



Louisiana Gas Association

LGA Fall
E-Newsletter
October 2015

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Your Source of News for the Natural Gas Industry

PERFORMANCE | SAFETY | PUBLIC AWARENESS

LGA 2015 Annual Operations Conference

See you Monday!



While pre-registration is closed, we are accepting walk-up registration for the 2015 LGA Annual Operations Conference on Monday, October 19 through Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Lafayette, LA.

This three day, fun filled, education-packed event will provide you with the knowledge to enhance performance, promote safety, and broaden public awareness.

[CLICK HERE to download the Registration Brochure!](#)

Agenda:

- October 19, 2015 - Golf Tournament, 8th Annual Michael Hester BBQ Cook-off, and First Response classes
- October 20, 2015 - General Session Speakers
- October 21, 2015 - General Session Speaker & LGA Annual Meeting

[See the full agenda in the Registration Brochure.](#)

Hotel Accommodations:

The DoubleTree by Hilton Lafayette, the Annual Operations Conference host site, is offering a special room rate of **[\\$129 per night for a double room and \\$139 per night for a king room](#)**. Please contact the Hotel reservation desk directly at **[\(800\) 222-8733](tel:8002228733)** to make your reservations today! The deadline has passed, but the hotel *may* have some vacancies - please call them for more information.

We look forward to seeing you in Lafayette on Monday!

More information about the 2015 Annual Operations Conference can be found by visiting **www.LouisianaGasAssociation.org**. Individuals interested in learning more may also contact the LGA office for more information at (225) 218-6885 or **LGA@tatmangroup.com**.

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LGA Upcoming Events

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As an advertiser, you will receive the opportunity to provide target advertising to business and supply valuable information within your industry. Don't be the only vendor left out.

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Ad rates & deadlines included in flyer.

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

(225) 218-6885
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Have an interesting article for the LGA E-Newsletter?

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include in the LGA E-Newsletter? Send suggested articles to Kathleen O'Regan at the LGA Office. Your article couple appear in the next quarterly issue!

Articles may include, but are not limited to:

- LGA member, company, and/or employee recognitions
- Industry updates
- Member special events
- Company announcements
- Consumer reports

Phone: (225) 218-6885
Toll Free: (866) 921-0923
LGA@tatmangroup.com

8th Annual Michael Hester BBQ Cook-Off

[CLICK HERE to download the BBQ Cook-Off Registration Form](#)

Please join us at the 8th Annual Michael Hester BBQ Cook-Off on Monday, October 19, 2015. Teams will be allowed to set up Monday morning at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Lafayette, LA. Teams will have a choice of which category to participate in: chicken, brisket, pork ribs, or all three!

REGISTRATION IS FREE, but you must turn in a registration form to LGA by Monday, October 5, 2015 to participate.

Cooking was Mike Hester's passion, and he took great pride in LGA's BBQ Cook-Off and other cooking events throughout the state every year. We honor him in a special way by dedicating this event in his name.

For a list of rules and other information, download the [BBQ Cook-Off Registration form](#). Questions? Contact Todd Hebert about the 2015 8th Annual Michael Hester BBQ Cook-Off at (337) 256-2161.



LGA Names 13 Recipients of the 2015 Scholarship

The Louisiana Gas Association (LGA) announced the 13 recipients of its 2015 Scholarships, which are awarded to the children or legal wards of individuals employed by active LGA member companies enrolled full time at a 4-year college or university with 60 or more credit hours. The recipients have been awarded \$1,000 each for their scholastic and extracurricular accomplishments.

The 13 recipients of the LGA 2015 Scholarship include:

- **Anne Claire Aaron**, Bossier City, La., granddaughter of Bobby R. Burns with CenterPoint Energy and LGA Board Member and Past President. Aaron is a senior at Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge, La. studying Mass Communication.
- **Jacob Stephen Berard**, New Iberia, La., son of Stephen P. Berard with CenterPoint Energy. Berard is a junior at University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) in Lafayette, La. studying Mechanical Engineering.
- **Karen Marie Bergeron**, Napoleonville, La., daughter of Keven Bergeron with Boardwalk Pipeline. Bergeron is a senior at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La. studying Secondary Education with a concentration in Family & Consumer Sciences.
- **Nicholas Lee Buckley**, Baton Rouge, La., son of Mark Buckley with John H. Carter. Buckley is a senior at Baylor University in Waco, Tx. studying Sports Sponsorship & Sales.
- **Corey Allan Darvill**, Baton Rouge, La., son of Donna Darvill with John H. Carter. Darvill is a junior at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, La. studying Nursing.
- **Leslie Claire Decoteau**, Baton Rouge, La., daughter of Mathew Decoteau with Energy Transfer - Lonestar Refineries. Decoteau is a junior at Millsaps College in

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Jackson, Ms. studying Accounting.

- **Georgia Christie Foor**, Prairieville, La., daughter of George P. Foor with John H. Carter. Foor is a senior at LSU in Baton Rouge, La. studying Theatre Design/Technology with a concentration in Lighting Design.
- **Colton William Kyle**, Bossier City, La., son of Robert Kyle with Brammer Engineering, Inc. Kyle is a junior at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, La. studying Civil Engineering.
- **Brooke Nicole Orso**, Denham Springs, La, daughter of Adam Orso with John H. Carter. Orso is a senior at LSU in Baton Rouge, La. studying Accounting.
- **Elizabeth Grace Rambo**, Shreveport, La., daughter of Sonya Rambo with Brammer Engineering, Inc. Rambo is a junior at Centenary College of Louisiana in Shreveport, La. studying English.
- **Francis Joseph Roy**, Thibodaux, La., son of Theresa Roy with Enterprise Products. Roy is a senior at LSU in Baton Rouge, La. studying Accounting with a focus on Internal Auditing.
- **Claire Wiegiers**, Fayetteville, Ar., daughter of Phillip Wiegiers with EGW Utilities, Inc and Hall of Flame member. Wiegiers is a senior at The University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Ar. double majoring in Political Science and Political Communication.
- **Devon Nichole Zimmermann**, Lafayette, La., daughter of Jody Zimmermann with Atmos Energy Louisiana. Zimmermann is a junior at ULL in Lafayette, La. studying Business Management.

The scholarship recipients will be honored the evening of Tuesday, October 20, during the LGA 2015 Annual Operations Conference on Oct. 19-21 in Lafayette, Louisiana.

To find out more information about LGA's Scholarships, please [visit our website](#).



LGA Showcases at LRA Convention



The Louisiana Gas Association (LGA) Marketing Committee participated in the 62nd Annual Louisiana Foodservice & Hospitality Expo. The expo is the largest and most attended showcase of its kind in the region with a wide variety of special events and educational seminars. It is considered the foodservice event for the entire Gulf Coast. Held in New Orleans every August, the [Louisiana Restaurant Association](#) (LRA) invites companies to exhibit their products and services to an audience of thousands of restaurant owners and operators. Over 11,000 restaurant owners, managers, buyers, hotel food and beverage directors, and many others attended this event. LRA's expo is the only place in Louisiana for those in the foodservice industry to gain valuable industry knowledge and shop hundreds of companies under one roof.

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***As of October 15, 2015**

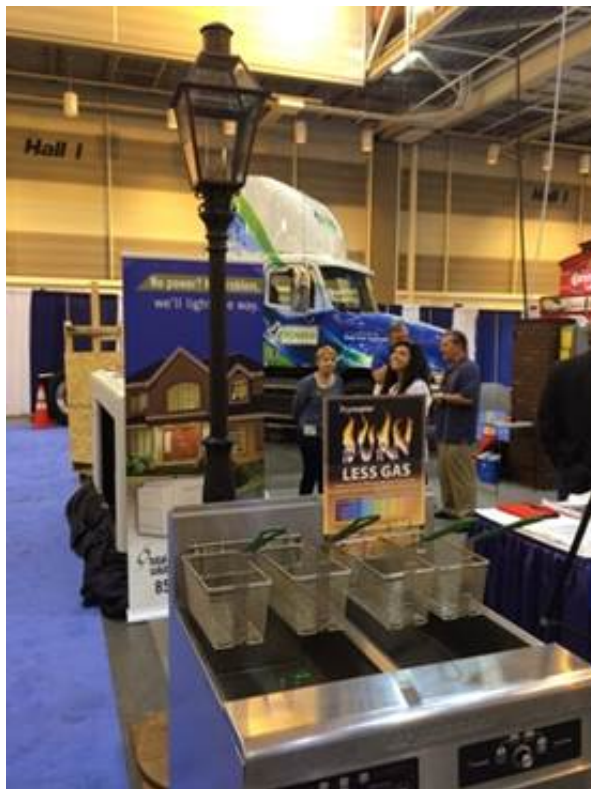
LGA is recognized as a 20+ Year Exhibitor. This year's booth included a 30 kW generator by Total Energy Solutions; a working, tank-less water heater and a commercial tank-less water display by Rinnai and Hamilton Sales; gaslights by Bevolo Gas and Electric Lights; a commercial fryer by Frymaster and Alack; and a natural gas powered truck by American Power Group. Additionally, LGA sponsored a workshop on Energy Efficiency in Restaurants. Richard Young, Director of Education at the Food Service Technology Center located in California, was the guest in the LGA booth and one of the presenters at the Expo.

The 30 kW generator and tank-less water heater were popular attractions. Many restaurant owners noted that their suppliers will not insure their food inventory unless they have backup power sources. Kenny Glass and Chris Fargas, both with Atmos, built a freestanding tank-less water heater demo with a working sink. Chefs in the adjoining booths found this to be very useful throughout the show. The Natural Gas Vehicle (NGV) was a showstopper with the many foodservice vendors exhibiting at the expo that had their own fleets. As always, the burning gaslights provided the ambiance that many restaurants desire around the state.



LGA also conducted a public awareness survey. The results are available to LGA member companies, which can be used as a supplemental survey for Public Awareness Plans. Stakeholder group: Affected Public, Commercial Food Service.

Thank you to Kenny Glass and Chris Fargas (both with Atmos), Jim Tilley and Byron Hardy (both with CenterPoint) for organizing the LGA booth for the Louisiana Foodservice & Hospitality Expo. Also - thank you to LGA Marketing Committee companies and representatives for supporting the LGA booth. They included Entergy (Robert Borne, Matt Long, and Demond Taylor), Atmos Energy (Donna Stephenson, Jenna Roussell, and Frank Marino), Centerpoint Energy (Ken Wheat), and South Coast Gas Co. (Mike St. Romain).



PHMSA Rule Updates

- Hazardous Materials: Special Permit & Approvals Standard Operating Procedures and Evaluation Process
 - Final rule is effective on November 9, 2015.
 - PHMSA is adopting regulations to include the SOPs & criteria used to evaluate applications for special permits & approvals. This rulemaking addresses issues identified in the Hazardous Materials Transportation Safety Improvement Act of 2012 related to the Office of Hazardous Materials Safeties, Approvals and Permits Division.
 - **READ MORE HERE**
- Miscellaneous Changes to Pipeline Safety Regulations: Response to Petitions for Reconsideration
 - Response to Reconsideration Request of Final Rule by PHMSA on September 30, 2015; indefinite delay of effective date of amendment to 49 CFR 192.305
 - On March 11, 2015, PHMSA published a final rule amending the pipeline safety regulations to make miscellaneous changes that updated and clarified certain regulatory requirements. These amendments addressed several subject matter areas, including the performance of post-construction inspections, Type B onshore gas gathering line leak surveys, qualifying plastic pipe joiners, ethanol regulation, pipe transportation, offshore pipeline condition report filing, pressure reduction calculations for hazardous liquid pipeline anomalies, and components fabricated by welding. This final rule responds to petitions for reconsideration of the final rule.
 - **READ MORE HERE**
- Operator Qualification, Cost Recovery, Accident & Incident Notification, and Other Pipeline Safety Proposed Changes
 - PHMSA proposed this rule on July 10, 2015
 - PHMSA is proposing amendments to the pipeline safety regulations to address requirements of the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty and Job Creation Act of 2011 (2011 Act), and to update and clarify certain regulatory requirements. Among other provisions, PHMSA is proposing to add a specific time frame for telephonic or electronic notifications of accidents and incidents and add provisions for cost recovery for design reviews of certain new projects, etc.
 - **READ MORE HERE**

PHMSA Announces over \$54 Million in Pipeline Safety Grants to Support State Pipeline Safety Programs

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is awarding \$54,085,440 in Pipeline Safety Base grants to 46 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

"Not only are these grants imperative for our Federal/State partnership to work, they demonstrate our commitment to the American public that we are serious about helping to make our utility lines the safest and most reliable in the world" said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "These grants ensure State programs have the funding they need for resources, including personnel and equipment, to protect communities, carry out inspections and enforce pipeline safety regulations that keep the entire pipeline network as safe as possible."

Marie Therese Dominguez, Administrator of PHMSA, today announced the grants before an audience of state inspectors and regulators as part of the annual National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives Board of Directors meeting in Tempe, Arizona.

The grants provide up to 80 percent of operating costs for state pipeline regulators that agree to inspect intrastate pipelines on PHMSA's behalf. Participating states and territories account for 330 inspectors who are responsible for over 80 percent of the country's intrastate natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline mileage. More than 2.6 million miles of pipeline transport oil and gas to homes and businesses throughout the country.

"Pipeline Safety Base Grants extend the reach of PHMSA and our State partners into our communities," said Administrator Dominguez. "These grants allow us to have a strong local presence that is vital to effectively monitor pipelines and help protect the public from pipeline incidents."

Final grant amounts are awarded based on State expenses and annual performance scores.

The 2015 Natural Gas Pipeline State Base Grant recipients are:

- Louisiana - \$957,668

The 2015 Hazardous Liquid Pipeline State Base Grant recipients are:

- Louisiana - \$244,229

(To see the full lists, [click here.](#))

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Eight Ways That Natural Gas Distribution Is Growing

Economy-wide value of natural gas distribution growing as consumers choose clean, affordable fuel

Washington, D.C. - More homes and businesses use natural gas today than ever before and the numbers continue to increase. The American Gas Association (AGA) has released a new report entitled *Got Growth?* that examines the growth of the natural gas distribution sector. In an era when much of the discussion regarding future gas demand is focused on power generation and industrial uses, this analysis details eight areas of growth for local gas utilities during the past several decades. The report points to continuing expectations for future growth in customers and burner tips, infrastructure build out and geographic footprint, rate base value, investments in energy efficiency and other areas.

"We looked beyond the simple metric of aggregate volume delivered in the national gas market and examined areas where we have seen dynamic growth in the gas utility sector," said Chris McGill, AGA's Vice President of Policy Analysis and one of the authors of the report. "Many volume-based natural gas supply and demand balance forecasts do not included other very tangible growth factors such as efficiency gains and related dollar investments, system footprint outgrowth, customer totals, additions of burner tips and the growing benefits of CO2 reductions. Natural gas systems, and growth in those systems, are the epitome of value, reliability and efficiency in energy use and that has been the case for many years."

Clear and well defined data shows that natural gas customer counts and other measures have grown significantly over recent decades. The report touches on infrastructure expansion, contributions to innovative energy efficiency programs, natural gas as a greenhouse gas emissions reduction tool, conversions from heating oil, propane and electricity and the economy-wide value of natural gas distribution.

Growth Fact #1

The number of homes and businesses using natural gas have grown steadily for decades. New construction and conversions of other home heating fuels to natural gas have resulted in steady growth in natural gas customers.

Growth Fact #2

Along with growth in natural gas customers has come growth in burner tips and natural gas appliances in individual homes. The number of residential gas customers grew by nearly 13 million during the past two decades, representing over 32 million gas fired appliances, based on the U.S. Census Bureau reports.

Growth Fact #3

Residential customer growth has required additions to distribution pipeline infrastructure in order to ensure reliable service. Delivering natural gas to any customer class is an exercise of planning, constructing and maintaining pipeline infrastructure, which is the conduit for serving customers safely and reliably. Miles of distribution main have doubled from about 600,000 to over 1.2 million during the past four decades.

Growth Fact #4

Utility system expansion and modernization has spurred new investment, which has grown companies' enterprise value and financial strength. According to AGA's own estimates, the economy-wide value of the natural gas distribution industry has grown by nearly 31 percent since 1993. It was valued at nearly \$50.0 billion in 2014 - about \$11.8 billion more than twenty-one years prior.

Growth Fact #5

States are increasingly adopting innovative regulatory mechanisms to align utility incentives with policy goals of improving energy usage, providing access to natural gas, and reducing emissions. Utilities in 20 states employ revenue decoupling, a rate adjustment mechanism that separates a gas utility's fixed cost recovery from the amount of gas it delivers. Forty states have a program to facilitate accelerated replacement and modernization of natural gas distribution pipelines no longer fit for service.

Growth Fact #6

Natural gas utilities have steadily invested more dollars in energy efficiency for homes and businesses, which has contributed to decreased usage per customer, growth in energy savings, and increased cost savings for customers. Today, the average American home uses 40 percent less natural gas than it did 40 years ago. In 2013 natural gas utilities invested \$1.15 billion in 112 natural gas efficiency programs spanning 39 states, and they budgeted more than \$1.4 billion for 2014 (projecting a 25 percent increase in spending). As a result of efficiency investments, natural gas utilities helped customers save 151 trillion Btu of energy, resulting in 7.9 million metric tons of avoided carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions-on average, the equivalence of removing 1.7 million cars off the road.

Growth Fact #7

Utility financial performance has remained strong. GASFX, a stock fund comprised of members of the American Gas Association, has outperformed the S&P index in most years that the fund has existed, particularly during the past ten years. High dividend payments by this sector have helped to make overall yields strong, particularly when the income tax rate on qualifying dividends was reduced.

Growth Fact #8

Direct use of natural gas is increasingly seen as a tool to grow opportunities to reduce greenhouse emissions when compared to other alternatives used in space and water heating. According to the the 2011 MIT Future of Natural Gas Study by now Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz, a household that switches from an electric furnace to an efficient natural gas model reduces CO₂ emissions by 63 percent on average. Switching out an electric water heater and installing an efficient natural gas water heater can lower CO₂ emissions from 23 to 64 percent depending on the mix of electric generation resources that are displaced.

You can read the entire report at <https://www.aga.org/got-growth>.

DOT Announces \$19.9 Million in First Responder Grants to Help Protect Communities

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) today announced grants totaling \$19.9 million will go to states, territories and Native American tribes to improve the nation's response to hazardous materials transportation incidents. Since 1993, more than 2.5 million emergency responders around the country have received training assistance using PHMSA grants.

"Safety is our highest priority and these grants will help first responders across the country get the training they need to stay safe and protect other people," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "DOT grants improve planning, training, and preparedness for hazmat response teams, firefighters, police, and other first responders."

PHMSA's Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grants program allows recipients to design and implement planning and training programs according to the need. For this grant cycle, HMEP applicants were encouraged to allocate funding towards activities such as:

- developing or revising emergency plans and training activities to account for bulk

- transportation of energy products by rail and over the road;
- ensuring that state, Federal, and local emergency planning and preparedness is established, integrated, and mutually supportive; and
- increasing the availability of hazardous materials training to accommodate volunteer organizations.

"Well-trained first responders play a critical role in any hazardous materials incident," said PHMSA Administrator Marie Therese Dominguez. "These grants are part of our comprehensive approach to improving the safe transportation of crude oil and other hazardous material across the country."

Grants from PHMSA are funded by annual user registration fees paid by shippers and carriers of certain hazardous materials in commerce. During grant period 2013-14, HMEP grants funded more than 91,000 first responders in initial or refresher hazardous materials response training, over 1,300 new or revised hazardous materials emergency response plans, and over 950 hazardous materials exercises.

All 50 states, five U.S. territories, and ten Native American Indian tribes received HMEP grant funding this year.

Awardee Funding Distribution:

- Louisiana \$305,115

TOTAL FY 2015 HMEP GRANTS: \$19,922,952 (To see the full list, [click here.](#))

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration develops and enforces regulations for the safe, reliable, and environmentally sound operation of the nation's 2.6 million mile pipeline transportation system and the nearly 1 million daily shipments of hazardous materials by land, sea, and air. Please visit <http://phmsa.dot.gov> for more information.

To learn more about LGA or if you have any questions regarding the articles in this newsletter please contact (225) 218-6885 or visit www.louisianagasassociation.org.

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