



OGA News & Views

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

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Registration Is Open for the 2019 OGA Annual Conference

The 2019 OGA Annual Conference returns to Norman, Oklahoma August 26 – 28 and registration is now open at www.okgas.org.

"We've been working hard to put together a line-up of speakers and topics to bring value to our members," said Tom Rider, OGA Executive Director. "I am confident we've put together a well rounded conference with something for everyone."

Featured speakers include T.D. Williamson CEO & President, Bob McGrew, who is scheduled to discuss "The Value of Relationships In A Materials Tracking World." An invitation has been extended to Oklahoma's new Director of the Oklahoma Office Emergency Management, Mark Gower, who is expected to speak on "Understanding OEM."

A strong set of breakout sessions will also be part of the 2019 conference. They include: Mechanical Integrity & Corrosion Control;

(see REGISTRATION page 4)

A Message from Tom Rider, OGA Executive Director — "To Golf or Not To Golf"

For the past several years, we have found ourselves asking "will we be able to hold the OGA Scholarship Classic?"

And this year is no different. Unfortunately, we have been forced to cancel the event for 2019. We just didn't have the registration numbers needed to make this a successful event.

The Scholarship Classic is one of the events where the association raises money for the Scholarship Fund. It also has served as a great networking opportunity.

The registration numbers have been steadily declining over the past few years. This is a trend we understand is common for the golf industry today. In our case, we can only speculate about the factors causing the decline. Are our members too busy, are our member companies not paying for these types of events, are we playing the wrong course, etc.

While this issue is something we are familiar with, we continue to struggle with a solution to help ensure this event is a success. The first step was guidance provided by the board that called for a minimum of 40

(see TO GOLF OR NOT TO GOLF, page 2)

AGA Welcomes DOE's Research and Development Grants to Drive Innovative Natural Gas Technologies

From the American Gas Association
April 18, 2019

The American Gas Association (AGA) praised the Department of Energy's (DOE) [announcement](#) to invest up to \$39 million in federal funding for cost-shared research and development projects to enhance natural gas technologies.

"This funding announcement by the Department of Energy is forward-looking, focused on new solutions to capitalize on America's abundant supply of natural gas," said AGA's President and CEO, Karen Harbert. "This investment into research and development can enhance the natural gas industry's development of advanced technologies for safety operations and efficiency improvements. The focus on infrastructure technology development could fund more research for in line inspections and other inspection tools.

The 2.5 million miles of natural gas pipelines carry a quarter of our nation's energy and we are committed to their continued reliability for the 178 million Americans that enjoy the benefits of natural gas service and millions more that want it."

DOE will provide up to \$24 million for projects that support the development of tools, methods and/or technologies to cost-effectively enhance the safety and efficiency of the nation's natural gas production, gathering, transmission, and storage infrastructure.

Additionally, the funding will focus on three areas: Advanced Technologies to Mitigate Methane Emissions and Increase the Efficiency of the Natural Gas Transportation Infrastructure, Process-Intensified Technologies for the Upcycling of Flare Gas into Transportable, Value-Added Products and Advanced Methane Detection and Measurement Technology Validation.

To Golf or Not to Golf

(continued from page 1)

players to proceed with the event.

Let me tell you why I'm sharing this information with you.

First, you may see emails to register for an event followed by an email announcing the cancellation of an event, so I thought a little background was important.

Second, regardless of whether it is a golf tournament or other fundraising activities, I trust our

membership will be generous and we will be able to continue scholarships.

I would love to hear from you about the OGA Scholarship Classic – what can we improve; why do you play; why don't you play; what is happening at your company, etc. Also, do you have any ideas of other activities that can raise funds for our Scholarship Fund.

Shoot me a quick email at tom@meso.org and let me know what you think.

Thank you



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OGA Hosts 2019 OGA Leadership Conference

A packed house was on hand for the 2019 OGA Leadership Conference held May 2 in Norman, OK.

The theme for the session was “Initiative: The Ball is Yours” and featured a series of speakers who achieved success for either themselves or their organization based on their individual efforts. The four speakers each covered a unique area followed by attendees working in small groups to develop pieces of their personal action plan.

“Our goal was to have attendees be able to leave the conference with prioritized steps needed to move forward on a success path,” said OGA Executive Director, Tom Rider. “It is our hope they were able to take what they learned and develop a personal action plan for leadership based on their unique situation and needs.”

Enable Midstream Partners’ Senior Operations Director, Connie Oslica, begin the day by posing the question “What do you want?” He noted in his comments that he “wanted to do some good along the way.” His remarks were followed by small group brainstorming where attendees personal and professional goals, the compatibility of those goals, and skill needed to achieve them.

Understanding “What you bring to the organization” was discussed by ONEOK Director Pipeline Operations, David McMullen. One of his key messages included “be yourself and be confident.” His remarks lead to small group working on answering “what should the organization expect of me and do I need to do the help the organization succeed.”

Teryl Rose, ONE Gas, Vice President of Environment, Safety, and Health, will discussed “Transfer of Knowledge.” He told the audience nearly everything you need to know about your organization is available to you if you are willing to read or “observe with a purpose.” Again small groups worked together. They addressed preparation for success for themselves or their subordinates along what can be asked of supervisors to help with their success.

Tom Rider, OGA Executive Director, delivered the days final presentation discussing “Positioning Yourself Success.” His remarks focused on three critical areas: Adability, Conceptualization and Analytical Reasoning.



AGA Issues Safety Guidance on Workforce Knowledge, Skills and Communications

From the American Gas Association
April 09, 2019

The American Gas Association (AGA) has published "[Skills and Experience for Effectively Designing Natural Gas Systems](#)" which contains guidance for members on the skills and knowledge necessary to safely perform engineering work functions on a natural gas system and effectively communicate about changes necessary to maintain and enhance the system over time.

"Safety is the top priority for America's natural gas utilities and we do not wait for legislative or regulatory mandates to take action to enhance the safety of the 2.5 million miles of pipelines that deliver essential energy throughout the country," said AGA President and CEO Karen Harbert. "Our industry employs a highly-skilled workforce that is committed to protecting our customers and the communities that we serve. This guidance identifies leading practices for the knowledge and experience necessary to design pipeline systems."

- This report is part of an ongoing effort to review the tragic incident that took place in the Merrimack Valley of Massachusetts in September and identify leading practices to avoid such incidents in the future.
- The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) report on the Merrimack Valley incident

made recommendations about the professional qualifications for individuals designing natural gas pipelines.

- The report details a tiered approach to developing a foundational understanding of natural gas systems, improving knowledge about operator-specific processes and procedures, and building technical knowledge.
- One key for continuous improvement is implementing management of change processes - a leading practice for evaluating and mitigating the risk of significant changes to a pipeline system.
- The report also highlights the importance of pipeline safety management systems - a holistic approach to enhancing pipeline safety by promoting safety awareness, vigilance and cooperation company-wide.
- Almost immediately after the incident, AGA also started compiling information from members on over-pressurization, which was identified by NTSB as the cause.
- AGA took those responses - about equipment, procedures, training, and oversight - organized them, vetted them and identified leading practices.
- "Leading Practices to Reduce the Possibility of a Natural Gas Over-Pressurization Event" was [released on November 26, 2018](#).

Registration

(continued from page 1)

Questions for 811; Compression for Pipeliners; ROW/ Real Estate Services; Treatment or Dehydration & Natural Gas; DIMP; Understanding ODOL's Complimentary Safety Inspections; and, PHMSA Rulemaking: New & Under Discussion

Returning for 2019 are Product / Service Demonstrations provided by Associate Members. The demonstrations will take place Wednesday, August 28th and include:

- Rectifier Selection: What's Right for Your Application
- Remote Methane 24/7 Storage System

- TD Williamson New Product Development for Gas DS Operators, Steel & PE
- Integration of Leak Survey Analytics with DOT 192 Leak Survey and Leak Detection Technologies
- New Rules for Excess Flow Valves

In addition to educational session, the conference will hold its annual pre-conference activities – golf tournament and sporting clays shoot - Monday August 26th. Also returning is the Cornhole Tournament (Tuesday, August 27th) with proceeds going to the OGA Scholarship Fund.

Questions about the conference may be directed to Jeff Kaufmann at jeffk@meso.org.

Energy Executive Orders Benefit American Families and Our Environment

From the American Gas Association
April 10, 2019

The American Gas Association (AGA) applauded executive orders aimed at speeding up the approval, permitting and construction of pipelines and other energy infrastructure.

"Today's executive orders clear the way for development of new natural gas pipelines, enabling greater access to natural gas thereby benefitting American families and our environment," said AGA President and CEO Karen Harbert. "Safety is the top priority for America's natural gas utilities and delivering clean natural gas safely, reliably and affordably is our commitment to our customers and the communities we serve."

America's natural gas utilities add an average of [one new customer every minute](#) nationwide servicing the millions of Americans who want access to gas.

"When states say 'no' to the development of natural gas pipelines, they force utilities to curb safe and affordable service and refuse access to new customers including new businesses. Limiting access and choice for Americans - driving up costs and emissions in the process - is simply bad policy," Harbert stated.

Increased use of natural gas has led to U.S. energy-related carbon dioxide emissions hitting [25-year lows](#). Public policy at every level should recognize the role that the direct use of natural gas will continue to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

A [recent study](#) from the National Bureau of Economic Research found that the drop in natural gas prices averted 11,000 winter deaths per year in the U.S.

Harbert continued, "Americans deserve a choice when it comes to their energy and enabling the development of natural gas pipelines gives them an opportunity to choose reliability, affordability and a clean energy future."

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Expanding Natural Gas Infrastructure Will Satisfy Domestic and International Demand

From the American Gas Association
May 14, 2019

The American Gas Association (AGA) is proud to join the more than 500 affiliate organizations, companies, and cities participating in [Infrastructure Week](#), leading the fight to rebuild and modernize America's infrastructure. Expanding our nation's natural gas pipeline network is necessary to achieve our economic, environmental and national security goals.

"The United States has an abundant and growing supply of clean natural gas, more than enough to satisfy existing and new markets at very competitive prices," said AGA President and CEO Karen Harbert. "Exporting natural gas is reducing our nation's trade deficit while assisting other countries to break their dependence on suppliers that use natural gas as a foreign policy weapon."

On Tuesday, May 14, President Trump will tour the Cameron LNG Terminal in Hackberry, LA. The U.S. is exporting 4.5 billion cubic feet (Bcf) per day per day thus far in 2019—1.4 Bcf more per day than the first four months of 2018 according to AGA's Natural Gas Market Indicators [published](#) on April 26.

"It's ironic that America's abundant natural gas

can help to meet the needs of people all across the globe yet it cannot reach some markets here at home," Harbert continued. "Sadly, we have seen policymakers in some areas preventing pipelines from being built, subjecting their constituents to higher costs, elevated emissions and a deeper reliance on natural gas imports from abroad."

Our nation's daily gas production in April averaged 86.7 Bcf and is running 8.2 Bcf per day higher than in April 2018. Average daily production is also nearly 8 Bcf per day higher year-to-date than one year ago.

AGA has confidence in the expanding natural gas resource base and its ability to satisfy existing and new markets at very competitive prices. Further, we believe that new market demand is critical in terms of stimulating new production technologies and practices that benefit all natural gas consumers.

The United States possesses a total technically recoverable resource base of 2,817 trillion cubic feet as of year-end 2016 according to the Potential Gas Committee's [biennial assessment](#). This is the highest resource evaluation in the Committee's 52-year history, exceeding the previous high assessment from 2014 by 12 percent. An updated report is expected summer 2019.

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