Southern Gas Association
Operations & Engineering
September 2012

In This Issue
- Survey of the Month
- Updates and Information
- Event Calendar
- SGA Network
- Gas Machinery Research Council
- Blog Highlights

SURVEY OF THE MONTH

The Transmission Technical Training Committee is considering scheduling the “Transmission Pipeline Design Workshop” as follows:
- March 12-15, 2013
- Charlotte, NC

If your company is interested in this workshop, please check the box on line #7 on our survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SGAWorkshops

INDUSTRY UPDATES

Advanced Replacement Programs Webinar Series - New
This series is currently under development with several Committees co-sponsoring (Distribution Integrity Management, Distribution Engineering, Distribution Construction O&M, Supply Chain, Distribution Regulatory Compliance, others).

Preliminary topics:
- Project Planning & Engineering
- Working with Contractors
- Material Management
- Regulatory
- Community Outreach and Communication
- Cross Bore Prevention
- Marketing

The series will feature subject matter expert, case studies and the ability to ask questions of your peers. For more information: Kent Hobart (khobart@southerngas.org).
Safety & Health Interest Group Update

The Safety & Health Committee hosted a breakout at the Operating Conference that featured more than 10 best practices for safety identified at their Safety & Health Roundtable (June 2012; New Orleans). This service allows our Operating Conference Roundtable attendees to access relevant information from subject matter experts. The Committee also hosted an “ask the expert” booth in the exhibit hall.

Visit the Committee’s Web page to:
- Download a copy of the 2011 Accident Experience Analysis Report
- Review who has received safety awards from the Committee including Meritorious and Humanitarian
- Review the video awards for 2012
  - Each year the Safety & Health Committee presents awards to member companies for video safety shorts that demonstrate best practices.
  - Visit their website to access a link to these videos – great content for tailgate safety meetings.
- Regulatory updates – see August edition featuring updates on several regulatory issues impacting the natural gas industry

Distribution Integrity Management Interest Group Update

SGA’s DIMP Committee hosted a dynamic roundtable at the 2012 Operating Conference. Highlights included a panel of four different operators sharing Lesson’s Learned Presentations and a Regulatory and Compliance Landscape Update from DeWitt Burdeaux, Pipeline Safety Specialist, PHMSA. Roundtable discussion covered a variety of topics including:
- High Risk Mitigation Plans
- Data Collection and Analysis Challenges and Strategies
- Resource Planning for both Internal and External Resources
- Accelerated Replacement of Vintage Pipe (Steel, Cast Iron and Plastic)
- Cross Bore Prevention

A short video featuring interviews with DeWitt and Mark Lauber of Laclede Gas, who chaired the roundtable, are available for viewing on the SGA Network website. Conference presentations can be accessed on the roundtable webpage.

Key areas of focus for the interest group over the next twelve months will be:
- First Time Annual Reviews
- Measuring Program Effectiveness
- The Evolution of DIM
- Paying for Needed System Improvements / Finding Vehicles for Rate Relief

These topics and others will drive content for a two part DIM Webinar series the committee will develop and deliver this fall and will also be key components on the agenda for the Everything DIM Workshop planned for the week of March 10, 2013 in Charlotte, NC.

As Operators focus on addressing their highest risk assets, more and more are evaluating Accelerated Replacement Programs (ARP) as a way to improve system safety and reliability. SGA’s DIMP and Distribution Construction Operating and Maintenance (DCOM) committees are partnering to develop an ARP webinar series to be delivered in the first quarter 2013. More information about SGA activity around this topic is provided in the ARP article shown above.

More about the Distribution Integrity Management Committee:
http://southerngas.org./index.php/section-main-page-distribution/180

Update on the Mutual Assistance Program

Hurricane Isaac was a reminder of the importance of having a Mutual Assistance program in place for your operations. Visit the Emergency Management Interest Group’s web page to learn more about the SGA program. Visit this SGA blog post to see the spin up of the SGA Mutual Assistance program in advance of the storm.

Update on the DOT 192 workshop

We ran a survey to measure interest in this workshop in the August Operations & Engineering Newsletter. There was sufficient interest for a transmission version of this workshop and that workshop will be scheduled for later this year. More information will be available in the October issue of this newsletter. Contact: Gary Hines.
**DOT 192 On-Line Program**
This course is designed to introduce the student to the code requirements found in the Department of Transportation Code of Federal Regulations (CFR Part 192). Visit the [program webpage](#) for more information including updated pricing for small and medium sized companies.

**Controls & Instrumentation Joint Industry Project**
The purpose of this JIP is to build a challenging, modular, vendor-neutral program that uses a blended-learning approach and is focused on skills and knowledge common to the Natural Gas Industry. The program would incorporate Computer/Web-Based Training, Instructor-Led Training, “Skill-Builders” hands-on activities and “Web-Quests” to enhance computer/web skills. The program would promote self sufficiency, critical thinking and troubleshooting skills. The program would include an entry-level baseline knowledge assessment tool, as well as test-out options for those with prior knowledge. An industry steering committee would monitor the program to maintain quality and to keep it current. Phase 1 of this project was completed in Q1-2011. Several member companies have expressed interest in moving this project forward. Please let [Gary Hines](#) know if you are interested. [Web page](#)

**Benchmarking Survey**
The following questions are included in a new SGA survey:

1. Hourly employees/Front line supervisor ratio union
2. Exe
3. Hourly employees/Front line supervisor ratio non-union
4. Any variables behind these numbers that may change these numbers, such as:
   - Are the employees in same general area?
   - What skill sets are involved, technicians, roustabouts, operators, etc?
   - Are there multiple skill sets under each supervisor?
   - Are the supervisors managing multiple functional areas, measurement, compression, pipeline, corrosion, etc?

To take this survey [click here](#).

**Executive Council Update**
The 2012 SGA Executive Council is working on a white paper / video project focusing on innovation, the power of partnerships and employee excellence. The deliverable will be:

- Video featuring Jim Carroll, innovation expert, with excerpts from member company CEO’s discussing the value of creating a culture of innovation
- A webinar featuring Jonathon Tisch, President & CEO, Lowes Corporation. Jonathon talks about the power of partnerships.
- A white paper with examples of how to grow in each of these areas
- Interviews of senior leaders from member companies discussing the importance of focusing in each of these areas.

The project will be completed and distributed to the SGA membership in late October. Chairing the Council is Mark Waltermire, CFO, The Laclede Group, with Victor Gaglio, Senior Vice-President and Chief Utility Operations Officer, Piedmont Natural Gas serving as his co-Chair. [Visit the Council’s web page](#)

**Celebrating our Volunteers**
Southern Gas Association has 350 volunteers serving on approximately 50 committees and interest groups. The goals and objectives of SGA are advanced by these volunteers. Each year, SGA bestows Service Awards to its volunteers.

The following individuals were recognized at the [Operating Conference](#):

- Charlie Childs, Kinder Morgan – Transmission Integrity Management
- Laura Comstock, SCANA - Public Awareness/Damage Prevention
- Chris Davis, NiSource - Right of Way
- Ted Glazebrook, Enterprise Products - Transmission Measurement
- Elliott Decker, Freeport LNG - LNG Operations
- Peter Kowalczik, JW Energy - Midstream
- Mark Lauber, Laclede Gas Co. - Distribution Integrity Management
- Ronny McKneely, CenterPoint - Pipeline Construction O & M
Ed Ostrovich, Atmos Energy - Distribution Engineering
Tony Parker, Arkansas-Oklahoma - Distribution Construction O & M
Cynthia Westcott, CenterPoint - Project Management
Phil Wilson, Columbia Gas of VA - Distribution Construction O & M
Randy Wilson, Alagasco - Distribution Regulatory Compliance
Terry Rittenhour, Spectra - Underground Storage

View their pictures on the SGA Facebook page.

EVENT CALENDAR

Natural Gas Fall Workshop
September 10 - 13, 2012
Athens, AL - Leak City
More information

Utility Best Practice Webinar Series
Ongoing
Webpage

Leading a Customer Focused Environment Webinar Series
On-going
Webpage

NGV Operations Roundtable
September 21-22
Tulsa OK (ONEOK hosting)
Webpage

Conference for Architects and Engineers
October 12-14
Dallas TX
Webpage

Introduction to the Natural Gas Industry
October 23-25
Dallas / Ft. Worth
Includes a tour of a “mini gas city” – Atmos Energy
Includes a tour of a Chesapeake Midstream facility in Ft. Worth
Webpage

Transmission Pipeline Design Workshop
November 6-9
Houston TX (Williams’ offices)
Sold out
Webpage

Technical Conference for Environmental Permitting & Construction
February 4-6, 2013
Houston TX
Webpage
Network News - September Issue
Click here to access the September issue, full of ideas on ways to use the Network in your organization, as well as information about upcoming events.

Training Best Practices: Learning Trends should be the same font as Benefits of Membership
September 25 (first available; available 24/7 following the event)
This web conference sponsored by the SGA Technology Training Committee will take an in-depth look at how organizational learning is CHANGING and NOT CHANGING.  Web

Benefits of Membership

GAS MACHINERY RESEARCH COUNCIL TRAINING

GMRC is a subsidiary of SGA. View all GMRC events.

Gas Machinery Conference

The GMRC Gas Machinery Conference will include three days of technical training and presentations, presented by the industry’s leading subject matter experts. The 2012 program will offer 13 short courses, 38 technical papers and 13 new technology updates. The conference includes a vendor exhibit with over 100 companies showcasing the latest equipment, technology and services.

September 30-October 3
Austin TX
Webpage

GMRC Quarterly Newsletter - Web

BLOG HIGHLIGHTS

The SGA Blog is a great way to keep up with everything that’s going on at SGA.

- AGA/SGA Transmission Best Practices Program – MAOP Records Verification Roundtable
- SGA Executive Newsletter - August 2012
- American Gas Foundation Study on Pipeline Replacement
- AGA’s 2012 Policy Handbook
- Craig Linn Speaks on Behalf of SGA and GMRC

Southern Gas Association
3030 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1300
Dallas TX 75234 U.S.A.
Phone - 972-620-4025 | Fax - 972-620-1613