

IMGA **gas NEWS** Interstate Municipal Gas Agency

December/January, 2006-07

Issue 34

From the General Manager

A time of new beginnings!

Each year, the coming of January 1st brings with it a time of new beginnings. This is certainly true for each one of us personally, but it is also true for our industry and the organization known as the Interstate Municipal Gas Agency.

As noted in the adjoining article, the passage of two pieces of natural gas legislation by the Congress will have important impacts upon our entire industry. The prospect of access to additional large stockpiles of gas will provide for a more competitive marketplace. Improved safety regulations, if implemented effectively, will be a plus for municipalities and consumers alike.

Here at the IMGA, we've completed our name change and fine-tuned our organizational structure to make us even more efficient. I'm convinced that as the Agency expands its focus into neighboring states, we will become stronger and more effective at meeting the needs of the communities we serve.

I'm proud to be serving as the General Manager of the IMGA. We have an outstanding team in place, and we will work hard to continue to provide all IMGA members with top-quality customer service and programs specifically designed for each community.

In this season of new beginnings, I wish you, your family and your community all the best for a happy, healthy, and successful 2007!

*The Staff of the IMGA
wishes you a
Happy, Healthy and Productive
New Year!*

Heather Viele
Operations Manager

Charlene Howard
Office Manager

Mark Schmidt
General Manager

Congress passes important natural gas legislation to improve supply, increase residential safety

In the final hours of this autumn's session, the Congress passed two important pieces of legislation impacting municipal gas systems.

The first bill, known as the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, directs the Department of the Interior to begin oil and gas leasing within an 8 million acre tract in the Gulf of Mexico within one year. It also places a 16 year moratorium on oil and natural gas activity within 125 miles of the Florida coastline. The bill is expected to bring 6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas to market.

The second bill, the Pipeline Safety Act, will require local distribution companies to install excess flow valves (EFVs) on each single-family residence service line which meets the following criteria:

Service lines must be newly installed or **fully replaced beginning 18 months after the passage of the legislation. It will not be necessary to retrofit systems where the service lines are not fully replaced.

Service lines must **operate continuously throughout the year at pressures not less than 10 psig.

Should **NOT be installed on any gas stream in which the operator has knowledge of a history of contaminants would could damage the EFV or prevent it from operating correctly.

The PHMSA is responsible for developing rules for the implementation of the Pipeline Safety Act, including which systems are subject to the standards of the act. APGA will have input into the drafting of the rules for the Act.

IMGA Member Communities

Aledo, Illinois
Auburn, Illinois
Bethany, Illinois
Chester, Illinois
Cobden, Illinois
Corning, Iowa
Creal Springs, Illinois
Divernon, Illinois
Enfield, Illinois
Findlay, Illinois
Franklin, Illinois
Grayville, Illinois
Karnak, Illinois
Louisville, Illinois
Milford, Illinois
New Boston, Illinois
Perryville, Missouri
Pinckneyville, Illinois
Pittsfield, Illinois
Pleasant Hill, Illinois
Riverton, Illinois
Rossville, Illinois
Tamms, Illinois
Thebes, Illinois
Waverly, Illinois
Westville, Illinois
White Hall, Illinois
Winchester, Illinois

Communities need not purchase gas to become a member

New York Mercantile Exchange expands hours for open-outcry trading

Beginning February 1, 2007, the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) will begin open outcry trading an hour earlier, the Exchange recently announced.

Floor trading will start at 9 a.m. EST (8 a.m. CST) for natural gas, crude oil, gasoline and heating oil futures and options contracts. The currently closing time of 2:30 p.m. EST will not change.

"We believe the expansion of open-outcry trading hours will benefit market participants as a whole because the bulk of energy trading still occurs during trading floor hours," said NYMEX Chief Executive Officer James Newsome.

For more information on the New York Mercantile Exchange and all the energy products traded there, visit its web site at www.nymex.com

Visit us online at www.imga.org

Save the date for the IMGA Annual Meeting - Wednesday, April 25th

Mark your calendars NOW for what promises to be an informative and enjoyable IMGA 2007 Annual Meeting. This year's event will once again be held at Springfield's Northfield Inn and Suites.

The 2007 Annual Meeting will once again feature opportunities for education and networking, as well as a golf outing the day before the meeting. Watch your mail for full information in February!



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Double Check YOUR
Community's Bills!*