



## Weekly Update February 17, 2011

### **DOT Announces Regulatory Review**

On February 16, the Department of Transportation (DOT) announced that it is conducting a review of its existing regulations to evaluate their continued validity and determine whether they are crafted effectively to solve current problems. This action is in response to Executive Order 13563, "Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review." As part of this review, DOT invites the public to participate in a comment process designed to help DOT ensure that it has a plan for periodically analyzing existing significant rules to determine whether they should be modified, streamlined, expanded, or repealed and identify specific rules that may be outmoded, ineffective, insufficient, or excessively burdensome. The Department also will hold a public meeting to discuss and consider comments from members of the public. Comments are due to DOT on or before April 1, 2011. View the announcement here at [www.apga.org/FR76](http://www.apga.org/FR76).

The announcement is being reviewed by the Operations and Safety Committee. For more information contact John Erickson, APGA vice president, Operations 202-464-2742, ext 1002 or [jerickson@apga.org](mailto:jerickson@apga.org).

### **Instructions for Submitting 2010 Distribution Annual Reports to PHMSA**

Beginning this year the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) requires that all distribution annual reports be filed electronically using PHMSA's on-line reporting tool. Last month APGA participated in a webinar in which PHMSA walked through the reporting process. Now PHMSA has published a guide to the electronic reporting process. [This guide is available here](#) under the Gas Distribution Annual Report section. The in-depth "how-to guide" is available [here](#).

Distribution annual reports for calendar year 2010 must be filed no later than March 15, 2011. For more information contact John Erickson, APGA vice president, Operations 202-464-2742, ext 1002 or [jerickson@apga.org](mailto:jerickson@apga.org).

### **2011 Marketing & Sales Award – Entries Invited**

APGA invites you to participate in the 2011 APGA Marketing & Sales Award competition. This award encourages APGA members to submit their marketing or sales program, project, or

customer service campaign for consideration and recognition. Judging will focus on programs, projects and campaigns with measurable results and ask the system to specify a key project individual(s).

**Criteria for Entry:**

1. The gas marketing or sales program, project or campaign must be active in 2010/2011 and have measurable results to demonstrate value. Supporting collateral and documentation should be sent in electronic format to [bbeauregard@apga.org](mailto:bbeauregard@apga.org).
2. Appliances (if applicable) must have been installed in 2010.
3. Entries must be received by Wednesday, June 15, 2011, to be eligible.

The winning public gas system will be presented the award at the APGA Annual Conference in Memphis, TN in July. The winning public gas system will also be invited to send a representative to make a presentation on their award winning program at the April 2012 Marketing & Sales Trends and Training Conference.

Please view the entry form at [www.apga.org/2010MSAwardForm](http://www.apga.org/2010MSAwardForm). Complete and return the form no later than June 15, 2011.

For more information, contact Bob Beauregard at 202-464-2742 or [bbeauregard@apga.org](mailto:bbeauregard@apga.org).

**APGA Creates NGV Task Force**

Three weeks ago, during the Gas Supply Conference in Ft. Myers, FL, the APGA Board approved the creation of a Natural Gas Vehicles (NGV) Task Force. The creation of the Task Force is particularly timely given the increased interest in NGVs and due to the projected changes in energy prices in both the short and long-terms.

From November of 2010 to the present, the price of gasoline and other energy commodities has increased significantly. The combination of stronger global demand for oil, the approaching U.S. peak driving seasons, and the instability in the Middle East has driven the national average price per gallon for gasoline to approximately \$3.13. A large number of analysts are projecting that prices for gasoline will hit \$4.00/gallon or more by the summer and long-term trends point to even higher prices over the next several years.

Given the bleak outlook on gasoline prices, there is a significant opportunity for the newly created NGV Task Force to aid member systems and their communities in the transition to NGVs. The transition to NGVs has significant potential to reduce dependence on foreign oil, create jobs, and save taxpayers' money. To that end, the Task Force will focus on three key areas:

1. To act as a clearinghouse of information on NGVs;

2. To provide advice to APGA members on matters about NGVs; and,
3. To play the active and leading roles in APGA's NGV-related advocacy efforts.

On Friday, February 11, APGA solicited APGA members to participate in the Task Force. New Members are still being accepted and if you are interested in participating, please contact Dave Schryver [dschryver@apga.org](mailto:dschryver@apga.org) or Scott Morrison [smorrison@apga.org](mailto:smorrison@apga.org). The NGV Task Group will likely hold regular (i.e., bi-weekly to monthly conference calls), and we will convene our first face-to-face meeting in May during the APGA Board and Committee meetings. Although the NGV Task Group will meet during APGA's quarterly meetings, you do not have to travel to APGA meetings to be a member.

If you have any questions on this article, please contact Scott Morrison of APGA's staff by phone at 202-464-2742 or by email at [smorrison@apga.org](mailto:smorrison@apga.org).

### **APGA CEO & President Bert Kalisch to Speak at the Southeast LDC Gas Forum**

On Wednesday, April 13, Bert Kalisch, president & CEO of APGA, will give a keynote speech at the Southeast LDC Gas Forum in Atlanta, Georgia. His speech entitled ***"Refocus on Natural Gas: Our Bridge to the Energy Future"*** will explain the challenges and opportunities of pending legislation and regulation in Congress and at the various agencies that impact the operation of our industry and LDCs. Specifically, Mr. Kalisch will address timely topics such as gas supply, exportation, the CFTC implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act, energy efficiency, and pipeline safety reauthorization. In addition he will touch on ways LDCs can support increasing the direct use and adoption of natural gas, the integration of NGVs, and the role of natural gas in a smart energy future.

If you are interested in learning more or registering for the Southeast LDC Gas Forum, please go to <http://www.ldcgasforums.com/se/>.

### **Leverage Geography to Satisfy DIMP Requirements**

Every threat involved in a distribution integrity management program (DIMP) has a geographic location. When you use GIS technology, you are able to connect distribution data to its geographic location. This allows you to keep information current, and provides you with a powerful analytical tool to identify and quantify threats, calculate and model risks, and create accurate reports.

GIS technology leverages the geographic components of your gas distribution system to help you reduce risk, improve safety, and satisfy DIMP requirements.

In an ongoing webinar series, Esri gives you a firsthand look at how to complete crucial DIMP requirements using GIS technology. The free webinar series will demonstrate how to identify threats, evaluate and mitigate risk, and measure the performance of your process.

**Register to take part in the series:**

**February 23—GIS and DIMP**

Learn how to use GIS for distribution risk assessment and field data collection. Find out how GIS can also help you document and demonstrate an understanding of your system. Beyond DIMP, see how GIS helps you meet key performance indicators without any additional investment

**March 23 –Maintain Critical DIMP data**

See how GIS can help you maintain and access critical DIMP data. We will discuss how the same data and software can be used to improve decision making in other areas of the utility.

**April 20 –Collect and Validate Field Data**

Learn how to use GIS-based mobile tools to record new information and validate existing field data. Then, expand the use of these tools to other business processes.

**May 18 - Present and Expose DIMP Results**

Discover how GIS can be used to communicate DIMP analysis results with regulators, decision makers, and stakeholders. Beyond DIMP, see how GIS can help improve decision making.

**June 15 – Measure Risk and Answer Critical Questions**

Step through the process of using GIS to measure risk and complete DIMP analysis. Find out how free models can add value to your organization.

**Sign up for the free DIMP webinar series at [www.esri.com/dimp](http://www.esri.com/dimp).**

**Weekly Storage Report: Storage decreases to 1,911 Bcf.**

Here is the weekly EIA Summary Report issued on Thursday, February 17, 2011, that reports last week's storage report highlights for Friday, February 11, 2011. A 233 Bcf decline has been reported.

**Summary**

Working gas in storage was 1,911 Bcf as of Friday, February 11, 2011, according to EIA estimates. This represents a net decline of 233 Bcf from the previous week. Stocks were 141 Bcf less than last year at this time and 128 Bcf below the 5-year average of 2,039 Bcf. In the East Region, stocks were 135 Bcf below the 5-year average following net withdrawals of 118 Bcf. Stocks in the Producing Region were 18 Bcf above the 5-year average of 680 Bcf after a net

withdrawal of 91 Bcf. Stocks in the West Region were 11 Bcf below the 5-year average after a net drawdown of 24 Bcf. At 1,911 Bcf, total working gas is within the 5-year historical range.