



Louisiana Gas Association

LGA Summer
E-Newsletter
July 2016

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LGA Pipeline Safety Conference

August 8-12, 2016



Have you registered for LGA's 2016 Pipeline Safety Conference? We hope to see you August 8-12, 2016 at the Astor Crowne Plaza in New Orleans, Louisiana! The 2016 Pipeline Safety Conference will bring together individuals in the Natural Gas Industry, expert presenters on the federal and state levels, and suppliers to enhance performance, promote safety, and broaden public awareness.

This conference, which has been referred to as the "Premier Pipeline Safety Conference," is developing an amazing lineup of presenters as well as networking opportunities for attendees, exhibitors, and sponsors. Registration, Sponsorship, and Exhibitor Opportunities will be released soon. Do not miss out on the opportunity to participate in this great event!

[Download the Registration Brochure](#)

[Exhibitor & Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

Hotel Accommodations

Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel
739 Canal Street at Bourbon
New Orleans, LA 70130
(887) 408-9661
Group Code: PLS

[Click here for Online Reservations](#)

Questions? Contact LGA at LGA@tatmangroup.com or (225) 218-6885.

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Connect With Us



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Save the Date LGA Annual Operations Conference

October 24-26, 2016
Crowne Plaza
Baton Rouge, LA

Mark your calendars for LGA's 2016 Annual Operations Conference! We have FUN with our Scholarship Golf Tournament & BBQ Cook-off. We LEARN with our great speaker sessions, and we CONNECT with our LGA Annual Meeting. Hope to see you there!

Tentative Agenda

October 24, 2016
Golf Tournament
9th Annual Michael Hester BBQ Cook-off

October 25, 2016
Speaker Sessions
Live & Silent Auction

October 26, 2016
Speaker Sessions
LGA Annual Meeting



Hotel Accommodations

Crowne Plaza Baton Rouge
4278 Constitution Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Make your reservations by calling the hotel directly at (800) 674-4065 or [clicking here](#). Use group code LGA to receive the discounted rate of \$94/night plus tax for either a single or double room.

More information coming soon!



Industry Safety Alert

The Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA) Foundation is distributing this safety alert concerning safety briefings at company's sites or facilities. The alert recommends that "Companies and contractors should adhere to all site procedures for all visitors." Please [post this notice](#) and share it widely within your companies.

- [Download the notice here.](#)

Dig Law Changes Effective Immediately

Information provided by Louisiana One Call 811

Intent of the Law Clarified

For the past year, the Louisiana Dig Law Advisory Committee has worked on revising the Louisiana Underground Utility and Facility Damage Prevention Law (Dig Law). The purpose of these discussions was to define the intent of the law.

Certification of Non-Profit Regional Notification Center

Advertise in the next LGA E-Newsletter!

Don't miss out on the chance to promote your business in the LGA Quarterly E-Newsletter. 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.
Place an ad today!

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Ad rates & deadlines included in flyer.

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

(225) 218-6885
LGA@tatmangroup.com

Have an interesting article for the LGA E-Newsletter?

Have an interesting article to include in the LGA E-Newsletter? Send suggested articles to Kathleen O'Regan at the LGA Office. Your article will 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

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Upcoming Events

Catholic Protection Basic Seminar

July 12, 2016
Atmos Energy, Lafayette

Catholic Protection Advanced Seminar

July 13, 2016
Atmos Energy, Lafayette

LGA 2016 Pipeline Safety Conference

August 8-12, 2016
New Orleans, LA

LGA 2016 Annual Operations Conference

October 24-26, 2016
Baton Rouge, LA

Thank You to Our

There were two legislative bills filed by State Representative Thomas Carmody, Jr. The first bill was [House Bill 249](#), which became Act 85 of the 2016 Regular Legislative Session. This amendment to the Dig Law addresses the certification of a non-profit regional notification center.

As part of the existing law, the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections promulgates rules and regulations in order to establish criteria for the certification of regional notification centers in this state.

Louisiana One Call was certified by the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections many years ago. Most recently, two additional non-profit regional notification programs were certified. When the dig law was enacted in 1988, it was not envisioned that there would be competition between multiple non-profit regional notification centers (one call programs). On behalf of the stakeholders who utilize Louisiana One Call, the Dig Law Advisory Committee requested that the Louisiana State Legislature address concerns that relate to public safety, cost effectiveness, and ease of use for multiple one call programs.

Act 85 states that a regional notification program shall have specifically defined geopolitical services areas that are coterminous with parish boundaries and do not overlap any other defined service area. This provision in the law helps to ensure that there should be a single non-profit regional notification center that operates in the State of Louisiana.

Excavation Redefined

The second [House Bill 250](#), which became Act 245, by Representative Carmody, Jr. addresses a concern by the pipeline industry. As a result of an accident involving an offshore pipeline, the definition of "excavation or excavate" has changed.

The new definition is "Excavation" or "excavate" means any operation causing movement or removal of earth, rock, or other materials in or on the ground or submerged in a marine environment by the use of powered or mechanical or manual means, including but not limited to pile driving, digging, blasting, auguring, boring, back filling, dredging, compaction, plowing-in, trenching, ditching, tunneling, land-leveling, grading, and mechanical probing or any other activity that could reasonably result in damage to underground or submerged utilities or facilities. "Excavation" or "excavate" shall not include manual probing or any force majeure, act of God, or act of nature.

Notification Center Holidays Added

The legislature also added holidays to be observed by the regional notification center. These additional holidays include Memorial Day and Christmas Eve.

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PO BOX 2106
Decatur, Texas

Pipeline Safety Reauthorization is Law

The Securing America's Future Energy: Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act ([SAFE PIPES Act](#)) is now law. President Barack Obama signed the legislation June 22, 2016.

"The SAFE PIPES Act will help to ensure the safety of America's pipeline network by building upon the success of legislation from 2006 and 2011 and reauthorizing the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration through 2019 thereby allowing them to promulgate and implement existing mandates," said Dave McCurdy, American Gas Association president and CEO. "Congress acted unanimously to enact legislation that carefully considered how to effectively enhance safety moving forward and the President affirmed their efforts. America's natural gas utilities are encouraged by this process and applaud all of the leaders involved in this effort for their action on behalf of the more than 177 million Americans that enjoy the benefits of clean natural gas."

The SAFE PIPES Act will improve pipeline safety by closing gaps in federal standards, enhancing the quality and timeliness of rule-makings, promoting better usage of data and technology and providing regulatory certainty for natural gas utilities that are actively enhancing safety for their customers and communities. It passed the Senate by unanimous consent on March 3, 2016 and again on June 14. The House took up an amendment to the Senate's bill under suspension of the rules on June 8 and also passed it by unanimous consent.

AGA and its members were very supportive of the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement and Safety Act of 2006 and the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty and Job Creation Act of 2011. These pipeline safety reauthorizations contained significant changes to pipeline safety programs and created numerous new programs to further improve industry safety. AGA member companies have implemented many aspects of these programs either through regulations or voluntarily.

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EPA Recognizes Utility Efforts to Reduce Emissions

In its release of a final rule for emission standards for the oil and natural gas industry for new, reconstructed and modified sources today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognized the ongoing work by natural gas utilities to reduce emissions.

The rule does not include distribution infrastructure or assets operated by local distribution companies in their services territories. A concerted effort by natural gas utilities to upgrade and modernize our nation's pipeline network to enhance safety has contributed significantly to a declining trend in emissions from the natural gas system. Natural gas utilities also participate in voluntary programs to reduce emissions.

The [2016 EPA Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks](#) released in April showed that emissions from local distribution systems decreased by 74 percent from 1990 to 2014 following a substantial downward revision for the sector. EPA attributes the decrease to the industry's continued work to replace pipelines no longer fit for service with ones made from modern plastic materials, as well as upgrades at metering and regulating stations. Today, natural gas utility systems account for only six percent of total methane emissions from the natural gas value chain.

While all natural gas utilities upgrade and modernize their infrastructure using risk-based integrity management programs, 39 states and the District of Columbia now have specific rate mechanisms that foster accelerated replacement of pipelines. In the case of the states without such programs, several no longer have pipelines made of legacy materials and others recover their costs through annual rate cases.

In March, 41 AGA member companies - representing 66 percent of the natural gas customers served in the United States - were Founding Partners of the [EPA's Natural Gas STAR Methane Challenge Program](#) whereby oil and gas companies can make and track commitments to reduce emissions and showcase their efforts to improve air quality and capture and monetize this valuable energy resource. The American Gas Association and many of its members were founders of the original Natural Gas STAR program in 1993. According to the EPA, the 50 AGA member companies participating in the Natural Gas STAR program [reduced emissions](#) by 0.8 billion cubic feet in 2013 and a total of 46.2 billion cubic feet since 1993.

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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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Louisiana Gas Association

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