

2015 Fall



Operations Conference

October 8 - 9, 2015
The Saratoga Hilton
Saratoga Springs, NY

The Program

The Northeast Gas Association is pleased to present the 2015 Fall Conference Program. The program includes timely topics in the areas of transmission and distribution integrity, corrosion control, damage prevention, customer service, gas utilization, measurement, safety and health, quality assurance and quality control. Some of the highlights of our program include a presentation from a winner of NGA's Excellence in Employee Safety Award, timely updates on new technologies and participatory roundtable sessions on important issues facing our industry.

NGA welcomes all gas industry transmission and distribution operating personnel, members of the regulatory community and NGA trade allies to come and participate.

EXHIBITORS

Eastcom Associates, Inc.
Elster American Meter
Heath Consultants Incorporated
Kerr Engineered Sales Co
Mulcare Pipeline Solutions, Inc.
Performance Pipe, CP Chem
Precision Pipeline Solutions, LLC
Pro-Tek Locating, Inc.
R.W. Lyall & Co., Inc.
SENSIT Technologies
Southern Cross Corp.
United States Infrastructure Corporation/USIC



DAY 1 - October 8

Session 1
10:00-11:00

GENERAL SESSION **Welcome**

Session 2
11:00-11:15

Track Introduction **Co-Chairs** *Paul Pirro, PSE&G* *Nicole Ash, Unitil*

Session 3
11:15-12:00

Update on Methane Detection Technology Development *George Vradis, NYSEARCH*

Methane leak detection is integral to the safety of indoor structures and their inhabitants. Improvements in the accuracy of residential gas detectors and a reduction in the risk of false positive reads are required to instill confidence in the technology. NYSEARCH will provide an update on its progress to develop an advanced accurate detector to meet the needs of the gas industry and enhance the public's safety.

12:00-1:30

Lunch

Session 4
1:30-2:15

National Grid's Online Emergency Responder Program *Bob Wilson, National Grid*

This presentation shares an innovative web-based program focused on engaging and training emergency responders. It includes multi-component training and testing modules that can be completed by participants at their own pace. This program is the 2015 NGA Excellence in Safety Award Recipient.

Session 5
2:15-3:15

Appliance Restoration Following Floods: Immersion Study Results *Bob Wilson, National Grid*

This presentation shares the results of a study by National Grid and GTI to identify risks associated with appliances that have been exposed to flooding.

3:15-3:30

Break

Session 6
3:30-4:30

Roundtable

Join your colleagues and discuss the issues impacting your job, including questions you would like to have answered. Hear how other companies handle similar issues.

DAY 2 - October 9

Session 1
8:30-9:15

Advances In Gas Distribution Technology and Techniques

Paul Armstrong, Gas Technology Institute

This session will cover the development of breakaway disconnect fittings for gas meters; a supplier quality audit program; and the Kleiss distribution pressure line stopping system, as well as other recent technology advancements.

Session 2
9:15-10:15

Beat the Dirty Dozen Causes of Errors and Accidents

Ali Gibson, Pipeline Performance Group

The presenter will discuss 12 frequently noted human factors in accidents across industries and how to deal effectively to counteract them.

10:15-10:30

Break

Session 3
10:30-11:30

Utilizing Tape Products for Leak Repairs *Anthony Dunkley, GTG Engineering*

The effectiveness of LLFA and other tapes used for making permanent atmospheric and buried pipe leak repairs will be presented

Session 4
11:30-12:00

Wrap-up and Action Items





DAY 1 - October 8

- Session 1**
10:00-11:00 **GENERAL SESSION**
Welcome
- Session 2**
11:00-11:15 **Track Introduction**
Chair
Maria Diaz
New Jersey Natural Gas
- Session 3**
11:15-12:00 **Damage Prevention Program Best Practices Panel**
Lenny Perfetti, NYSEG and Maria Diaz, NJNG
- A panel of LDC representatives share aspects of their programs, such as NJNG's program to reduce gas utility contractor damages and NYSEG's damage prevention field surveillance program that have resulted in lower damage rates.
- 12:00-1:30 **Lunch**
- Session 4**
1:30-2:15 **Call Before You Dig Connecticut's Damage Prevention Activities**
Bret Factora, Eversource & CBYD CT, President
- The presenter will cover CBYD's damage prevention partnership with utilities, excavators and regulators. Bret will also cover CBYD's, long range planning initiatives, including their new mission, vision and three key areas of focus. He will also discuss their successful educational/advertising campaign and launch of new software.
- Session 5**
2:15-3:15 **Engaging Public Officials and Their Excavators**
Kevin Hopper, NY Dig Safely, Lenny Perfetti, NYSEG and Diane Benedetto, National Grid
- A panel of LDC representatives and 811 call center service providers will discuss their programs, new initiatives and opportunities for collaboration on engaging public officials and their excavators.
- 3:15-3:30 **Break**
- Session 6**
3:30-4:30 **Roundtable Issue:**
- Participants are encouraged to share their approaches to reduce damages. Please come prepared to discuss your program.

DAY 2 - October 9

- Session 1**
8:30-9:15 **Employing In-Pipe Locating Techniques**
Nathan King, ULC Robotics
- Outdated mapping can lead to an inaccurate mark-out. An alternative method that will be presented involves launching a camera into live gas mains and using a custom developed radio transmitter to mark out exactly what is seen from above ground. From inside the main every service tap, stub tap, changes in direction, unmapped tees and other features can be marked accurately.
- Session 2**
9:15-10:15 **System Analysis Approaches to Detect Third Party Damages**
Gary Fulop, O&R, David Balban, O&R and Mark Baldwin, Consolidated Edison
- A panel will discuss their progress on assessing the risk of undetected damage to services that may have occurred.
- 10:15-10:30 **Break**
- Session 3**
10:30-11:30 **Locating Best Practices**
Ed Heany, Premier Energy Services, Larry Verga, Eastcom Associates
- A panel of locating contractors will discuss how they employ new technologies and techniques to improve the accuracy of and compliance with mark-outs.
- Session 4**
11:30-12:00 **Wrap-up and Action Items**



DAY 1 - October 8

Session 1
10:00-11:00

GENERAL SESSION
Welcome

Session 2
11:00-11:15

Track Introduction
Chair
Saadat Khan
National Grid

Session 3
11:15-12:00

DIMP Approach to Assessment of Atmospheric Corrosion
Paul Armstrong, Gas Technology Institute

This session will discuss the findings from a recent LDC sponsored study by GTI on corrosion risk assessment and discuss how LDCs are developing DIMP based approaches towards inspecting inside pipe for atmospheric corrosion and leaks.

12:00-1:30

Lunch

Session 4
1:30-2:15

DIMP Best Practices Panel
Saadat Khan, National Grid, Stacey Kilroy, Unitil and Karl Reer, Central Hudson

Findings and best practices from a recent NGA DIMP Workshop will be presented by a panel of LDC representatives.

Session 5
2:15-3:15

Advances in Explorer In-Line Assessment Technology
George Vradis, NYSEARCH

This presentation will feature advances in sensing technologies for defect and crack detection in unpiggable pipelines and improvements in the operational efficiency of inspection robots. Case studies based on field experience will be reviewed.

3:15-3:30

Break

Session 6
3:30-4:30

Roundtable Issue:

Join your colleagues and discuss the issues impacting your job, including questions you would like to have answered. Hear how other companies handle similar issues.

DAY 2 - October 9

Session 1
8:30- 9:15

Tracking and Traceability for Plastic Pipe, Fittings, and Fusions

Alicia Farag, LocusView

This presentation will provide an overview of regulations, standards, and technology for plastic pipe tracking and traceability along with case studies and lessons learned from recent deployments.

Session 2
9:15-10:15

Beat the Dirty Dozen Causes of Errors and Accidents

Ali Gibson, Pipeline Performance Group

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10:15-10:30

Break

Session 3
10:30-11:30

Utilizing Tape Products for Leak Repairs
Anthony Dunkley, GTG Engineering

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Session 4
11:30-12:00

Wrap-up and Action Items





DAY 1 - October 8

Session 1
10:00-11:00 **GENERAL SESSION**
Welcome and Keynote Speaker

Session 2
11:00-11:15 **Track Introduction**
Chair
Tony Pezzulo
South Jersey Gas

Session 3
11:15-12:00 **The New Utility QA/QC Department**
Jim Roberts, *Columbia Gas*

Significant events in the past few years have led to the formation and revamping of utility QA/QC departments. In this session learn how Columbia Gas modified their QA/QC structure to improve the quality level in the construction and maintenance of their distribution system. Come ready to share your experiences and the structure of your company's QA/QC department.

12:00-1:30 **Lunch**

Session 4
1:30-2:15 **Contractor Quality Inspections—Do They Complement a Utility's QA/QC Program?**
Tony Pezzulo, *South Jersey Gas* and Ralph Storti, *Storti Quality Services*

Contractor partners are responsible for the majority of the new distribution system construction and replacement activities in the region. Each contractor has quality programs in place to ensure the work performed by their employees meet the standards established by their utility partner. In this session learn about Storti Quality Services and South Jersey Gas' QA/QC program. Discuss ideas on how to synch contractor and utility's QA/QC goals.

Session 5
2:15-3:15 **Pipe Joining Inspections - What Has Changed?**
Consolidated Edison

New York State's Public Service Commission is requiring utilities to have a second person inspect the pipe joining work performed by an individual. Other states are discussing a similar requirement. In this session learn how companies are addressing this new requirement. What new procedures and structures have they implemented? Come prepared to share your experiences.

3:15-3:30 **Break**

DAY 1 - October 8 - Continued

Session 6
3:30-4:30 **PHMSA's New Construction Inspection Requirements**
Unitil

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) new construction inspection requirements will require a second person to inspect new construction activities. Is your company set-up to perform these inspections? Are your contractors ready? Listen and discuss organization structures and procedures that companies will employ to meet this new federal rule.

DAY 2 - October 9

Session 1
8:30- 9:15 **Proposed Inspector Training Program**
Jose Costa, *Northeast Gas Association*

Working with the QA/QC Committee, NGA has developed a new inspector training program. At this session NGA will present the goals, objectives and proposed courses that will be offered. Share your views on the program and provide suggestions on additional courses that could be offered. The program will commence first quarter 2016.

Session 2
9:15-10:15 **Risk-based Compliance Assurance (RCA)**
Wally Buran, *Enovation Partners*

RCA is a gas industry solution to address the issues and challenges gas utilities face in managing inspection and field operations. RCA is a risk driven, statistically based field inspection program designed to effectively collect, analyze and report risk and compliance data and drive operational excellence across all field activities including construction, leak survey, corrosion, locates, regulation and warehouse operations.

10:15-10:30 **Break**

Session 3
10:30-11:30 **QA/QC Roundtable**

Join your QA/QC industry colleagues and discuss the top issues impacting your job. What questions would you like to have answered? How are other companies handling similar issues that you are currently encountering?

Session 4
11:30-12:00 **Wrap-up and Action Items**

2015 Fall Operations Conference

October 8 - 9, 2015

General Information

Who Should Attend

NGA's 2015 Fall Operations Conference is open to natural gas distribution and transmission company operations personnel with interests in customer field service, safety and health, measurement, damage prevention, pipeline integrity, corrosion and QA/QC

The 2015 Fall Exhibit

- Sold Out -

NGA'S EVENT APP

DOWNLOADING NGA'S APP

1. Download "Eventsential" app from iTunes store, Amazon, or from Google Play.
2. Search for App logo Eventsential.
3. Open the App and see a list of all association logos.
4. Tap the NGA logo and see all event logos.
5. Tap desired event.
6. Each event has a custom logo, title, and color

Operates on all iOS and android devices

Registration

Online registration is available on NGA's website: www.northeastgas.org, then click on "Member Login" top left corner

Online Registration (for those already entered in NGA's on-line system)

If you already have a username and password for the NGA site, you can register online right now. To log in go to NGA's website, www.northeastgas.org. After you login, click on the left side on the tab for "Online Store." You will be taken to the store, Look for the "2015 Fall Conference." Click on the "2015 Fall Conference Attendees" and continue registering from there.

Online Registration (for those not entered in NGA's on-line system)

If you are not yet registered with NGA for online access and would like to do so, you can complete the "Individual Database Profile Form" found on NGA's member log in screen. You can also email Eileen Sitte at esitte@northeastgas.org, and request a form be emailed to you. Please return the forms via email to Eileen Sitte at esitte@northeastgas.org. NGA will contact you once you are entered in our database with a username and password for future access.

Hotel Accommodations at The Saratoga Hilton



*The Saratoga Hotel, 534 Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866*

Overnight accommodations are the responsibility of each individual.

NGA has secured a block of rooms with a rate of **\$159.00** per night.

To make your reservation, call the hotel at **888-866-3596**

Booking Website:

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/NEGas2015Saratoga>

To receive the group rate, you must mention Northeast Gas Association.

Cut-off date is **September 23, 2015**

Travel Directions

<http://www.thesaratogahotel.com/map-directions>

Conference Contact

If you have questions regarding the conference, including the exhibit, please contact Eileen Sitte, NGA, at 781-455-6800 (117) esitte@northeastgas.org.

Northeast Gas Association—75 second Avenue, Suite 510, Needham, MA 02494