

the voice and choice of public gas



# APGA Issues

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**City of Rocky Mount, NC**



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# American Public Gas Association

- ~1000 community-owned gas systems
  - 37 states
  - ~5 Million Customers
  - ~21,000 Employees
  - ~120,000 Miles of Main
- Systems size (Meters): 12 to ~500,000
- Largest cities: Philadelphia, San Antonio, Indianapolis, Memphis, Long Beach, Richmond, Colorado Springs, Mesa
- Freedom, OK (12 meters)



# City of Rocky Mount Gas Utility

- ~17,000 gas customers
- 20 employees
- Engineering and Code Compliance Department consists of 1 engineer
- 43<sup>rd</sup> largest public gas system
- 95% of public gas systems are smaller
- The typical public gas system does not have engineering or compliance staff
- The typical public gas system is very simple – gas free flows from receipt point to customer with little or no human intervention



# Priority #1

The Safe and Reliable  
Delivery of Affordable  
Natural Gas at Just &  
Reasonable Rates



# SOAR

- System Operational Achievement Recognition
  - System Integrity
  - Employee Safety
  - System Improvement
  - Workforce Development
- To encourage public gas utilities to go beyond compliance and adopt effective safety management programs



# Integrity Verification Process

- ~ 5% of APGA members have transmission (~2,900 miles total)
- Very different than interstate transmission
  - ~50% between 4" and 10" diameter
  - ~1/6 less than 4 inches diameter
- Concerned about potential costs and impact on distribution customers



# Class Location

- Class location affects many parts of rules
- Urge PHMSA to use caution in considering switch to HCA approach
- Suggest that PHMSA revisit the definition of transmission so that lines that are transmission only because of function are treated differently from high stress lines



# Expanding Excess Flow Valve Use

- EFVs for single residential services working well, but ...
- Occasionally customers add load and EFVs close
- EFVs can work on some multi-family and commercial services, but ...
- Particularly commercial customers frequently add load
- Will need to take care to address load changes





# PSMS Recommended Practice

- Early drafts were not practical for small, simple systems like most public gas utilities
- The working group has made changes to make the RP scalable to smaller operations
- APGA is working on guidance for how the ten basic elements of the PSMS RP can be applied to public gas systems

# Security and Integrity Foundation

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- The SIF helps small systems address safety and security requirements
- To date have qualified over 5,000 utility workers in as many as 100 OQ covered tasks
- ~1,600 systems have used the SHRIMP program to develop Distribution Integrity Management Program plans
- Currently developing smart phone/tablet apps for utility inspection & maintenance
- Funded by cooperative agreement with PHMSA



# Carolinas Public Gas Association

- Recently formed with 22 members
- To enhance the performance, safety, competitiveness, and public awareness of our members
- Training and compliance are a priority



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# Questions?



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