



# APGA OPERATIONS CONFERENCE

November 8-10, 2016 • Chattanooga, Tenn.

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8:

- 1:00 p.m. **WELCOME**  
*Matt Stennett, Middle Tennessee Natural Gas, APGA Operations and Safety Committee Chairman*
- 1:10 p.m. **A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON NATURAL GAS SAFETY (1 CREDIT)**  
A discussion of basic principles of safety management at natural gas utilities, effective integrity management programs and other priorities of the federal pipeline safety regulators.  
*Marie Therese Dominguez, Administrator, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (Invited)*
- 2:00 p.m. **A STATE REGULATOR'S VIEWS ON PIPELINE SAFETY (1 CREDIT)**  
A discussion of natural gas distribution safety from the perspective of a state pipeline safety regulator, including views on recently proposed changes to pipeline safety regulations.  
*Peter Chase, Chairman, National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives*
- 2:50 pm. **NETWORKING BREAK & VENDOR EXHIBITS**
- 3:10 p.m. **CASE STUDY OF A NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION ACCIDENT (1 CREDIT)**  
A review of lessons learned from a 2014 accident on the Cartersville natural gas distribution system with emphasis on the root causes of the accident and actions taken to prevent similar accidents from occurring  
*Greg Thacker and Jacob O'Bryant, City of Cartersville, GA*
- 4:00 p.m. **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR GAS UTILITIES (1 CREDIT)**  
Developing and implementing effective emergency plans, Incident Command, crisis communications and effective emergency responder liaison programs including an update on the PHMSA sponsored emergency responder training initiatives in Georgia and a similar program being organized in South Carolina  
*Glen Boatwright, York County Natural Gas Authority, Rock Hill, SC*
- 4:50 p.m. **CLOSING REMARKS, DOOR PRIZES & ADJOURNMENT**
- 5:30 p.m. **NETWORKING RECEPTION**

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9:

- 7:00 a.m. **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & VENDOR EXHIBITS**
- 8:00 a.m. **CHANGES TO REGULATIONS AFFECTING PLASTIC PIPE (0.5 CREDITS)**  
An update on pending changes that will affect the design, installation and maintenance of plastic pipe and components  
*Max Kieba, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration*
- 8:30 a.m. **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS ON PLASTIC PIPE ISSUES (1.5 CREDITS)**  
Parallel breakouts with exhibitors and utility experts discussing:
  - Tracking & Traceability
  - Trenchless Installation Techniques & Technology
- 10:00 a.m. **NETWORKING BREAK & VENDOR EXHIBITS**
- 10:20 a.m. **EXCESS FLOW VALVE AND CURB VALVE REQUIREMENTS (0.5 CREDITS)**  
A review of pending new regulations requiring excess flow valves on service lines to multi-family residential and commercial customers, customers notification and installation of curb valves  
*John Erickson, American Public Gas Association*

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9:

- 10:50 a.m. **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS ON EFV AND VALVE ISSUES (1.5 CREDITS)**  
Parallel breakouts with exhibitors and utility experts discussing:
- EFV Selection & Sizing
  - Valve Installation & Maintenance
- 11:50 a.m. **DOOR PRIZES**
- 12:00 p.m. **ADJOURN FOR LUNCH (PROVIDED)**
- 1:10 p.m. **SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS FOR PUBLIC GAS UTILITIES (1 CREDIT)**  
A review of the ten elements of effective safety management systems with special emphasis on how these apply to public gas utilities  
*Steve Prue, City of Ellensburg, Washington, Chair, APGA SMS Task Group*
- 2:00 p.m. **SAFETY MANAGEMENT IN PRACTICE (1 CREDIT)**  
The winner of the 2016 APGA Safety Management Excellence Award will describe effective safety management programs at Clearwater Gas  
*Mike Deegan, Gas Safety, Training & Compliance Manager, Clearwater Gas*
- 2:50 p.m. **NETWORKING BREAK & VENDOR EXHIBITS**
- 3:10 p.m. **UPCOMING CHANGES TO OPERATOR QUALIFICATION REGULATIONS (0.5 CREDITS)**  
The speaker will review of pending changes to operator qualification regulations and the impact of these changes on how natural gas utilities train and evaluate the qualifications of workers who construct, operate and maintain natural gas distribution systems.  
*TBD*
- 3:40 p.m. **ROUNDTABLE ON OPERATOR QUALIFICATION ISSUES (1.5 CREDITS)**  
Parallel breakouts with exhibitors and utility experts discussing:
- OQ Program Effectiveness Assessment
  - Selection of Evaluators/Conducting Objective Evaluations
- 4:50 p.m. **CLOSING REMARKS, DOOR PRIZES & ADJOURNMENT**
- 5:30 p.m. **NETWORKING RECEPTION**

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10:

- 7:00 a.m. **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & VENDOR EXHIBITS**
- 8:00 a.m. **EXCAVATION DAMAGE PREVENTION (1 CREDIT)**  
The speaker will describe how state one-call systems can effectively work with natural gas utilities to reduce excavation damage to distribution systems. Excavation damage is the leading cause of natural gas distribution accidents, but an effective program of public awareness coupled with strict enforcement of damage prevention laws has reduced excavation damage in Tennessee.  
*Tennessee 811*
- 8:50 a.m. **GOLD SHOVEL STANDARD PROGRAM (1 CREDIT)**  
An overview of a program relying on collaboration between public works departments, municipalities, gas and electric utilities and cable and telecom providers to curtail excavation damage to buried infrastructure  
*Rick Galyean, Administrator, Gold Shovel Standard*
- 9:40 a.m. **NETWORKING BREAK**
- 10:00 a.m. **UPDATE ON SHRIMP AND SIF PRODUCTS & SERVICES (1 CREDIT)**  
A review of products and services provided by the APGA Security and Integrity Foundation (SIF) to assist operators such as SHRIMP, Operator Qualification and O&M Procedures  
*John Erickson, APGA*

10:50 a.m.

**ROUNDTABLE ON OPERATIONS ISSUES (1 CREDIT)**

A roundtable discussion among attendees on design, construction, operation and maintenance of natural gas distribution systems and other issues raised during the conference.

*Moderator: Matt Stennett*

11:45 a.m.

**DOOR PRIZES AND ADJOURNMENT**