



OGA News & Views

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*We want to hear from you!
Ideas, concerns, ways to make the
association more effective for you.*

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2022 OGA Legislative Update scheduled for Thursday, February 3

The 2022 OGA Annual Legislative Update will be presented in an online webinar format at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, February 3, 2022.

The annual session of the Oklahoma Legislature begins Monday, February 7 with lawmakers filing thousands of bills for consideration.

Oklahoma State Senator Kim David; Craig Perry, Manager Government Affairs, ONE Gas; and, Dusty Darr, Director Government Relations, ONEOK, Inc., will discuss expected legislative priorities including measures that may affect the natural gas industry. As veterans at the State Capitol, they also will offer insights into other areas of politics and public policy.

David has served in the Oklahoma State Senate since 2010 and has announced her candidacy for the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

“As an association, we’ve recognized the value of using webinars in certain instances,” said Jeff Kaufmann, OGA Director of Communications. “When planning this event, we considered the possibility to reach the most people and the flurry of activity that goes along with the opening of the annual legislative session.”

Click here to register at no charge: [2022 OGA Legislative Update Registration](#)

Questions about the 2022 OGA Legislative Update may be directed to Kaufmann at jeffk@oga.org.

OGA and Okie 811 partner for One-Call Law Changes Webinar

During the 2021 session of the Oklahoma Legislature, HB 2028 was passed and enacted into law effective November 1, 2021. Susan Bohl, Okie 811 Executive Director, recently discussed updates resulting from HB 2028 to the

Oklahoma Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act in a webinar presented in partnership between the OGA and Okie 811.

“We appreciate our partnership with Okie 811 and their leadership in damage prevention,” said Jeff Kaufmann, OGA Director of Communications. “The session offered a great update to the changes to Oklahoma’s One-Call Law.”

(see ONE-CALL WEBINAR, page 3)



Meet the OGA Board of Directors

The Oklahoma Gas Association (OGA) Board members work tirelessly to serve and promote both the association and the industry. They are recognized industry leaders. All of the time and effort put into the OGA is on top of their “real” jobs and is greatly appreciated. We continue to introduce you to these dedicated professionals.



Scott Fite Enable Midstream

Q: If a young person was interested in a career in the natural gas industry, what advice would you give them?

A: Begin with a good education in whatever field you are interested in. Many paths can lead to the natural gas industry, such as engineering, industrial electronics, business administration, and others. Use those as a base and take some petroleum-based classes as a minor.

Q: What is the best advice you've ever been given?

A: When I became a supervisor, the best advice I had was to sit on my hands at my desk. I was no longer the doer, so let others have an opportunity.

Q: Is there one thing that you tell every member of your team?

A: I appreciate you, and all that you do!

Q: What do you see as the biggest issues facing the natural gas industry today?

A: Greenhouse emissions and natural gas education to the world, for example, what makes up natural gas. How it is brought to market from wellhead to the end-end-user, via pipelines, processing plants, etc.

Q: Consumers may not always understand the natural gas industry, if you teach them one thing, what would that be?

A: What all is in natural gas and its usages to describe the components and uses of those components in our everyday lives, such as propane, pentane, and butane, and others.

Q: Tell us one thing about yourself that most people don't know?

A: I have had professional dance lessons.

Q: What keeps you awake at night?

A: Thinking of how I can accomplish different tasks – planning – reviewing in my mind, and so on.

Q: Will you tell us a little about your family, kids, pets?

A: I've been married for 27 years and have three children and five grandchildren. We also have four ankle-biters also known as dogs and three cats. If my wife had her way, we would have other types of animals.

Q: What do you think the benefits are of natural gas?

A: Natural Gas is a clean renewable energy, multi-use product. It provides a benefit to all aspects of life, from plastics, heat generation, and cooking.

(see MEET OGA MEMBER JAMES CROSS, page 3)

Meet OGA Board Member James Cross

(continued from page 2)



James Cross Energy Worldnet

Q: Tell us one thing about yourself that most people don't know?

A: I spent 15 years of my career writing code in the technology sector. I built applications, optimized queries, and led projects in that world most of my life. Something I am proud of and has allowed me to connect to another group of our workforce that others might have had the opportunity to do so.

Q: Is there one thing that you tell every member of your team?

A: I trust you. It kind of turns into a joke phrase we say when you want someone to make the final decision – but honestly, our teams are built first on trust. If you made it on the team, then you are valued and you are a reason for being here. How can we help bring your special blend of magic to the world? Then we get to work.

Q: What do you see as the biggest issue or challenge your organization is facing today?

A: The battle for talent. The change to hybrid, the change in mindset, and 4 generations in the workforce has made quite the challenge for leadership. Finding and retaining talent is the biggest opportunity for growth in the coming years – in all industries.

Q: What do you see as the biggest issues facing the natural gas industry today?

A: Misinformation. We have to be proactive as an industry to put messages of hope and truth out in this world. To build champions, we have to be champions ourselves. It has to be a deliberate movement.

Q: Consumers may not always understand the natural gas industry, if you teach them one thing, what would that be?

A: Get the facts. If you believe pipelines have no place in this world, understand what that will mean without them, and how those impacts will domino accordingly. If you support solar or wind, have the data and knowledge to understand the need for a hybrid energy solution. Do your own work, get at the table and go to work. If you want to make a difference, get involved.

One Call Webinar

(continued from page 1)

The highlights of the changes in the webinar include:

- The Life of a Ticket will be 14 Calendar Days
- Mandatory Positive Response for Members, Excavators & OKIE811
- Provisions for State of Emergency Declaration
- Required Damage Reporting to OKIE811 in addition to the Operator
- Better Defined Excavator Responsibilities around Hazardous Pipelines HB-2028
- Excavator may be liable to Operator for misuse of Emergency Tickets
- Excavator may be liable to Operator for Excessive & Unreasonable Updates on a Ticket

A recording of the webinar is available at [OGA/Okie 811 One-Call Law Changes Webinar](#).

Congratulations to Larry Alspaugh for a career of service and professionalism

A long career dedicated to the natural gas industry comes to an end as our friend, Larry Alspaugh, retires from T.D. Williamson. He leaves behind a legacy as a valued contributor to the success of the Oklahoma Gas Association with years of tireless service.

“When thinking about consummate, dedicated professional to his personal career, those around him, and his industry, Larry quickly comes to mind,” said OGA Executive Director, Tom Rider. “In addition to the association missing his valued service and insight, I will miss him, and we all wish him the best in retirement.”

Before he departed, we chose to take this opportunity to seek some insight and wisdom from him.



Q: As you wrap up a long, successful career in the natural gas industry, what are some things you’ve learned that you would like to share with others?

A. Investigate and strive to understand information and topics of knowledge beyond your specific job requirements. I learned this from my father both as advice and by his practice.

Communicate appreciation for tasks “well done” especially if they do not affect you.

Be free with compliments and cautious with criticism. I’m still working on this daily.

Participate in industry organizations. i.e. the OGA and AGA, American Gas Association. These are great places to network and expand your understanding of our industry.

Q: If someone asked you about pursuing a career in the natural gas industry, what would you tell them?

A. The natural gas industry is a great place to build a career. You can find a home in your discipline but just as important I have seen operators willing to encourage cross-discipline advancement.

Q: The OGA has benefitted from your service, what did you find most rewarding about your efforts on behalf of the association?

A. “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel,” -Maya Angelou. I would have to say I will always remember the way OGA made me feel about the people of gas industry.

Q: What thoughts would you like to share about the long-term direction of the association (or what might you like to see happen)?

A: My hopes are we widen and deepen the gas companies participation expanding from the operation's focus and incorporate a holistic view the gas companies. This focus would aid in the deepening education of the workforce and enhance cross-discipline advancement. Programs for procurement would be an immediate benefit to workers and companies alike. Also, Cyber-Security will be a topic that touches each of us more than we now realize.

Q: With all the upcoming free time on your hands, what do you have planned?

A: The lovely Mrs. Alspaugh and I purchased a “fixer-upper” across the street. We love working on home projects together. Next I will complete the restoration of my 1972 Super Beetle which I purchased new upon graduation from high school. It needs some love to get back on the road. Lastly, TDW is graciously providing a

(see LARRY ALSAUGH, page 6)

Natural Gas Customers Will Save Money and Lower Their Carbon Footprint Compared to Other Forms of Energy

The American Gas Association (AGA) recently announced that natural gas customers could save up to 67 percent this winter compared to customers using other forms of energy and lower their carbon footprints. At its annual winter outlook event, held virtually, AGA shared the results of a survey of its natural gas utility members which found that customer bills nationwide will increase an average of 18 percent based on a four percent increase in demand due to colder weather.

“We expect that a colder winter will cause customers to use more natural gas, but despite increased use customers will still be saving money and lowering their carbon footprint due to the economic and environmental benefits of this fuel compared to other sources of energy,” said Richard Meyer, AGA’s Vice President, Energy Markets, Analysis and Standards.

Natural gas homes will also emit fewer emissions this winter. An Energy Star natural gas household could have a carbon footprint that is 19 percent lower than an Energy Star heat pump and 64 percent lower emissions compared to an electrical resistance furnace. The American Gas Association is [committed](#) to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through smart innovation, new and modernized infrastructure, and advanced technologies that maintain reliable, resilient, and affordable energy service choices for consumers.

The AGA Energy Markets, Analysis and Standards team also gave an overview of the natural gas market. While natural gas prices have risen this fall, natural gas utilities use a range of physical and financial tools to help protect customers from market volatility.

Natural gas will be there for you when you need it most. In fact, on the coldest day of the year, the natural gas system delivers three times more energy than the electric grid delivers on the hottest day of the year. In addition, the Potential Gas Committee recently [released](#) their year-end assessment of the nation’s estimated natural gas resource base which says that total gas (resources plus reserves) rises to a record 3,863 trillion cubic feet.

If customers do have unusually high bills in the winter, or trouble paying their natural gas bill, they should reach out to their local natural gas utility. Natural gas utilities have flexible payment plans and access to funds for customers in need. In 2021, the United States Congress has allocated record funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) including \$4.5 billion in supplemental funding as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Customers in need of assistance should contact their [local state LIHEAP office](#).

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Supplying Chain Insights: Navigating Current Challenges and Effectively Managing Risk

By Angela Burnett, ONE Gas, Inc. and Chair of the Southern Gas Association (SGA) Supply Chain Committee

February 2020 and the demand that followed shocked supply chains and exposed vulnerabilities throughout the industry. The present challenge for operators and suppliers is to make their supply chains more resilient, understand their vulnerabilities, and develop a plan of action to reduce the effect on supply chain. This can be done by identifying, evaluating, and managing risks.

Identifying risks is a task worth undertaking to protect the company from the severe impact of supply chain disruptions. Supply chain mapping is an exercise that enables operators to categorize suppliers according to their risk factors. Once the risks have been identified and evaluated, this information can be used to manage the risk.

Operators and suppliers have weighed in on different strategies for managing their company's risk liability. Both agreed on four approaches as effective steps toward managing risk:

1. Diversifying the supply base,
2. Stockpiling critical material,
3. Collaborating with engineering, construction, and operations departments to implement buying strategy,
4. Maintaining continuous communication with suppliers.

Diversification of the supply base reduces risk. Single-sourced material needs a second approved supplier, and these materials should be procured

consistently from both suppliers to maintain an active relationship with each.

Suppliers that produce items in only one plant increase disruption risks even higher. Suppliers that scrutinize and maintain operators' project surplus for longer time periods, without turning over to investment recovery, may move this surplus into operator stock.

Collaboration with engineering, construction, and operations to analyze usage and predict material needs enables supply chain to submit forecasted orders. These forecasts also assist the suppliers with procuring raw material and components to build critical and long lead-time material.

In addition, gaining proactive approval of alternate material and maintaining an updated Approved Manufacturers List enables supply chain to obtain critical material in emergency situations. Strategically sourcing from non-traditional suppliers (for example, sourcing surplus material from project surplus clearing houses or from similarly situated operators in the industry) can be done in extreme emergencies.

Finally, communication is one of, if not the most important, aspects of managing risk. Operator-Supplier relationship management is a vital component of supply chain. Regular meetings with key suppliers provide opportunities for suppliers to understand risk profiles and challenges while receiving timely supply chain updates. Suppliers need to have a seat at the table of their customers.

NOTE: This article was originally published in the SGA's The Link Q3 2021 Newsletter.

Larry Alspaugh

(continued from page 4)

retirement gift of a Kayak. The lovely Mrs. Alspaugh and I will be found on the water.

Q: What do you consider as your biggest career accomplishment or accomplishments?

A: Growing my sales position beyond basic assignments into what I refer to as being an Ambassador to the Gas Industry. An Ambassador serves to enhance or facilitate communication. Within TDW I am able to communicate customer

needs with engineering, product development, and manufacturing largely because I have taken the time to appreciate the language and focus of each.

Beyond TDW I have been blessed to serve as an Ambassador to the OGA and the AGA in ways that benefit the advancement of the gas industry as a whole. Thank you Dick Williamson for encouraging industry involvement by employees.

Report: U.S. Natural Gas Supply Remains Abundant

The Potential Gas Committee (PGC) recently released their year-end assessment of the nation's estimated natural gas resource base at a virtual event hosted by the American Gas Association. Technically recoverable resources, those in the ground but not yet recovered, total 3,368 trillion cubic feet (Tcf). When you add in the recovered gas, the total gas (resources plus reserves) rises to a record 3,863 Tcf, up slightly from the comparable year-end 2018 assessment.

"This report affirms that Americans will have the clean natural gas that they need now and well into the future," said Richard Meyer, Vice President, Energy Markets, Analysis and Standards for the American Gas Association. "The COVID-19 pandemic has temporarily slowed drilling activity, but the United States continues robust natural gas production relative to history. Our total gas account as a measure of future supplies is as high as ever and, with supportive policies in place to ensure reliable supply, this vast energy resource is available to meet our energy needs and to support U.S. and global commitments to lowering emissions."

The PGC's year-end 2020 resource-specific assessment of 3,368 Tcf includes 3,212 Tcf of gas potentially recoverable from "traditional" reservoirs (conventional, tight sands, carbonates, and shales) and 157 Tcf in coalbed gas reservoirs.

The Potential Gas Committee (PGC) consists of approximately 80 knowledgeable and highly experienced volunteer members who work in the natural gas exploration, production, transportation, and distribution industries and the technical services and consulting sectors. The PGC biennial assessment is the most comprehensive report of the potential for future natural gas supplies in the U.S.

According to the report: The Atlantic Area contains 39 percent of total U.S. gas resources, followed by the Mid-Continent with 18 percent. The Rocky Mountains has 17 percent of the potential future supply, while the Gulf Coast (including the Gulf of Mexico) contains 16 percent. Changes in the total assessment from year-end 2018 to year-end 2020 arose primarily from the evaluation of recent drilling, well tests, and subsequent production data from these four areas.

The full report is available at <http://potentialgas.org/>.

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Norman, Oklahoma

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