

# Municipal Gas Systems of Oklahoma

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## April 2013 Newsletter

### **APGA call for Immediate Input on Pipeline Safety Violations**

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has been asked by Congress and others whether states are using civil penalties (monetary fines) effectively. PHMSA has found that only 14 states issued civil penalties in 2011 as part of their pipeline safety enforcement duties and 17 states have not issued a single civil penalty in the last 10 years. Some states, however, have used alternative enforcement actions, such as requiring an operator to spend money fixing problems on the system rather than paying a fine that goes into the state's general fund. In addition, some state constitutions do not allow state agencies to fine government-owned utilities. American Public Gas Association (APGA) believes alternative enforcement should be the preferred option for states because it applies the money to improving the system rather than transferring pipeline safety money to the various general funds of the state. PHMSA, however, is pressuring states to impose a fine with each and every notice of violation and threatening to cut federal funding to states that do not impose fines.

APGA is working with the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR) to assemble details that could be used to paint a more comprehensive picture of enforcement activity. If the Oklahoma Corporation Commission's division of Pipeline Safety has ever issued a notice of probable violations to your utility and required that you take some action in lieu of a fine, send a written statement to the MGSO office, 308 NE 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105 or email [tom@meso.org](mailto:tom@meso.org). APGA is also encouraging gas utilities to take a short, nine question, online survey about your experience. It can be found at [www.apga.org/PHMSA\\_fines](http://www.apga.org/PHMSA_fines). The survey is meant to provide a more complete view of state pipeline safety enforcement and thereby addresses the perception issue. Without a strong case, the pressure to impose significant civil penalties, perhaps in addition to alternate enforcement actions, is likely to continue.

For further information, please contact John Erickson of APGA staff by phone at 202-464-2742, ext 1002 or by email at [jerickson@apga.org](mailto:jerickson@apga.org).

### **April is National Safe Digging Month!**

April is the month to spread the message to your customers and community about safe digging. The importance of calling 811 before digging cannot be overstated. Calling before digging is not only a safety measure, but it also saves time, money and resources. Find out more about how you can spread the 811 message in April by visiting the Common Ground Alliance website at [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com).

## DOE Publishes Annual Representative Average Unit Costs of Energy

On March 22, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) published a notice in the Federal Register forecasting the representative average unit costs of five residential energy sources for the year 2013 pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act. The five sources are electricity, natural gas, No. 2 heating oil, propane and kerosene. On April 22, the cost figures published in the March 22 notice will become effective until further notice.

Section 323(b)(3) of the act requires that the estimated annual operating costs of a covered product be calculated from measurements of energy use in a representative average use cycle or period of use and from representative average unit costs of the energy needed to operate such product during such cycle. The section further requires that DOE provide information to manufacturers regarding the representative average unit costs of energy. This cost information is used by manufacturers to meet their obligations under Section 323(c) of the act. Most notably, these costs are used to comply with Federal Trade Commission (FTC) requirements for labeling. Manufacturers are required to use the revised DOE representative average unit costs when the FTC publishes new ranges of comparability for specific covered products.

The costs for electricity, natural gas, No. 2 heating oil and propane are based on simulations used to produce the March 2013 Energy Information Administration (EIA) Short-Term Energy Outlook. The source for these price data is the February 2013 Monthly Energy Review DOE/EIA-0035 (2013/02), available on the EIA website at <http://www.eia.doe.gov>. The average unit costs for natural gas are \$1.059/therm or \$10.59/MCF. The average unit cost for Electricity is 11.84¢/kWh.

## Pipeline Safety Regulatory Update, May 14-15

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission's division of Pipeline Safety will be holding its Regulatory Update seminar May 14 & 15 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Tulsa. To register for the seminar, go to [www.occ.state.ok.us](http://www.occ.state.ok.us). On the home page, under "HOT TOPICS," click on Pipeline Safety Conference – May 14 – 17, 2013. The conference is divided into two sections. The first section, May 14 & 15, is for natural gas operators. The second section, May 16 & 17 is for hazardous liquids operators.

### Upcoming Events

May 14 – 17	Pipeline Safety's Regulatory Update	Tulsa
June 13	OGA's Scholarship Classic	Guthrie
August 26 – 28	OGA's Annual Conference	Norman
September 17 – 19	OML Annual Conference	Tulsa



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# OGA Scholarship Classic

Golf \* Exhibits  
Thursday, June 13, 2013

		<b>Cash/Check/PayPal</b>
Registration Fee	Golf	\$ 90.00/ <b>\$95.00</b> per golfer
	Lunch only	\$ 35.00/ <b>\$40.00</b> per person

Golf Registration fee includes:

Round of golf, ½ cart, entry in all prize drawings, lunch and OGA gift.

**Prizes awarded for various place finishes.**

## Schedule of Events

9:30 a.m.	Registration Begins - Cimarron National Golf Club
10:00 a.m.	Exhibits and Equipment Show
11:00 a.m.	Lunch
<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Golf Tournament</b>
	Prizes and cash drawings awarded at the conclusion

## Let's Have Fun!

Register as an individual or put together your own team. If you are registering as a team, the team must register together and payment for all team members must accompany the registration form.

## Directions to the Tournament

From Oklahoma City take I-35 north to Guthrie. Take Exit 157, Highway 33 (second Guthrie exit when heading north). Turn west. Go through Guthrie approximately 10 miles to Cimarron National Golf Club, located on the north side of Highway 33.

**You can now pay by credit card through PayPal.**  
**Go to [www.okgas.net](http://www.okgas.net) to pay.**

# OGA Scholarship Classic

## Registration Form (Duplicate as Necessary)

Thursday, June 13, 2013

9:30 a.m. registration begins; 10:00 a.m. – Exhibitors Show

**Golf begins at 12:30 p.m.**

Cimarron National Golf Club, Guthrie, Oklahoma

Registering as \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \_\_\_\_\_ Team

**Registration includes: attendance at the vendors show, lunch, 1 round of golf and ½ cart.**

Company or City: \_\_\_\_\_

**Door Prizes and Giveaways are welcome.**

	<b>CASH/CHECK</b>	<b>PAYPAL</b>
Golfer: _____	@ \$90.00	\$95.00 \$ _____
Golfer: _____	@ \$90.00	\$95.00 \$ _____
Golfer: _____	@ \$90.00	\$95.00 \$ _____
Golfer: _____	@ \$90.00	\$95.00 \$ _____

**TOTAL Payment (please check one):** Cash \_\_\_\_\_ PayPal \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL REGISTRATION  
AND PAYMENT TO**

OGA  
308 N. E. 27<sup>th</sup> Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-2717

**EMAIL REGISTRATION TO**

tom@meso.org

**FAX REGISTRATION**

(405) 524-5095

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

(405) 528-1752 or tom@meso.org

**Credit Card Information**

**To pay by Credit Card, go to [www.okgas.net](http://www.okgas.net) and click on the PayPal info. There is an additional transaction fee.**

***Registration is not complete until payment is received.***