Register for the DCA & AGA Utility Contractor Workshop

March 27 - 29, 2023
Trump International Hotel & Towers
Chicago, Illinois

Register Now: www.dcaweb.org/page/DCAAGA

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Monday, March 27

6:00 pm       Welcome Reception

Tuesday, March 28

7:30 am       Breakfast

8:00 am       Welcome / Introductions

8:15 am       Operator & Contractor Collaboration
Utilities face social, environmental, regulatory, workforce availability, other unprecedented pressures. This session will explore specific strategies where utility and contractor collaboration and/or integration results in improved productivity, safety, risk mitigation, regulatory compliance results.

Panelists
Jorge Cordova, San Diego Gas & Electric
Pat Rowe, Black Hills Energy
Steve Berard, CenterPoint Energy
Moderator: Continuum Capital

9:00 am       Legislative Update & Natural Gas Bans Coalition
Presentation will provide legislative updates, as well as describe how some municipal and state policies are pushing to ban or restrict access to new natural gas connections, what the industry is doing to push back, and implications to capital construction activity.
Presenter: Sue Forrester, American Gas Association

9:30 am       Hydrogen Pipelines
Hydrogen is gaining more traction as utilities consider carbon reduction initiatives. This session will describe the role of hydrogen pipeline systems and hydrogen blending in the future of the natural gas industry as we figure out how to efficiently and effectively create, capture, transport, and use hydrogen.
Presenter: Joshua Davis, Dominion Energy
10:00 am  Break

10:15 am  **OQ Integrity Process Update**
The Operator Qualification Integrity Process (OQIP) has been moving along in its Pilot Programs in the Southwest with New Mexico Gas; Puget Sound Energy in the Northwest; and SEMCO in Michigan. OQIP representatives from the Pilot program Operator will share details and the status of their programs, their initiatives, and contents identified in their recently released “White Papers”. The discussion will include the outlining of their organization’s implementation processes and lessons learned and other pertinent points discovered during their journey in their OQIP Pilot execution and deployment.

**Panelists**
Andrea Martinez, New Mexico Gas Company (Albuquerque, NM)
Phil Lenn, SEMCO Energy (Port Huron, Michigan)
Troy Nutter, Puget Sound Energy (Bellevue, Wash)
**Moderator:** Brad Heck, Miller Pipeline

11:15 am  **Cyber & Security Update**
Cybersecurity and general security carry national and regional concerns that utilities, engineers, and contractors must understand as the design and construction of energy infrastructure is under constant threat. This presentation will focus on known cybersecurity threats, important cyber hygiene steps, pending regulation and tools to help mitigate threats.

**Presenter:** Mark Guth, Nicor

12:00 pm  Lunch

1:30 pm  **Workforce Development – Leadership Development Training**
Workforce capacity problems continue to plague all stakeholders in the gas distribution industry. This panel of contractors, operators and service providers will discuss how they are navigating and applying innovative solutions associated with the challenges of recruiting, developing, retaining, and rewarding a new age workforce. The panel will focus on workforce training programs and assessment tools, providing insight into leadership training curriculum and self-awareness assessments and why they are used in tandem for leadership development.

**Panelists**
Karla Vos, Vermeer Corporation
Stephanie Krabbe, Infrasource
Todd McDonald, ATW Training Services
Jill Mancini, Zenger Folkman / Extraordinary Leader
Nicole Fondren, Spire
**Moderator:** Dave Wisniewski, Vermeer Corporation
2:30 pm  Implementation of SMS in the Gas Distribution Construction Industry
Safety Management Systems (SMS) is a priority in the pipeline construction industry. Distribution operators continue to integrate SMS into their operations, and they are increasingly working with their contractors to provide a cohesive transition to safety management. In recent years, DCA established a task force to support SMS efforts from a contractor perspective. Working with several industry associations, the task force has made a variety of tools available to contractors. This panel will provide an update for workshop attendees on contractor efforts to implement SMS in the gas distribution construction industry.

Panelists
Steve Allen, Energy Worldnet
Stu Buhrendorf, Hallen Construction
Nate Healy, Michels Corporation
Kevin Miller, Miller Pipeline
John Bentley, Infrasource
Moderator: Kevin Parker, Mears Group

3:30 pm  Break

3:45 pm  Mutual Aid
Mutual Aid provides a significant role in providing supplies, personnel, materials, and equipment when a disaster hits a region. The presentation will discuss an overview of mutual aid coordination and lessons learned from recent events.
Presenter: Lauren Gilliland, Xcel Energy

4:45 pm   Wrap Up and Adjourn

5:30 pm   Reception and Dinner

Wednesday, March 29

7:30 am   Breakfast

8:00 am   Damage Prevention Institute: Everything You Need to Know
The formation of the Damage Prevention Institute (DPI) was designed to merge the efforts of the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) and Gold Shovel Standard (GSS) into a metrics-focused, peer-reviewed model of shared accountability that serves all stakeholders. Learn more about the DPI and the implications and benefits offered to both utilities and the contractors that work for them.
Presenter: Sam Hall, Vice President, Damage Prevention Institute
Common Ground Alliance
8:45 am  Leadership & Innovation in Damage Prevention
The City of Chicago operates a separate 811 system from the State of Illinois with unique characteristics that have resulted in superior operation and successful damage prevention. In this session we will explore how GIS (Geographic Information System) and GPS (Global Positioning System) tools factor into system management and explore how data tracking and monitoring efforts drive both management and damage prevention performance of the 811 system.
Presenter: Matthew Peterson, Assistant Commissioner, Chicago Department of Transportation / Division of Infrastructure Management

9:15 am  Break

9:30 am  Retention: Building a People First- High Performance Culture
Retention of talent is an issue every company is facing. This panel discussion will provide an example of how building a high-performance, people first, collaborative culture among utility and contractor is yielding superior performance and high impact on safety, quality, production and retention.

Panelists
Al Bisner, Manager of Construction, UGI Utilities
Brian Shadduck, Lead Inspector, Joe Knows Energy
Harold Woods, Joe Knows Energy
Moderator: Dan Lorenz, President, Joe Knows Energy

10:30 am  2023 Market Crystal Ball – Opportunity Abounds!
What might 2023 and beyond hold for the gas distribution and pipeline market...in a word opportunity! We stand on the precipice of the largest wave of underground utility construction activity in all utility markets over the next 3-7 years. In addition, the potential for the integration of hydrogen and renewable natural gas along with CO2 capture, transport and storage pipeline activity opens up a new era. Students of history will recognize that opportunity is created out of disruption, not stability, and the anticipated growth and new market development will be uneven and bumpy rather than smooth. This disruption originates from the pandemic aftermath with a concept of VUCA – Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity. COVID19 and the subsequent lockdown, supply chain challenges, geopolitical conflicts, political instability, cascading inflation, potential recession, etc. define this VUCA period. How can you carve a path to access this opportunity? Attend the session and obtain a peak into the future of the gas distribution and pipeline market!
Presenter: Mark Bridgers, Continuum Capital

11:45 am  Wrap Up and Adjourn

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