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Louisiana Gas Association

Spring
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Abundant Natural Gas Supply Hits Home for Consumers

AGA Releases Study Focused on Positive Supply Situation

Washington, D.C. - The American Gas Association (AGA) recently released its latest study, "[The Positive Natural Gas Supply Situation Benefits Consumers - A Look at January 2011](#)," which finds that customers are greatly benefitting from the sustained, stable production of domestic natural gas. According to the report, consumers bills would be approximately 40 to 70 percent higher today had natural gas prices in a supply-constrained 2006 persisted.

"The market uncertainty we're seeing due to the turmoil in the Middle East has caused crude oil prices to soar, but natural gas prices continue to remain relatively low and stable, even with the sustained cold we have seen this winter season," said Dave McCurdy, president and CEO of AGA. "This is great news for all of our customers, from homeowners to small business owners to larger commercial manufacturers."

The study compares today's natural gas supply and pricing situation to that of five years ago in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita: "In the winter of 2005-2006, natural gas customers arguably faced the worst domestic supply situation since the late 1970's," the study states.

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The study emphasizes that improvements in natural gas extraction techniques from shale formations have expanded the long-term supply situation and, paralleling that, the positive outlook for consumer prices: "These technology improvements have helped increase natural gas proved reserves 63 percent from 1990-2010."

"We now have estimations that total gas resources can meet current demand levels for at least 100 years," said McCurdy. "And while increased access and supplies have ultimately led to lower customer bills, we must work to ensure that there is an open and collaborative process that allows all segments of the industry to work with key stakeholders and regulators to bring natural gas from shale to market in a transparent and environmentally sound fashion."

The report anticipates that as long as the nation has continued access to its vast supplies of natural gas, the potential for favorable prices could persist "for many years" to come.

Abundant Natural Gas Supply Hits Home for Consumers. 9 March 2011.
American Gas Association Newsroom News Releases. Web.



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Beneficial Use Regulations Maximizes Resources Dedicated to Coastal Protection

Today, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Secretary Scott Angelle and the DNR Office of Coastal Management (OCM) announced that improved rules on the beneficial use of material dredged in projects requiring a coastal use permit have improved the percentage of qualifying projects that provide material or funding for coastal protection.

Beneficial use refers to taking material dredged for a project and using it to help build or protect coastal wetlands. The intent of the new rules is to ensure as much material as possible from dredging projects under state regulation is put to that beneficial use.

The beneficial use rules apply to any project requiring a state coastal use permit that involves dredging 25,000 cubic yards or more to facilitate the movement or mooring of vessels.

The total amount of material in eligible projects has amounted annually to about 3 million cubic yards, but logistical impediments and other issues meant only about 22 percent of it was put to beneficial use under Coastal Management rules in place until late 2009.

Rules adopted and made public in late 2009 have succeeded in achieving the goal of 100 percent of qualifying dredging projects providing resources for coastal efforts - either in dredged materials or funding contributions to the coast.

Recognizing a need for more options and greater flexibility to capture more resources, DNR Secretary Scott Angelle directed Assistant Secretary Lou Buatt to develop rules that would provide for a greater percentage of dredged material providing a benefit to Louisiana's coast.

"It is critical that we make full use of every available resource and continually seek new ways to add to the assets needed to strengthen our coast," Angelle said. "The flexibility offered in our beneficial use rules helps balance the needs for development and for protection of our coastal zone in a manner that strengthens both."

The rules for beneficial use adopted by the Office of Coastal Management in 2009 include four options for permit applicants involved in coastal projects that include dredging - implementing a project that makes beneficial use of the dredged material, providing for the use of the dredged material on an approved coastal restoration project, using dredged material at another location that creates the same amount of beneficial use, or making a voluntary contribution to the Coastal Resources Trust fund, based on the amount of material dredged.

One of the most significant changes to the beneficial use rules was allowing in-lieu contributions instead of direct use of the dredged material for projects where direct use of the material for beneficial coastal projects is not feasible due to quality of soil on the surrounding

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[Plastic Pipe Joining Seminar](#)

April 12, 2011
Gas Utility District #1 of East Baton Rouge Parish, Zachary, LA
April 13, 2011
Atmos Energy, Lafayette, LA

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July 25-29, 2011
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of transportation. This also allows several smaller projects to make contributions to the Coastal Trust Fund that can be combined to fund larger projects.

The in-lieu option alone created the opportunity for the coast to benefit from 14 dredging projects involving nearly 370,000 cubic yards of soil - bringing in \$415,000 to the Coastal Resources Trust Fund in situations where the old rules might have meant no resources could have been direct to the coast.

"Those 14 projects could have been missed opportunities, but instead are adding to the pool of resources the state can draw from in combating the forces that are costing us coastal wetlands," Buatt said.

Beyond the in-lieu contributions, beneficial use rules offer three other options for permit applicants involved in coastal projects that include dredging - implementing a project that makes beneficial use of the dredged material, providing for the use of the dredged material on an approved coastal restoration project, or using dredged material at another location that creates the same amount of beneficial use.

Buatt said that the old rules created permitting delays because of the difficulty of meeting the requirement of the limited allowable options, but OCM staff aggressively sought to remove those delays in the crafting of the current beneficial use guidelines.

Windell Curole, general manager of the South Lafourche Levee District, said the new flexibility in beneficial use rules means a reduction in potential to wasted critical coastal resources.

"Beneficial use is one of the best ways to support the preservation of what we have left in our coastal areas," he said. "DNR's effort in maximizing that will continue to pay dividends for coastal protection for years to come."

Ted Falgout, retired executive director of Port Fourchon, said that he hopes to see the state build on the early success of the effort to broaden beneficial use of dredged material.

"It's a worthwhile effort and hopefully one that will set the stage for even greater opportunities to bring resources to bear on our coast," he said.

Angelle added, "Windell and Ted were both instrumental in working to develop this public policy. We owe the success of this program to their input and guidance."

Buatt said that the strong response in the first year of implementation is encouraging, but that much more work must be done to maximize potential resources that could be dedicated to the coast.

He said that DNR is continuing in its effort to improve the percentage of dredged material from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers navigation projects that is targeted to strengthening Louisiana's coastal zone and protecting the lives and homes of its citizens, and a significant part of the nation's shipping and energy infrastructure.

Beneficial Use Regulations Maximize Resources Dedicated to Coastal Protection. 7 March 2011. Department of Natural Resources State of Louisiana News Archives. Web.

LGA 191/192 & 195 Pipeline Safety Conference

Please make plans to attend the 191/192 & 195 Pipeline Safety Conference will take place July 25-29, 2011 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The 2010 conference included more than 450 attendees, our largest turnout yet, and the conference continues to grow each year!

Seminar Schedule: *Registration Brochure and Form Coming Soon!*

- July 25-27, 2011: 195 Hazardous Liquid
- July 27-28, 2011: 191/192 Gas Transmission & Gas Distribution

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Annual Operations Conference

October 10-12, 2011
Courtyard Marriott & Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center, Houma, LA

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Additional information coming soon to www.lagas.org!

2011 LGA Annual Operations Conference

Save the Date!

Please make plans to attend the 2011 Annual Operations Conference that will be held October 10-12, 2011 at the Courtyard Marriott and Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center in Houma, Louisiana. Additional Information is coming soon!

Seminar Schedule:

- October 10, 2011: Golf Tournament, BBQ Cook-Off and BBQ Social
- October 11-12, 2011: Operations Conference Sessions

Hotel Accommodations:

The special rate of \$129 will be honored at the Courtyard Marriott. Reservations can be made by phoning the hotel directly at (985) 223-8996, or online at www.marriott.com. The deadline to receive this rate is September, 16, 2011. Reservations made after this date will be based on available space and rates.

Please visit www.lagas.org for more information as it becomes available!

Questions? Contact Kathleen O'Regan at the LGA Office,

Phone: (225) 218-6885 or Email: lga@tatmangroup.com

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Questions? Contact Kathleen O'Regan at the LGA office:

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Have an interesting article to include in the LGA E-Newsletter? Send suggested articles to

Kathleen O'Regan at the LGA office. Your article could appear in the next quarterly issue!

Articles may include, but are not limited to:

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2. Industry Updates
3. Member special events
4. Company Announcements
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