



OGA News & Views

December 2019 — Volume 16, No. 4

A PUBLICATION OF THE OKLAHOMA GAS ASSOCIATION

IN THIS ISSUE

OGA Annual Corporate Sponsorship Returns for 2020	Page 2
Winter Weather Preparedness from OSHA	Page 3
World Energy Outlook Says Natural Gas Provides Flexibility and Fuels Growth	Page 5
Everyday Preventive Can Help Fight Germs, Like Flu	Page 6
Cold Versus Flu	Page 8

OGA 2020 Legislative Forum Will Be February 6

The annual OGA Legislative Forum scheduled for February 6, 2020 in Edmond, OK will feature Ken Wagner, Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment.

The Forum is a half-day prep session for the 2020 Oklahoma Legislative Session and other policy issues with the potential to impact the industry and association members.

“We have put together a very informative session leading into the 2020 legislative session,” said OGA Executive Director, Tom Rider. “I expect attendees to take away a great deal of important information on potential legislation, policy and regulatory matters that could impact our industry.”

Wagner will present an update from the Office of the Secretary of Energy and Environment, the Governor’s chief advisor on energy and environmental issues.

(see OGA 2020 LEGISLATIVE FORUM, page 3)

New Website Is Operational

The OGA recently rolled out its new, updated website at www.okgas.org, and all members are asked to visit the site, spend some time looking at it, and create their unique password.

“It is important that all members access our site and create their unique, secure login information and password,” said Jeff Kaufmann, OGA Director of Communications. “This will allow employees of member companies to easily register for OGA events, and, in the future, have access to event information, such as, presentations.”

An email was sent to everyone who has interacted with the association in the past few years, for example anyone who has attended an event.

“We believe we have achieved what we set out to do when we started looking at what we needed from our website,” Kaufmann added. “The most important things our members will see are a refreshed look of the site; increased functionality and ease of use for member interactions; job postings (coming soon); and, opportunities for associate members.”

With event registration working as it is expected to with the 2020 Legislative Forum, the focus for the first quarter of 2020 will be the job postings area. The association is currently in contact with several

(see NEW WEBSITE, page 3)

*We want to hear from you!
Ideas, concerns, ways to make the
association more effective for you.*

Tom Rider
Executive Director
Oklahoma Gas Association
308 N.E. 27th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-2717
E-mail: tom@okgas.org

OGA News & Views is published four times a year by the Oklahoma Gas Association. Any comments or article suggestions should be forwarded to:

Oklahoma Gas Association
308 N.E. 27th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-2717

Phone: (405) 528-1752
Fax: (405) 524-5095
Website: www.okgas.org

OGA Annual Corporate Sponsorship Returns for 2020

The OGA Annual Corporate Sponsorships — an opportunity for OGA members to make an annual investment in their association and its programs to advance the natural gas industry — returns for 2020.

“Our 2020 Annual Corporate Sponsorships have been slightly modified by our board,” said Tom Rider, OGA Executive Director. “The change will benefit members by including more seats at our educational and networking events for the sponsoring organizations.”

The OGA Annual Corporate Sponsorship delivers two significant benefits to enhance membership in the association.

First, the program provides companies the opportunity to plan long-term — look ahead for an entire year. Some of the benefits are improved time management and budgeting. Second, the program also puts associate members in front of decision makers at OGA events which are excellent

opportunities to network with industry leaders and grow business.

The sponsorships range between \$5,000 and \$1,000 and offer benefits based on the investment. Complete details for the 2020 will be available soon at www.okgas.org. To be an Annual Corporate Sponsor, association membership is required.

T.D. Williamson was a Platinum Corporate Sponsor for 2019 and Enable Midstream Partners was a Diamond. ONG was a Silver Sponsor. Oklahoma Natural Gas (a division of ONE Gas) was a Silver Sponsor, and Plasson USA and RepCom International were Bronze Sponsors.

For more information about OGA Memberships, Associate Memberships, the 2020 Annual Corporate Sponsorship Program, events, etc., please contact Tom Rider, Executive Director at 405-528-1752 or tom@okgas.org.

AGA Expects Lower Bills for Winter

From the American Gas Association
October 24, 2019

The American Gas Association (AGA) said that customers across the nation may see residential gas bills that are two to four percent lower than the previous winter.

“Americans are fortunate to be able to rely on natural gas knowing that the cost of heating their home will not break the family budget,” said Karen Harbert, AGA President and CEO.

During the 2019-2020 Winter Outlook event held today, AGA Managing Director of Energy Analysis Richard Meyer, and AGA Senior Analyst Brendan O’Brien presented the findings and methodology for the annual survey of AGA member utilities. The results highlighted a twenty-four percent drop in the price of natural gas compared to one year ago, an expected warmer-than-normal winter and 1.3 percent improvement in customer efficiency driven by utility energy efficiency programs and other measures.

Meyer commented at the event, “Our winter outlook shows that customers continue to benefit

from the access and use of natural gas. We see record levels of natural gas production amid a low-price environment, which has been beneficial to homes and businesses. What is also evident is how America’s natural gas utilities plan and prepare for the winter heating season to ensure their customers have affordable and reliable energy supplies on the coldest days of the year when consumers need it most.”

“Based on a survey of AGA member natural gas utilities, sixty-two percent of respondents said that bills this winter will be the same or lower than last year,” said O’Brien. His presentation also noted:

- Natural gas will continue to be the lowest-cost energy option for home heating.
- EIA’s winter forecast for Henry Hub price of gas is 24 percent lower now compared to one year ago and 12 percent lower than the average winter price over past five years.
- Expectations are for a warmer-than-normal winter based on National Weather Service 2019-2020 Winter forecast (3,635 heating degree days vs 3,816).

Winter Weather Preparedness from OSHA

From the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

Outdoor work requires proper preparation, especially in severe winter weather conditions. Although OSHA does not have a specific standard that covers working in cold environments, employers have a responsibility to provide workers with employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards, including winter weather related hazards, which are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to them (Section 5(a)(1) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970). Employers should, therefore, train workers on the hazards of the job and safety measures to use, such as engineering controls and safe work practices, that will protect workers' safety and health.

Employers Should Train Workers

At a minimum train workers on:

Cold Stress:

- How to select proper clothing for cold, wet, and windy conditions
- Other winter weather related hazards that workers may be exposed to, for example, slippery roads and surfaces, windy conditions, and downed power lines

- How to recognize these hazards
- How workers will be protected: engineering controls, safe work practices and proper selection of equipment, including personal protective equipment

Employers Should Provide Engineering Controls

Engineering controls can be effective in reducing the risk of cold stress. For example, radiant heaters may be used to warm workplaces like outdoor security stations. If possible, employers should shield work areas from drafts or wind to reduce wind chill.

Employers should use engineering controls to protect workers from other winter weather related hazards, for example, aerial lifts or ladders can be used for safely applying de-icing materials to roofs, to protect workers from the hazard of falling through skylights.

Employers Should Implement Safe Work Practices

Safe work practices that employers can implement to protect workers from injuries, illnesses and fatalities include:

- Providing workers with the proper tools and equipment to do their jobs
- Developing work plans that identify potential

(see WINTER WEATHER, page 7)

OGA 2020 Legislative Forum

(continued from page 1)

From the Oklahoma Corporation Commission Pipeline Safety Department, Dennis Fothergill and Kelly Phelps, will discuss the new damage prevention law and areas of industry improvement and possible future regulation.

As in previous years, a preview of the 2020 Oklahoma Legislative Session will be presented by

Craig Perry, Oklahoma Natural Gas and Bill Phelps, Phelps & Associates.

To register for OGA events, all members must create a login profile along with password to access the new, updated OGA website. An email was sent to all members recently.

To register [click here](#). The deadline to register for this event is February 3, 2020. Any questions may be directed to Jeff Kaufmann at jeffk@okgas.org.

New Website

(continued from page 1)

member company's human resources departments. Any member with open positions may post jobs on the website.

Associate members now have an additional opportunity to support the association by sponsoring the new website. To sponsor the page, membership

is required, and requests will be treated on a first come, first served basis.

The pricing will be as follows:

- \$80 per month (when 12 months are purchased)
- \$100 per month (when 6 months are purchased)
- \$175 per month (when purchased monthly)

Any questions about the new website may be directed to Kaufmann at jeffk@okgas.org.

Thank you
T.D. Williamson, Inc.
for being a
**Platinum Annual
Corporate Sponsor**



T.D. Williamson

World Energy Outlook Says Natural Gas Provides Flexibility and Fuels Growth

From the American Gas Association
November 13, 2019

The World Energy Outlook 2019 (WEO-2019) released today by the International Energy Agency (IEA) says, “gas grids provide a crucial mechanism to bring energy to consumers, typically delivering more energy than electricity networks and providing a valuable source of flexibility.” The report finds natural gas provided 45 percent of the growth in the world’s energy in 2018.

“The World Energy Outlook 2019 confirms that natural gas is key to meeting the world’s energy needs and serves as a solution to achieve our economic and environmental goals here in the United States and around the world,” said AGA President and CEO, Karen Harbert.

The WEO-2019 focuses significantly on natural gas and the role the United States will play in the production, consumption and trade of the commodity. IEA also found that the United States will continue to lead the world in natural gas production and could contribute over 40 percent of total global gas production growth through 2025. WEO-2019 projects a future with continued technological, market and financial innovations that make natural gas more accessible, reduce costs and improve efficiency.

AGA, in conjunction with the Potential Gas Committee, recently announced the U.S. has more recoverable natural gas than ever before in our nation’s history at 3,374 tcf, a 20 percent increase from just two years ago. America’s natural gas utilities are committed to leveraging and utilizing America’s abundant, domestic, affordable and clean natural gas to help meet the nation’s energy and environmental needs.

Thank you



**Oklahoma
Natural Gas™**

A Division of ONE Gas

for being a

Silver Annual Corporate Sponsor

2019 – 2020 OGA Board of Directors

Jason Crowe

Green Equipment Company
Chair

Ricky Whittington

Enable Midstream
Vice Chair

Larry Alspaugh

T D Williamson
Secretary

Vonda Zimmerman

US SafetySigns & Decal
Treasurer

Jimmy Eastham

NOPFA

Roger Eichelberger

Municipal Utility Board, Pryor

Steven Fry

CenterPoint Energy – Oklahoma

Mark Haptonstall

AOG/Summit

Randy Mashburn

ONEOK Partners

Kasey Wilson

ONE Gas

Advisory Board Members

Sean Epps

Heath Consulting

Rusty Jennett

LASEN™

Don McCoy

McCoy Consulting

Don Olson

IRT Integrated Rectifier
Technologies, Inc.

Everyday Preventive Actions Can Help Fight Germs, Like Flu

From Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC recommends three actions to fight flu.

1. The first and most important step is to get a flu vaccination each year.
2. If you get sick with flu, take prescription antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them. Early treatment is especially important for the elderly, the very young, people with certain chronic health conditions, and pregnant women.
3. Take everyday preventive actions that may slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory (nose, throat, and lungs) illnesses, like flu.

How does flu spread?

Flu viruses are thought to spread mainly from person to person through droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk. Less often, a person might get flu by touching a surface or object that has

flu virus on it and then touching his or her own mouth, nose, or possibly eyes. Many other viruses spread these ways too. People infected with flu may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 5-7 days after becoming sick. That means you may be able to spread flu to someone else before you know you are sick as well as while you are sick. Young children, those who are severely ill, and those who have severely weakened immune systems may be able to infect others for longer than 5-7 days.

What are everyday preventive actions?

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you or your child gets sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you (or your child) stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone except to get medical care or for other

(see EVERYDAY PREVENTIVE, page 8)

Thank you



for being a
**Diamond Annual
Corporate Sponsor**

Winter Weather

(continued from page 3)

hazards and the safety measures that will be used to protect workers

- Scheduling maintenance and repair jobs for warmer months
- Scheduling jobs that expose workers to the cold weather in the warmer part of the day
- Avoiding exposure to extremely cold temperatures when possible
- Limiting the amount of time spent outdoors on extremely cold days
- Using relief workers to assign extra workers for long, demanding jobs
- Providing warm areas for use during break periods
- Providing warm liquids (no alcohol) to workers
- Monitoring workers who are at risk of cold stress
- Monitoring the weather conditions during a winter storm, having a reliable means of communicating with workers and being able to stop work or evacuate when necessary
- Acclimatizing new workers and those returning after time away from work by gradually increasing their workload, and allowing more frequent breaks in warm areas, as they build up a tolerance for working in the cold environment
- Having a means of communicating with workers, especially in remote areas
- Knowing how the community warns the public about severe weather: outdoor sirens, radio, and television
 - o The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) provides multiple ways to stay informed about winter storms. If you are notified of a winter storm watch, advisory or warning, follow instructions from your local authorities: NOAA Weather Radio

Employers Should Consider Protective Clothing that Provides Warmth

Employers must provide personal protective equipment (PPE), for example, fall protection, when required by OSHA standards to protect workers' safety, and health. However, in limited cases specified in the standard (29 CFR 1910.132), there are exceptions to the requirement for employers to provide PPE to workers. For instance, there is no OSHA requirement for employers to provide workers with ordinary clothing, skin creams, or other items, used solely for protection from weather, such as winter coats, jackets, gloves, parkas, rubber boots, hats, raincoats, ordinary sunglasses, and sunscreen (29 CFR 1910.132(h)(4)). Regardless of this, many employers provide their workers with winter weather gear such as winter coats/jackets and gloves.

Learn more about PPE requirements and how to design an effective PPE program: Personal Protective Equipment (OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page).

Dressing Properly for the Cold

Dressing properly is extremely important to preventing cold stress. When cold environments or temperatures cannot be avoided, the following would help protect workers from cold stress:

- Wear at least three layers of loose-fitting clothing. Layering provides better insulation.
 - o An inner layer of wool, silk or synthetic (polypropylene) to keep moisture away from the body. Thermal wear, wool, silk or polypropylene, inner layers of clothing that will hold more body heat than cotton.
 - o A middle layer of wool or synthetic to provide insulation even when wet.

(see WINTER WEATHER, page 8)

Thank you



**for being a
Bronze Annual
Corporate Sponsor**

Thank you



**for being a
Bronze Annual
Corporate Sponsor**

Cold Versus Flu

From Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

What is the difference between a cold and flu?

Flu and the common cold are both respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by different viruses. Because these two types of illnesses have similar symptoms, it can be difficult to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone. In general, flu is worse than the common cold, and symptoms are more intense. Colds are usually milder than flu. People with colds are more likely to have a runny or stuffy nose. Colds generally do not result in serious health problems, such as pneumonia, bacterial infections, or hospitalizations. Flu can have very serious associated complications.

Because colds and flu share many symptoms,

it can be difficult (or even impossible) to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone. Special tests that usually must be done within the first few days of illness can tell if a person has the flu.

What are the symptoms of the flu versus the symptoms of a cold?

The symptoms of flu can include fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches and fatigue (tiredness).

Cold symptoms are usually milder than the symptoms of flu. People with colds are more likely to have a runny or stuffy nose. Colds generally do not result in serious health problems.

Everyday Preventive

(continued from page 7)

necessities. The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.

- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. After using a tissue, throw it in the trash and wash your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.

- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs that can cause respiratory illnesses like flu.
- If an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs, follow public health advice. This may include information about how to increase distance between people and other measures.
- If an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs, follow public health advice. This may include information about how to increase distance between people and other measures.

For more information, visit: www.cdc.gov/flu or call 1-800-CDC-INFO

Winter Weather

(continued from page 7)

- o An outer wind and rain protection layer that allows some ventilation to prevent overheating.
- Tight clothing reduces blood circulation. Warm blood needs to be circulated to the extremities. Insulated coat/jacket (water resistant if necessary)
- Knit mask to cover face and mouth (if needed)
- Hat that will cover your ears as well. A hat will help keep your whole body warmer. Hats reduce the amount of body heat that escapes from your head.
- Insulated gloves (water resistant if necessary), to protect the hands
- Insulated and waterproof boots to protect the feet

Safety Tips for Workers

- Your employer should ensure that you know the symptoms of cold stress
- Monitor your physical condition and that of your coworkers
- Dress appropriately for the cold
- Stay dry in the cold because moisture or dampness, e.g. from sweating, can increase the rate of heat loss from the body
- Keep extra clothing (including underwear) handy in case you get wet and need to change
- Drink warm sweetened fluids (no alcohol)
- Use proper engineering controls, safe work practices, and personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by your employer