Preliminary 2019 Agenda

Monday, April 22

6:00 pm Welcome Reception Lakeview, 7th Floor

Tuesday, April 23

7:00 am Breakfast Buffet Grand Ballroom C, 8th Floor
8:00 am Welcome/Introductions Grand Ballroom A&B, 8th Floor
8:15 am Overview of Gas Distribution Market
Mark Bridgers, Continuum Capital

8:30 am Merrimack Valley Incident – Lessons Learned
On September 13, 2018, a series of explosions and fires occurred after a gas distribution system released high-pressure natural gas into a low-pressure system in the Merrimack Valley, Massachusetts. While the incident presents several challenges facing the gas distribution industry, the response to this incident provides an exemplary example of how pipeline operators and contractors work together in an emergency situation. This panel will discuss these issues and recommend practices that strengthen collaboration between operators and contractors.

Michael Mullins, InfrasSource
Frank Bracht, Miller Pipeline
tbd, Consumers Energy
tbd, ConEd

Moderator: Mark Bridgers, Continuum Capital

9:30 am Pipeline Safety Management Systems
DCA and AGA are collaborating with other pipeline and contractor organizations in an effort to promote Safety Management Systems (SMS) in the pipeline construction industry. SMS is a systematic approach that requires participation from top management to those in the field, and a commitment from all to strive for continuous improvement. Pipeline operators and contractors have varying levels of SMS currently in their operations. This panel will provide an update on this collaborative effort to promote SMS by both pipeline operators and the contractors who work for them.

Panelists
Stu Buhrendorf, The Hallen Construction Co.
Steve Allen, ENERGY worldnet (former Chair, NAPSR)
Wen Tu, AGA
tbd, API
tbd, INGAA

Moderator: Geoff Isbell, ENERGY worldnet

10:45 am Break

11:00 am **Technological Advancements in the Gas Distribution Industry**

**Panelists:**
Bronson Blodget, Atmos Energy
Alicia Faraq, LocusView
Santosh Saride, Condux
Dennis Jarnecke, GTI

**Moderator:**

12:00 pm Lunch

1:30 pm **Operator Qualification Integrity Program - Raising the Bar**
The Operator Qualification Integrity Coalition is comprised of contractors, gas associations, OQ service providers and industry experts who are pilot testing a new program that hopes to increase the integrity of OQ programs through consistency and standardization of OQ programs. The coalition has completed a guidance document for participants in the OQ Integrity Program (OQIP), and is gearing up to launch a pilot program with operators, contractors, OQ providers and state regulatory representatives in three states. The pilot program will test whether OQIP approach can raise the bar while increasing consistency and providing a set of standardized processes. This panel discussion will provide the latest details about the DCA OQ Integrity Program and the plans to initiate the pilot.

**Panelist:**
Richard Stump, Midwest Energy Association

**Moderator:** Brad Heck, Miller Pipeline

2:30 pm Break

2:45 pm **Damage Prevention: Challenges with Fiber Deployment**
The need for broadband deployment is ever-rising, and industry is answering the call. Broadband providers across the country are bidding broadband projects at a rapid pace, and federal programs are providing increased resources to deploy fiber broadband infrastructure in rural areas. All of this amounts to significant construction of fiber optic networks, and the need for shared responsibility in preventing underground damages is as important as ever. This panel will discuss the challenges that accompany robust fiber deployment schedules and how both contractors and carriers/utilities can better work together to protect underground facilities in the process.

**Panelists**
Troy Carson, CenterPoint Energy
Steve Sellenriek, Sellenriek Construction
Burt Keaton's, USIC
George Kemp, Metro-Net, Inc.

**Moderator:** Robert Carpenter, Underground Construction
3:45 pm  **Educating Policymakers on HDD Benefits, Limitations, and Challenges**  
Horizontal Directional Drilling ("HDD") is a safe and environmentally friendly means of installing utilities when performed correctly. Unfortunately, lack of knowledge regarding HDD practices and the equipment and materials used in the process has led to misperceptions and even some HDD projects being shut down unnecessarily. It’s important to recognize HDD limitations and promote best practices to mitigate the potential environmental impact of those limitations, especially when HDD is conducted beneath wetlands, streams or waterbodies. DCA has teamed up with NiSource in an effort to educate state officials involved in the permitting and oversight of HDD projects. This panel will discuss the history, current status, and next steps in this educational initiative.

**Panelists:**  
Anya Schoss, NiSource  
Chris Bowers, Halliburton  
Rob Hotz, Laney Directional Drilling  
Tyson Smith, Wyo-Ben  
Jim Wilson, Miller Pipeline  
Jwala Raj Sharma, Mears Group  
Stasi Brown, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Moderator:** Dave Wisniewski, Vermeer Corporation

4:45  Wrap Up and Adjourn

6:30 pm  Reception & Dinner  
Lakeview, 7th Floor

**Wednesday, April 24**

7:30 am  Breakfast  
Grand Ballroom C

8:30 am  **Keynote Speaker**  
Grand Ballroom A&B

9:30 am  Break

10:00 am  **Mutual Aid**

**Panelists:**  
Jeff Green, InfraSource  
tbd, Consumers Energy  
tbd, ConEd  
tbd, Miller Pipeline

**Moderator:**

11:30 am  Closing Remarks

11:45 am  Adjourn