

**UTILITY BEST PRACTICES WEBINAR SERIES**
On-Going

**TECHNICAL CONFERENCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING & CONSTRUCTION**
February 4-6, 2013 - Houston, TX

**SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE**
February 20-22, 2013
Marriott Sawgrass

**SPRING GAS CONFERENCE & EXPO**
*Mark Your Calendars - March 11-13, 2013 - Charlotte, NC*

This technical conference will feature a variety of workshops targeting distribution operating professionals. The planning committee chaired by Tucker Bullock, PSNC is developing a number of learning tracks targeting the needs of operating and engineering personnel. Workshops will include:
• Cathodic Protection - Basic and Advanced
• AC Mitigation
• Valve School 101 & 102
• Recognize and React to Abnormal Operating Conditions
• Emergency Management
• Incident Investigation
• Service Tech Training - Basic & Advanced
• Purging Safety and Leak Pinpointing
• Leak Classification
• Work Zone Safety
• Inspecting Pipelines
• Horizontal Directional Drilling
• Meter & Regulator Station Design
• Distribution System Design
• Pressure Testing of Pipes
• Safety Roundtable for Operating Professionals

Registration will be open in mid-December. Conference Chairman: Tucker Bullock, PSNC Energy, a SCANA Co.; SGA contact: Kent Hobart.

TRANSMISSION PIPELINE DESIGN
March 12-15, 2013 - Charlotte, NC
Registration will be open soon.
Monitor the Event Calendar for updates.

INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT
An INGAA / SGA Web Conference Series
April 1 - May 13
This series of web conferences is intended to promote discussion, learning and knowledge about issues and potential improvements to integrity management of the nation's natural gas pipeline infrastructure. This series complements the April 2012 series. It is intended to provide a technical foundation and stimulate thinking in anticipation of roundtables at the SGA Operating Conference in Houston, July 22-24, 2013.

MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE - April 3-5, 2013 - New Orleans, LA
Key topics for Distribution Operating Execs Roundtable
• Federal Regulatory Update - 2011 and 2013 Pipeline Safety Act Initiatives (PHMSA Representative)
• Lessons Learned from Hurricane Sandy
• Distribution Operations to Construction Management Panel
• DIM Audit Experience Discussion Panel
• Issues Keeping You Awake at Night - Roundtable Discussion:
  o Mandated and Self-directed Accelerated Replacement Programs
  o Metrics for risk mitigation
  o Business analytical models to quantify risk reduction over the life of replacement programs
  o Gap between OQ training and soft skill training

Key topics for Midstream Execs Roundtable
• Joint session with Transmission Execs on creating a culture of safety
• Increasing regulations for large diameter gathering pipelines
• Best practices and metrics
• NFPA 70E - electrical safety in the workplace
• Joint session with Transmission Execs on Cyber security (SCADA etc)
• Chair: Mark Widaski, Enogex
• Web page
Key topics for Transmission Execs Roundtable

- Creating a culture of safety
  - Personal Safety
  - Pipeline Safety
- Cyber Security
- Aging infrastructure (equipment and workforce)
- Control Room Management
- Chair: Tommy Kilpatrick, Nisource

OFFSHORE GAS OPERATIONS CONFERENCE & EXHIBITS
July 12-14, 2013 - Lake Charles, LA

SGA OPERATING CONFERENCE
July 22-24, 2013 - Houston, TX

Not seeing a workshop you are interested in or maybe want to bring one of our workshops to your location? Check out our full list of onsite workshops to indicate your interests.

GAS MEASUREMENT TRAINING COUNCIL (GMTC)

GMTC WORKSHOPS
The Gas Measurement Training Council is planning two events in Dallas during the week of January 14-17, 2013.

Outlines for the two 2-day workshops are provided below. These workshops will be led by two instructors from Barton Community College (BCC).

- Class size is limited to 20 due to the hands-on format
- BCC utilizes their mobile training trailer to simulate field operations (hands on)
- This training takes place at Atmos Energy’s Charles K. Vaughn Training Center in Plano TX (far north Dallas). Click the link below to learn more about this facility. The facility has a simulated live flow loop for even more hands on enhancement to this training.
- $650 per workshop
  - Includes student workbook, continental breakfast, lunch and breaks, group dinner one night.
- For students attending both 2-day workshops the fee is $1,200 total.
- Budget hotel accommodations are available within walking distance to the training facility.

Workshop 1 - Monday & Tuesday, January 14-15, 2013 - 8:00am-5:00pm
Training Topics: Link to REGISTER

- Print reading - P&ID, electrical, schematics, ladder diagrams
- Analog, digital, and pulse signals
- Meter selection
- RTDs, pressure transmitters
- Identify features of the Bristol and Fisher-ROC models of gas flow computers
- List elements of accurate orifice measurement
- Calculating flow using differential pressure
- Describe the operation of turbine meters
- Identify the components of turbine meter runs, and accessories
Workshop 2 - Wednesday & Thursday, January 16-17, 2013 - 8:00am-5:00pm
Training Topics: [Link to REGISTER]
- List elements of correct turbine meter maintenance
- Summarize steps of turbine meter troubleshooting
- Define terms used for ultrasonic flow meters
- Detail how ultrasonic signals are used to measure flow
- List features of common ultrasonic flow meters
- Outline maintenance and inspection requirements for ultrasonic meters
- Orifice meters in the differential pressure section
- Sampling and chromatography
- Fluid properties

User-Group Meeting
The second annual GMTC User Group meeting will be held January 16 (1-5 pm) and January 17 (8-11 am) at this same location. This will provide attendees the opportunity to see the BCC trailer "in action" (this trailer is available to GMTC members to bring to your location); see a training session being conducted; and get updates from your peers on smart practices for GMTC training implementation.

GMTC Board of Directors Meeting
January 16 (8 to noon)

SGA NETWORK

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE UPDATE FROM PHMSA
December 4 - 9:30 to 10:30 am CT
This program will be recorded and available if you are unable to attend the live event
In this interactive webinar Jeff Wiese, Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety will share his perspective on a range of topics including the just released PHMSA Strategic Plan. Jeff will provide an overview of how PHMSA works in Congress, promulgate regulation, and creates final regulation through the stages of the auditing process.

NETWORK NEWS - DECEMBER ISSUE
[Access the December issue], full of ideas on ways to use the Network in your organization, as well as information about upcoming events.

GAS MACHINERY RESEARCH COUNCIL

2012 was a good year for GMRC training and education programs, with a total of 1,520 individuals attending 11 events, highlighted by record attendance of 1,201 at the Gas Machinery Conference.

Upcoming Events
- January 29-30 - Project Supervisory Committee Meeting - Savannah GA
- January 31 - GMRC Board of Directors Meeting - Savannah GA

Preliminary 2013 Training Calendar
The 2013 program is still under development. Following is a preliminary list of planned events.
- **April 16-19 - GMRC Training Week - Pittsburgh PA (tentative)**
  - Will include the following workshops:
    - Project Planning & Management
    - Field Operations Maintenance Training
    - Factors in Compressor Station Design
    - Compressor Station Vibrations: Impact on Cost, Performance and Reliability
- **June 18-21 - Houston TX (tentative)**
  - New Foundation Design & Repair
Combustion Characteristics
- Factors in Compressor Station Design
- July 24-26 - Fort Worth TX
  - Engine Analyzer & Reliability Workshop
- October 6-9 - Albuquerque NM
  - GMRC Gas Machinery Conference
- Late October / early November - Oklahoma City OK
  - Engine Emissions Stack Testing Analyzer Workshop

BLOG HIGHLIGHTS

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

- Shale Works For Us
- Mele Kalikimaka!
- FERC Takes Next Step in Gas-Electric Coordination
- SGA DOT Compliance Workshop
- The Promise of Natural Gas

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

It is our hope that this Newsletter will serve to not only keep you up-to-date on the upcoming events, but will provide relevant information from past events that you might not have been able to participate in.

Sincerely,

Mike Grubb, President & CEO
Southern Gas Association