



OGA News & Views

March 2022 — Volume 19, No. 3

A PUBLICATION OF THE OKLAHOMA GAS ASSOCIATION

IN THIS ISSUE

OGA to host Motorcycle Ride to benefit the scholarship fund	Page 2
OGA Awards Annual Scholarships	Page 3
Photos from the OGA Annual Conference	Page 5
EIA expects high prices for natural gas this winter as global consumption remains high and inventories low	Page 7
New Rule Strengthens Safety Requirements for more than 300,000 miles of Natural Gas Pipelines	Page 8

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

Tom Rider
Executive Director
Oklahoma Gas Association
308 N.E. 27th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-2717
E-mail: tom@okgas.org

OGA News & Views is published four times a year by the Oklahoma Gas Association. Any comments or article suggestions should be forwarded to:

Oklahoma Gas Association
308 N.E. 27th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-2717

Phone: (405) 528-1752
Fax: (405) 524-5095
Website: www.okgas.org

Natural Gas Professionals gather for OGA Annual Conference

For the first time since 2019, natural gas professionals met for the Oklahoma Gas Association Annual Conference in late August in Norman, OK.

“After not having the conference for several years due to the COVID pandemic, we are pleased with the turnout and the response from our members,” said Tom Rider, OGA Executive Director.

The conference provided attendees a mix of operational, industry updates and professional development sessions, and the opportunity to network with peers and vendors.

Highly regarded motivational speaker, Dr. Chuck Jackson, kicked off the conference with his impactful session titled, “I am Their Leader – Which Way did They Go?” While Energy Worldnet’s James Cross discussed “Kickstarting your Culture.”

Sue Forrester, Vice President, Advocacy and Outreach with the American Gas Association, was the final speaker. She discussed the current state of natural gas policy at both the federal and state level including some local efforts to reduce the use of natural gas.

The crowd favorite People’s Choice Awards lunch returned with teams from Summit-AOG, ONEOK, and Energy Transfer competing. The winning team Summit AOG was led by Terry Flanagan. (See photos from the annual conference on page 3.)

OGA to host leadership webinar – Behavior Expectations

The OGA’s Executive Director, Tom Rider, will present a one-hour webinar – *Behavior Expectations* – at 9 a.m. Tuesday, November 15 at no charge.

Everyone assumes that others will act professionally when performing their job. The only way this will occur is when each worker knows and understands what is expected of them. Supervisors are responsible for clearly defining what is expected of their employees and then holding them accountable to these standards.

The session is free of charge, click here [Behavior Expectations](#) to register or visit www.okgas.org.

For more than 30 years, Rider has worked with organizations and individuals helping them realize success through focused effort. His programs on leadership, supervision, and interpersonal relations consistently receive high marks from participants.

Registration questions may be directed to jeffk@okgas.org.

Register for the OGA Line Locate School

The Oklahoma Gas Association (OGA) will present the Line Locate School Wednesday, October 12, 2022, in Pryor, Oklahoma. The deadline to register has been extended to October 10, 2022.

The one-day training opportunity combines both classroom and field instruction.

Classroom sessions cover updates to the Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act that went into effect November 21 and an understanding of locate theory and principles and establishing best practices for accurate line locating.

Field training focuses on best practices and troubleshooting. Attendees are encouraged to bring their line locator. There will be a few available to be used in training as well.

The registration fee is \$49, and registration is available at www.okgas.org or by clicking [here](#).

Class Schedule:

8:30 a.m.	Registration
9 a.m.	Welcome/Introductions/Safety Moment
9:15 a.m.	Understanding the Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act after the most recent update effective November 2021 / Speaker – MG Govia – Okie811
10:30 a.m.	Best practices and troubleshooting. How do Locators work? How can I tell if I'm on target? What can I do if I'm not right on target? / Speakers – Robert Botello, Heath Consultants, and Jason Crowe, Green Equipment Company
12 p.m.	Lunch (provided by Heath Consultants)
1 p.m.	Field training and application of best practices and troubleshooting.
2:45 p.m.	Closing Q&A

The OGA Line Locate School is by the Municipal Utility Board Pryor Creek and will be held at the Mayes County Event Center (2200 N.E. First St. Pryor, OK).

Questions about the training session may be directed to Jason Crowe, Green Equipment Company at jasoncrowe@greenequipmentco.com. Registration questions may be directed to Jeff Kaufmann at jeffk@meso.org.

OGA to host Motorcycle Ride to benefit the scholarship fund

Riders will meet at 9 a.m. Saturday, October 15, 2022, at Owasso High School (12901 East 86th St N, Owasso, OK) and Kicks Stands Up is at 9:30 a.m.

Register at www.okgas.org or by clicking here: [OGA Scholarship Ride](#). All riders and passengers are required to register and sign a provided Waiver of Liability to participate in the event.

The registration fee is \$50 per rider and passenger. The t-shirt order for the event has been placed, so no more t-shirts are included in the registration.

For more information about the event contact: Jason Crowe, Green Equipment Company and Chair of the OGA Board of Directors, jasoncrowe@greenequipmentco.com. Registration questions may be directed to jeffk@okgas.org.



OGA Awards Annual Scholarships

For more than twenty years, OGA has awarded college scholarships to dependents or grandchildren of OGA Member employees or retirees.

This year is no different. Hayden Fleming and Tyler Teague were selected for scholarships from a strong group of applicants.

Hayden is the son of Summit-AOG's Brian Fleming. He was number 3 in his class of 64 with a 3.95-grade point average. He plans to attend the University of Arkansas to study engineering.

Tyler is the grandson of Summit-AOG's Alfred Newman. His 4.0-grade point average earned him number 2 in a class of 52. He plans to attend Arkansas Tech University to pursue marketing management and digital marketing.



Hayden Fleming



Tyler Teague

Register today for upcoming OGA Events:

OGA Line Locate School

October 12 Pryor, OK

Click here: [OGA Line Locate School](#)

OGA Scholarship Ride

October 15 Owasso, OK

Click here: [OGA Scholarship Ride](#)

OGA Leadership Webinar – Behavior Expectations

November 15

Click here: [Behavior Expectations](#)

The 2022 OGA Annual Conference

President's Club Sponsor



Gold Sponsors



T.D. Williamson

Bronze Sponsors

Altec
EGW Utility Solutions
Groebner
KGM

Sponsors

AY McDonald Mfg
BK Corrosion
CDI
Compliance EnviroSystems, LLC
Ditch Witch of Oklahoma
Equipment Controls
Gajeske
Green Equipment Company
Irby Utilities
JJ Kane Auctioneers

Landpoint
LineQuest, LLC
MATCOR
Pergam Technical Services
Plasson USA
Rainmaker Sales
The Paradigm Alliance
The Pipe Yard Inc.
Thurmond McGlothlin – Energy Meter Systems
Tulsa Gas Technologies

Photos from the OGA Annual Conference



OGA Board of Directors

Jason Crowe
Green Equipment Company
Chair

Kasey Wilson
Oklahoma Natural Gas Company
Vice-Chair

Scott Fite
Energy Transfer Partners
Secretary

Terry Lablue
ONEOK
Treasurer

Board Members

Jeff Althoff
City of Tuttle

Robert Botello
Heath Consultants

James Cross
Energy Worldnet

Jimmy Eastham
NOPFA

Roger Eichelberger
MUB Pryor Creek

Mark Haptonstall
Summit – AOG

Nate Toedter
Summit Utilities – Oklahoma

Advisory Board Members

Larry Aspaugh
Retired

Josh Dewitt
KGM

Russell Jennett
LASEN™ Inc.



From the U.S. Energy Information Administration

EIA expects high prices for natural gas this winter as global consumption remains high and inventories low

News Release – September 7, 2022

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) expects higher-than-average natural gas prices globally as demand remains high this winter in the United States, Europe, and Asia, and inventories remain low.

According to EIA's September 2022 [Short-Term Energy Outlook](#) (STEO), the U.S. natural gas spot price at the Henry Hub will continue to climb this winter, reaching a monthly average of \$9.10 per million British thermal units in January 2023. That price will be the highest inflation-adjusted monthly average price since 2008. Natural gas futures prices in Europe and Asia set records in August as pipeline exports from Russia to Europe reached their lowest level in 40 years and U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports remained limited due to the outage at the Freeport LNG facility.

EIA expects demand for natural gas to remain high despite high prices for the commodity.

"There are limited options for replacing natural gas in the short term, especially for electricity generation," said EIA Administrator Joe DeCarolis. "We expect

electricity producers—particularly in Europe—will have to generate some electricity from oil-based fuels this winter."

As the United States approaches winter, EIA forecasts U.S. natural gas inventories will be 7% below their previous five-year average at the end of October. Natural gas is the primary source of heat for [46% of U.S. households](#).

EIA continues to forecast a decrease in average U.S. natural gas prices in 2023, as production increases.

Other key takeaways from the September 2022 STEO forecast include:

- EIA forecasts U.S. LNG exports will average 11.7 billion cubic feet per day during the fourth quarter of 2022—up 17% from the third quarter. "U.S. LNG exports should return to record volumes if the Freeport LNG facility resumes partial operations in November, as we expect," DeCarolis said.
- EIA expects that oil prices will remain somewhat (see EIA EXPECTS HIGH PRICES, page 7)

From the American Gas Association

AGA Opposes Proposal to Ban Natural Gas Appliances

News Release – August 24, 2022

Washington, DC - The Sierra Club today petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to impose a federal ban on gas appliances.

"Any proposal that bans natural gas or natural gas appliances would be harmful to consumers and to the environment. America's natural gas utilities invest millions of dollars every day to advance low- and zero-carbon energy technologies and reduce emissions, efforts that have led to a 69 percent decline in emissions since 1990. Natural gas is helping our nation achieve our environmental goals in real-time, and the data proves that out. Conversely, this proposal would impose undue burdens on consumers at every step of the process, including our most vulnerable communities, all without the environmental benefit that is claimed. This proposal is simply bad policy."

Because natural gas delivers between 2.5 and 3.5 times as much energy on the coldest day of the year as the electrical distribution system does on the

hottest day of the year, fully electrifying the energy system would force consumers to bear the higher costs of tripling the current electric infrastructure to serve peak winter heating loads. Natural gas customers currently save an average of \$1,041 per year compared to all-electric homes, so added costs incurred could be in addition to the losses on fuel savings. Natural gas homes can have GHG emissions 64 percent lower than homes with electric resistance furnaces.

The American Gas Association, founded in 1918, represents more than 200 local energy companies that deliver clean natural gas throughout the United States. There are more than 76 million residential, commercial and industrial natural gas customers in the U.S., of which 95 percent — more than 73 million customers — receive their gas from AGA members. Today, natural gas meets more than thirty percent of the United States' energy needs.

From PHMSA

New Rule Strengthens Safety Requirements for more than 300,000 miles of Natural Gas Pipelines

News Release – August 4, 2022

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) transmitted a final rule to the Federal Register August 4, 2022 that will strengthen the safety and environmental protection on more than 300,000 miles of onshore gas transmission pipelines throughout the United States. The final rule, first initiated 11 years ago, incorporates lessons learned through the investigation of the September 9, 2010 gas transmission pipeline incident in San Bruno, CA, which resulted in the death of eight people and injuries to more than 60 others.

"When pipelines leak or fail, the results can be deadly, as we saw in the 2010 San Bruno tragedy," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "This new rule will significantly improve safety and environmental protections for our nation's natural gas pipeline system, which will help save lives, avoid costly disruptions to gas service, and strengthen our supply chains."

The final rule establishes new standards for identifying threats, potential failures, and worst-case scenarios from an initial failure through conclusion of an incident. Based in part on recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board, the rule:

- imposes new Management of Change process requirements to, for example, avoid a situation like the San Bruno incident where a substandard segment of pipe was substituted without proper authorization;
- strengthens Integrity Management requirements, including identifying and evaluating all potential threats to pipelines; bolsters corrosion control standards to include surveys for interference of corrosion protection, internal and external

corrosion monitoring, and corrosion protection testing;

- institutes new requirements for inspections after extreme weather events; and expands criteria and expedites timelines for pipeline repairs.

"The 2010 PG&E incident in San Bruno was a tragedy that we must never forget," said PHMSA Deputy Administrator Tristan Brown. "This rule will help prevent future incidents by ensuring operators identify and repair threats more quickly and comprehensively, improving safety and mitigating climate impacts."

The final rule, first initiated in a 2011 Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, concludes a trio of pipeline safety rules following PHMSA's 2016 proposed rulemaking for [gas transmission and gathering pipelines](#). PHMSA issued a [2019 gas transmission final rule](#) which addressed a number of congressional mandates and safety recommendations and a [2021 final rule](#) that significantly expanded the scope of safety and reporting requirements for more than 400,000 miles of previously unregulated gas gathering lines. Today's final rule also marks a milestone of the completion of three of the six PHMSA measures in the [U.S. Methane Reduction Action Plan](#).

Read the full text of the rule [here](#).

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration develops and enforces regulations for the safe, reliable, and environmentally sound operation of the nation's 3.3-million-mile pipeline transportation system and the nearly 1.2 million daily shipments of hazardous materials by land, sea, and air. Please visit <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov> for more information.

EIA expects high prices

(continued from page 6)

the same for the rest of the year, although with continued price volatility. "Any number of factors could affect oil prices in the fourth quarter, including changes in OPEC production, conflict in Libya, or potential U.S. production and transportation disruptions due to late-season hurricanes," DeCarolis said.

- EIA estimates that U.S. households consumed 1.7% more electricity this summer (June–

August) than during the summer of 2021. This increase is largely because estimates show the summer of 2022 was slightly hotter than 2021.

The entire September 2022 STEO is available [on the EIA website](#).

EIA will publish its forecasts for U.S. heating prices, average fuel consumption, and heating expenditures in its Winter Fuels Outlook on October 12.