

APGA – Benchmarking Tool

Users' Guide



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Overview

The APGA Benchmarking Tool allows users to compare their system with averages for other systems or self-defined sub-groups on more than 60 different operational statistics such as number of services by company type or state, leaks per mile of main by cause and damages per excavation ticket. Data for the benchmarks comes from PHMSA Distribution Annual Reports (Form 7100.1-1) Energy Information Administration (EIA) Form 176 and APGA surveys.

Getting Started

Open your internet browser and log on at: <http://>

benchmark.apga.org/

 American Public Gas Association

LoginAPGA Benchmarking 2 HelpContact Us

Welcome to APGA Benchmarking 2

E-mail Address:

Password:

Login

[Forgot your password?](#)

Guidance

- The first step is to identify yourself so that you will have access to your plans.
- Please enter the e-mail address and password you use at the APGA website.
- If you want to change your password, please log into www.apga.org with your **APGA** e-mail address and password. Click on your picture and then **PROFILE**. Change your password by then clicking on **My Account** and choosing **Reset Password**.

[More >>>](#)

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[Contact Us](#)
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APGA Benchmarking 2 Version: 2.2.1

Header

Menu

Footer

The **Header**, **Menu** and **Footer** will appear on every screen. The contents of the **Menu** may change depending on which screen is displayed.



Enter your user name and password, then a screen like this *may* appear:

User: vern@vjmnet.com ▾

APGA Benchmarking 2 Help ▾

Contact Us

New APGA Benchmarking 2 Announcements

Guidance

Whenever you login, any new announcements made since you last logged in will be shown here.
In addition, any "permanent" announcements will also be shown.
Click "Next" to continue.

Next

2016-04-11

aBench Version 2.2.1

aBench has been updated to address the following issues.
There are new features that are available the next time you use **aBench**.

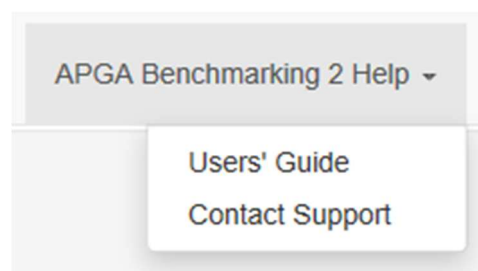
- **New User Interface:**
The user interface is now a "responsive web" design. This will make **aBench** easier to use on mobile devices as well as through your internet browser.
- **New Filters:**
Many new filters have been added giving more control over the Peer group specification.
- **Filter Settings Saved:**
Your filter settings are saved whenever you change them so that they can be restored the next time you login.

Whenever there are new or important **Announcements**, they will be shown once you login.

Contact Support: *If at any time you encounter problems using the APGA Benchmarking Tool, such as*

Fatal error: Uncaught exception 'Zend_Db_Statement_Exception' with message 'SQLSTATE[42000]: Syntax error or access violation

*or have questions not answered in this user's guide, click "APGA Benchmarking 2 Help" and then "Contact Support" in the **Menu**.*



*This will open a screen in which you should describe the problem encountered.
When you click "Submit," an email message to the **APGA** help desk.*

Contact Support

Your Email Address:

Please Describe Your Problem:

Submit

*When you use “Contact Support,” the **APGA Benchmarking Tool** automatically includes information about where you are in the program that assists our help desk to pinpoint the source of your problems or questions.*

NOTE: The telephone number shown on the the APGA Benchmarking Tool screens (Contact Us) is for administrative support only (e.g. forgot your password or user name). It is not for technical support.

After reviewing any announcements, click “Next” to continue. A screen like this will appear.

User: vern@vjimnet.com ▾

APGA Benchmarking 2 Help ▾

Contact Us


Welcome to APGA Benchmarking 2

Systems With APGA ID 2205

Guidance

Here is a list of systems associated with your Member ID.

Choose the system of interest for benchmarking by clicking on the “View” button next to that system name in the list.

| | System Name | State | Year |
|--|-----------------|----------------------|------|
|  View | Demo Gas System | District of Columbia | 2014 |
| View | Demo Gas System | District of Columbia | 2013 |
| View | Demo Gas System | District of Columbia | 2012 |



Choose Your System

All of the systems associated with your user name will be displayed. There will be an entry in the list for each year in which data is available for your system(s).

When you log in, the APGA Benchmarking Tool recognizes your system(s) and only allows you to compare your system(s) with peers. If for some reason you need to see a different system for comparison, contact APGA.

Choose the year and system for which you wish to see results by clicking the “View” next to that entry in the list.

Results

The results comparing your current system against all of the available data will appear.

User: vern@vjmnnet.com ▾

Benchmark Results

APGA Benchmarking 2 Help ▾

Contact Us

Benchmarking -- Results

Results - Data Sources: EIA Form 176, PHMSA Annual Reports and APGA membership database (Version: 2.2.1)

Peer Group:

Data Sources For Year 2014

System:

Demo Gas System For 2014

DC

Active Filters:

Standard - Peer Group Data Year = 2014

Click here to change filter settings:

Change

Click here to download to a spreadsheet:

CSV

| | Peer Group | System | Difference |
|--|------------|-----------|------------|
| Data Summary | | | |
| # of systems in peer group | 1570 | | |
| Data Year | 2014 | 2014 | |
| Miles of Mains | 1,242,752 | 1,130 | |
| # of Services | 66,571,063 | 57,532 | |
| General | | | |
| Average # of customers | 57,345 | 55,756 | -3% |
| Average Miles of Main | 949 | 1,130 | 19% |
| Average # of employees | 27 | 125 | 367% |
| Average Transport + Sales to End-Users (Mcf) | 11,689,427 | 5,700,337 | -51% |

At the top, a summary of the data is shown. This includes the section “Active Filters” that will be described in the next section. Please note that the above show only partial results. There are more than 100 benchmarks actually calculated.



Below these are the results. The first columns describe the particular data being compared.

The column “Peer Group” shows the appropriate totals, averages or percentages for all the other **Benchmarking Tool** data (in addition to your own) against which your data is being compared. This is the “Peer Data.”

The “System” column shows the same data for your system.

The “Difference” column shows the percent difference between your data and the peer data. This is calculated by the following equation:

$$\text{Difference} = (\text{Your data} - \text{Peer data}) / \text{Peer data}$$

Filtering Peer Data

Filters may be used to “drill down” into the peer data, comparing your system against a more specialized set of peer data. By default, you may filter the peer data in the following ways:

Default Filters:

- Data Year
- State of Operation
- System Type (e.g. Investor-owned, Municipal or Privately-owned)
- Miles of Mains (within a user-specified range)
- Number of Services (within a user-specified range)

When you first go to the Benchmarking page, the Data Year is determined by your choice of system and all other filters are set to those chosen when you last used the APGA Benchmarking Tool. To change the filters, click the “**Change**” button next to “Click here to change filter settings.”

*In order to protect the confidentiality of individual **Benchmarking Tool** user data, you will see no results if your filter(s) result in fewer than three systems in the peer group.*

Benchmarking -- Results

Filters

Clear All

Update Results

Cancel Changes

Choose Extra Filters

Leaks on Mains
Operations
Equipment
Material or Welds
Other Outside Force
Excavation
Natural Forces
Corrosion

Leaks on Mains
Other causes

Extra
Filters

Note: Any filters you add or remove above will appear AFTER you click "Update".

Standard - Peer Group Data Year

2014

Standard - State of Operation

0
CA
CO
CT
DC
DE
FL
GA

AK
AL
AR
AZ

Standard - System Type

Cooperative
Municipal Cooperative
Other
Privately-owned
Unknown

Investor-owned
Municipal

Standard
Filters

Standard - Miles of Main

Between: 10 And: 1000

Standard - Number of Services

Between: 50 And:

Leaks on Mains - Other causes

Between: 1 And:



The **available filters**, along with any settings you may have made, are listed in the lower portion of the screen. This is the portion below the “Note: Any filters ...” message.

To add States or System Types to the filters, click the desired item(s) in the left column. It will move to the right column. Items in the right column will be used to filter the data. Clicking an item in the right column will remove it from the filters. *This method should be used for any filter presented in a similar “left” “->” “right” list.*

For Miles of Mains or Number of Services (*or any other numeric filter*), you may choose a minimum value to consider (the left hand field) or a maximum value (the right hand field) or both. If you leave a field blank it will not be applied as a filter.

When you have the filters set as you wish, click the “**Update Results**” button. **APGA Benchmarking Tool** will display the benchmarking using those filters.

If you click the “**Cancel Changes**” button, any changes you may have made to the filter settings will be discarded and the prior results will be displayed.

If you want to remove a filter setting, either clear the field or move all items from a right hand column to the left column.

If you want to remove all the filter settings, click the “**Clear All**” button.

Note that the filter settings will be remembered from one login to another.

Extra Filters:

In addition to the Default Filters, there are many more filters you may add in the “**Extra Filters**” area. Click in the list on the left to add extra filters. Click in the list on the right to remove extra filters.



Here are the benchmarking results with the filters shown above.

User: vem@vjmnnet.com
Benchmark Results
APGA Benchmarking 2 Help
Contact Us

Benchmarking -- Results

Results - Data Sources: EIA Form 176, PHMSA Annual Reports and APGA membership database (Version: 2.2.1)

Peer Group: Data Sources For Year 2014

System: Demo Gas System For 2014 DC

Active Filters:
Standard - Peer Group Data Year = 2014 | Standard - State of Operation in AK,AL,AR,AZ | Standard - System Type in Investor-owned,Municipal | Standard - Miles of Main between 10 and 1000 | Standard - Number of Services >= 50 | Leaks on Mains - Other causes >= 1

Click here to change filter settings: [Change](#)

Click here to download to a spreadsheet: [CSV](#)

| | Peer Group | System | Difference |
|--|------------|-----------|------------|
| Data Summary | | | |
| # of systems in peer group | 5 | | |
| Data Year | 2014 | 2014 | |
| Miles of Mains | 553 | 1,130 | |
| # of Services | 10,134 | 57,532 | |
| General | | | |
| Average # of customers | 1,550 | 55,756 | 3497% |
| Average Miles of Main | 111 | 1,130 | 922% |
| Average # of employees | 20 | 125 | 513% |
| Average Transport + Sales to End-Users (Mcf) | 254,463 | 5,700,337 | 2140% |

Note that the filters chosen are summarized in the “Active Filters” area and that the Peer Group size has been reduced from more than 1500 systems to only 5 systems.

Downloading Results

When you have the results as you would like, you may click the “**CSV**” button to download a file of this data compatible with Microsoft™ Excel.