

2013 NGA Fall

Operations Conference

October 3-4, 2013
Sheraton Stamford Hotel
Stamford, CT

The Program -

The Northeast Gas Association is pleased to present the 2013 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 focus on the issue of transmission MAOP records verification, presentations from two winners of NGA's Excellence in Employee Safety Award, timely updates on changes in federal and state pipeline safety regulations, 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.

Exhibiting Companies

Bascom-Turner Instruments, Inc.	Heath Consultants Incorporated	SENSIT Technologies
CHI Engineering Services, Inc.	Mulcare Pipeline Solutions, Inc.	TT Technologies
Eastcom Associates, Inc.	Northeast Engineering, Inc.	Ubisense, Inc.
Eastern Locating Service	Premier Utility Services LLC	X-Stream Leadership Group

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(T) 781-455-6800 (F) 781-455-6828 www.northeastgas.org

DAY 1 - October 3

- Session 1** 10:00-11:00 **GENERAL SESSION**
Welcome - Keynote Speaker
Tim Small, Vice President, Gas Systems Engineering
National Grid
- Session 2** 11:00-11:15 **Track Introduction**
Co-Chairs
Paul Pirro, PSE&G
Dave Attig, Vermont Gas Systems, Inc.
- Session 3** 11:15-12:00 **PSE&G's Employee Safety Program**
Tom Curry, Public Service Electric & Gas
- 2013 NGA Safety Excellence Recognition Award recipient PSE&G presents its comprehensive program including their root cause analysis approach. This led to the development of a stretching exercise program and work procedure training which resulted in a significant reduction of soft tissue injuries.
- 12:00-1:30 **Lunch**
- Session 4** 1:30-2:15 **Recruitment and Training of Field Service Technicians**
Mary Kinnear and Brad Wong, NSTAR
- This session will detail how NSTAR changed its hiring and training practices a few years ago. They will explain the changes to the process and the new tasks that were implemented. They will review the success and failures of the new process, including statistics and anecdotal evidence. The session will conclude with suggestions on how the process could be improved.
- Session 5** 2:15-3:15 **ULC Robotics Dewatering Camera System + Internal CI Joint Repairs**
Nathan King, ULC Robotics
- A number of robotic product applications that are effective for pipe inspection, problem identification and repair will be presented. Successful field test results related to post flood dewatering of mains and services will be discussed as well.
- 3:15-3:30 **Break**
- Session 6** 3:30-4:30 **Product Applications and Benefits of a Meter Bypass Bar**
Wally Armstrong, Liberty Sales
- Benefits of a product that allows for a meter change or repair without interrupting gas service will be demonstrated and discussed.

DAY 2 - October 4

- Session 1** 8:30-9:30 **Meter Testing and Replacement**
A member will discuss how it determines what meter types are tested, what are replaced and the quantities to replace annually in compliance with its meter test and program, including the process used and what some of the challenges that are faced.
- Session 2** 9:30-10:15 **Consolidated Edison's Close Call Program**
Glen Katz, Consolidated Edison
- Con Edison's program to document, investigate and learn from safety related near miss events will be discussed.
- 10:15-10:30 **Break**
- Session 3** 10:30-11:30 **South Jersey Gas Damage Related Safety Program**
Tony Pezzulo, South Jersey Gas
- 2013 NGA Safety Excellence Recognition Award recipient South Jersey Gas presents its innovative implementation of a Six Sigma Program focused on lowering pipeline related damages that resulted in its lowest ever damage rate. The program also includes new safety procedures for high risk excavations and reducing cross bore incidents.
- Session 4** 11:30-12:00 **Wrap-up and Action Items**



DAY 1 - October 3

Session 1 10:00-11:00 **GENERAL SESSION**
Welcome - Keynote Speaker
Tim Small, Vice President, Gas Systems Engineering National Grid

Session 2 11:00-11:15 **Track Introduction**
Chair
Maria Diaz
New Jersey Natural Gas

Session 3 11:15-12:00 **New Jersey Natural Gas' Damage Prevention Awareness Outreach Program**
Maria Diaz, New Jersey Natural Gas

NJNG's innovative outreach program to reach the public with important damage prevention information using tactics such as damage prevention fairs and participation in outdoor events will be shared.

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

Session 4 1:30-2:15 **Damage Prevention Technology Development**
Dave Merte, NYSEARCH

Several damage prevention projects utilizing geophone, camera, and/or fiber optic technologies recently completed or under current development and testing at NYSEARCH will be presented. Damage prevention systems reviewed will include the advanced development of PipeGuard™ (Magal Senstar Inc.), AGAS (P&LE Communications, LLC), and Long Ranger (Fiber Sensys Inc.).

Session 5 2:15-3:15 **NYSEG/RGE's Damage Prevention Vehicle Patrol Program**
Allen Peterson, NYSEG

NYSEG/RGE's effective field inspection program for monitoring excavation activities within their territory has significantly reduced damages. Allen will discuss how the program works and why it is effective.

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

Session 6 3:30-4:30 **Roundtable Issue: Damage Prevention Best Practices in NGA's Territory**

What are the differences in the Damage Prevention Programs in NY, NJ, CT, MA, RI, NH, VT, ME? How do they compare in effectiveness and why are some more effective than others. What can we learn and what can we do to improve the program in our state? Please come prepared to discuss your program.

DAY 2 - October 4

Session 1 8:30-9:30 **Sewer Cross-Bores Prevention Best Practices**
Jim Marean, Gas Technology Institute

An update on how the gas industry is reacting to this problem and technology developments that are intended to address it will be discussed.

Session 2 9:30-10:15 **Using Utility Locating Tools Best Effectively**
Eric Denslow, Eastcom

Eastcom will share its expertise for effectively utilizing locating tools for a large variety of applications.

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

Session 3 10:30-11:30 **South Jersey Gas Damage Related Safety Program**
Tony Pezzulo, South Jersey Gas

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



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Session 1
 10:00-11:00
GENERAL SESSION
Welcome - Keynote Speaker
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Session 2
 11:00-11:15
Track Introduction
Moderator
Dan Dessanti
Northeast Gas Association

Session 3
 11:15-12:00
Update on Federal Pipeline Integrity Management Issues
Phil Bennett, American Gas Association

Recent and pending regulatory changes by PHMSA, to the gas industry will be discussed by AGA's top pipeline safety representative in Washington.

12:00-1:30
Lunch

Session 4
 1:30-2:15
New Pipeline Integrity and Corrosion Technologies and Techniques
Paul Armstrong, Gas Technology Institute

Recent advances in pipeline integrity and corrosion prevention technology will be discussed including alternative yield strength determination, asset life cycle and traceability and a leak/rupture boundary calculator.

Session 5
 2:15-3:15
ULC Robotics Dewatering Camera System + Internal CI Joint Repairs
Nathan King, ULC Robotics

A number of robotic product applications that are effective for pipe inspection, problem identification and repair will be presented. Successful field test results related to post flood dewatering of mains and services will be discussed as well.

3:15-3:30
Break

Session 6
 3:30-4:30
Roundtable Issue: MAOP Records Verification
 Participants' approaches toward developing a plan to address any record gaps via inspection, testing, de-rating, or replacement will be discussed.

DAY 2 - October 4

Session 1
 8:30-9:30
Trenchless Repair and Installation Applications
George Ragula, Public Service Electric & Gas

Various approaches to achieving cost effective, safe pipeline repair and/or installation using trenchless technologies such as pipe splitting, cured in place pipe and horizontal directional drilling will be discussed.

Session 2
 9:30-10:15
LDC Approach to ECDA in a Changing Regulatory Environment
Josh Brewer, BGL Asset Services

The presenter will discuss how ECDA can be accomplished on LDC high pressure pipelines by employing multiple inspection tools and meet current and future federal and state requirements.

10:15-10:30
Break

Session 3
 10:30-11:30
Incorporating Interacting Threats into Risk Models
Dave Merte, NYSEARCH

Dave will discuss the Kiefner Interactive Threats project development methodology including a bulk import spreadsheet and the enhanced Kiefner Risk Model.

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



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Welcome - Keynote Speaker
Tim Small, Vice President, Gas Systems Engineering National Grid

Session 2 11:00-11:15 **Track Introduction**
Chair
Don Cordone
National Grid

Session 3 11:15-12:00 **QA/QC Field Inspection Process Best Practices**
Representative, Liberty Utilities

A member from Liberty Utilities will discuss its procedures and approach toward completing field inspections

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

Session 4 1:30-2:15 **Maintaining Effective Quality Control**
Don Cardone, National Grid
Rob Gregoreski, National Fuel

The panelists will discuss how their QC programs are structured, processes that are used, results obtained and lessons learned.

Session 5 2:15-3:15 **Construction Services Providers Approach to QA/QC**
Mike Hickey and Stu Buhrendorf, Hallen Construction

Mike and Stu from Hallen Construction, one of the largest New York based utility construction services company, will be discussing the tracking of its OQ training, testing, and other topics. The main focus is preparation in the event of a gas related incident.

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

Session 6 3:30-4:30 **Monitoring a Contractors Quality**
Gary Windman, Orange & Rockland

Utility companies continue to increase the amount of work performed by external crews. How does your company address the quality of your contractor's work? In this session, O&R will share how their contractors are monitored and how the quality is tied to the contract.

DAY 2 - October 4

Session 1 8:30-9:30 **Western Energy Institute's West Coast Regional QA/QC Assessment Program**

A WEI member will discuss how their organization has put together a successful regional approach to quality assurance/quality control. The speaker will discuss how it was put together and how it works.

Session 2 9:30-10:15 **NGA Regional QA/QC Assessment Program**
Jose Costa, Northeast Gas Association
Discussion Facilitator

The Northeast Gas Association (NGA) is in the process of establishing a regional QA/QC Program. Join the discussion and influence the structure and operations by contributing to the qualifications of inspectors and program structure.

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

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

Participants will continue to discuss topics such as the development of a regional assessment and risk ranking approach for QA/QC as well as QA/QC training programs based upon learning's shared from participants.

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

Say Hello to the Exhibitors



General Information

Who Should Attend

NGA's 2013 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.

Conference Registration

Online registration is available on NGA's website www.northeastgas.org. On the home page, click on the event link under Programs.

Member Rate: \$225.00

Non-Member Rate: 395.00

Exhibit Registration

The Exhibit is limited to 12 vendors. To date, 10 spots have been sold. **Sold out** Please contact Eileen Sitte for information on the remaining 2 spots. (781) 455-6800 ext. 117

Member Rate: \$465.00

Non-Member Rate: \$675.00

NGA Conference Contacts: *Needham Office:* Eileen Sitte - esitte@northeastgas.org; (781) 455-6800 ext. 117. *New Jersey Office:* Dan Dessanti - ddessanti@northeastgas.org; (973) 265-1900 ext. 216

Conference Location



The Fall Operations Conference is being held at the **Sheraton Stamford Hotel** located at 700 East Main Street, Stamford, CT 06901

Sheraton Stamford Hotel is located in the heart of downtown Stamford, Connecticut. We are within walking distance or a quick shuttle ride away to many **Stamford businesses, restaurants and the Stamford Town Center Mall**. Our Stamford hotel is 20 minutes from the Westchester County Airport and less than a mile from the Metro North/Amtrak train station where you can take a 45-minute ride into New York City.

To book your reservation, please contact the hotel direct, 800-325-3535. *(Cancellations must be received 24 hours prior to arrival or 1 night room and tax will be assessed)*

Group Code: Overnight Room cutoff: **September 20, 2013**

Rates

Overnight Room Rates: **\$119.00 per night**

Check-In: 3:00 pm

Check-out: 12:00 pm

Right Click on the Link Below

[Maps & Directions](#)

<http://www.sheratonstamford.com/directions>