

# The Alphabet Soup of Players in Pipeline Safety

This paper offers a brief description of many of the agencies and trade groups who participate in national pipeline safety legislative efforts, administrative matters, and standard/recommended practice development in the U.S. and Canada. Each organization's logo and brief description are taken, without editing for content, from the organization's website.

## Government Entities or Associations

**FERC – Federal Energy Regulatory Commission – Website: [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)**

- Regulation of [interstate natural gas] pipeline and storage facility construction and abandonment.
- Regulation of natural gas transportation in interstate commerce.
- Establishment of rates for services.
- Regulation of the transportation of natural gas as authorized by the Natural Gas Policy Act and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.
- Oversight of the construction and operation of pipeline facilities at U.S. points of entry for the import or export of natural gas.
  - Gas Pipelines: Under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, the Commission reviews applications for the construction and operation of natural gas pipelines.
  - Natural Gas Storage: Natural gas may be stored in a number of different ways. It is most commonly held in inventory underground under pressure in three types of facilities: (1) depleted reservoirs in oil and/or gas fields, (2) aquifers, and (3) salt cavern formations. Two of the most important characteristics of an underground storage reservoir are its capacity to hold natural gas for future use and the rate at which gas inventory can be withdrawn - its deliverability rate.
  - Blanket Certificates: Under a blanket certificate issued pursuant to section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act, a natural gas company may undertake a restricted array of routine activities without the need to obtain a case-specific certificate for each individual project. The blanket certificate program provides



an administratively efficient means to enable a company to construct, modify, acquire, operate, and abandon a limited set of natural gas facilities, and offer a limited set of services, provided each activity complies with constraints on costs and environmental impacts set forth in the Commission's regulations.

- Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects: The Commission issued Order No. 2005, which promulgated rules designed to promote competition, exploration, development and production of Alaska natural gas, establish standards for creating open seasons for potential shippers to compete for and acquire initial capacity and future expansion capacity on any potential Alaska pipeline. The rules also provide standards for allocating the capacity to ensure nondiscriminatory access to any Alaska transportation projects.
- Gas Quality: Historically, gas quality issues were rare. However, the quality of natural gas in today's energy markets can vary and present problems to gas pipelines, distributors, appliance manufacturers and consumers.
- Pre-Filing: The Commission implemented provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 requiring the Commission to coordinate the environmental review and the issuance of all federal authorizations for natural gas infrastructure proposals with other federal and state agencies, and to maintain a consolidated federal record for judicial appeal and review.
- Environmental Impact Statements: With respect to natural gas projects, the Commission safeguards the environment by disclosing, analyzing and minimizing impacts where it is feasible and reasonable to do so and encouraging applicants to communicate with relevant federal and state natural resources agencies, Indian tribes, and state water quality agencies, prior to submitting an application. The Commission conducts an environmental review of major pipeline projects and includes requirements with any certificate issued to reduce environmental impacts.

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### NAPSR – National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives –

Website: [www.napsr.org](http://www.napsr.org)



The National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR), established in 1982, is a 501(c)(6) not-for-profit organization of state agency pipeline safety directors, managers, inspectors and technical personnel who serve to support, encourage, develop and enhance pipeline safety. NAPSR provides an effective mechanism for fostering the federal/state partnership through 52 state agencies in the lower 48 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, whose mission is “to strengthen state pipeline safety programs through promotion of improved pipeline safety standards, education, training, and technology.”

State pipeline safety personnel make up about 75% of the State/Federal inspection workforce. NAPSR provides these inspectors with a venue to share best practices, enhance communications with our federal counterparts, raise new issues, and influence policy. NAPSR is recognized by Congress, federal agencies, and the media as the national voice of the State pipeline safety community.

### **NARUC – National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners – Website:**

[www.naruc.org](http://www.naruc.org)

NARUC is the national association representing the State Public Service Commissioners who regulate essential utility services, including energy, telecommunications, and water. NARUC members are responsible for assuring reliable utility service at fair, just, and reasonable rates. Founded in 1889, the Association is an invaluable resource for its members and the regulatory community, providing a venue to set and influence public policy, share best practices, and foster innovative solutions to improve regulation.



### **NEB – National Energy Board (Canada) – Website: [www.neb-one.gc.ca](http://www.neb-one.gc.ca)**



The National Energy Board (NEB or Board) is an independent federal agency established in 1959 by the Parliament of Canada to regulate international and interprovincial aspects of the oil, gas and electric utility industries. The purpose of the NEB is to regulate pipelines, energy development and trade in the Canadian public interest. These principles guide NEB staff to carry out and interpret the organization's regulatory responsibilities. The NEB is accountable to Parliament through the Minister of Natural Resources Canada.

### **NTSB – National Transportation Safety Board – Website: [www.nts.gov](http://www.nts.gov)**

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged with determining the probable cause of transportation accidents, promoting transportation safety, and assisting victims of transportation accidents and their families. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Division investigates accidents occurring during the transport of natural gas or other hazardous liquids, such as gasoline or propane, through pipeline systems and accidents in which public safety is threatened by the release of hazardous substances. The Division investigates all pipeline accidents in which there is a fatality, substantial property damage, or significant environmental impact.



### **PHMSA – Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration – Website:**

[www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline](http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline)



The Department of Transportation's (DOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA), acting through the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), administers the Department's national regulatory program to assure the safe transportation of natural gas, petroleum, and other hazardous materials by pipeline. OPS develops regulations and other approaches to risk management to assure safety in design, construction, testing, operation, maintenance, and emergency response of pipeline facilities. Since 1986, the entire pipeline safety program has been funded by a user fee assessed on a per-mile basis on each pipeline operator OPS regulates.

As one of ten agencies within the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), PHMSA works to protect the American public and the environment by ensuring the safe and secure movement of hazardous materials to industry and consumers by all transportation modes, including the nation's pipelines.

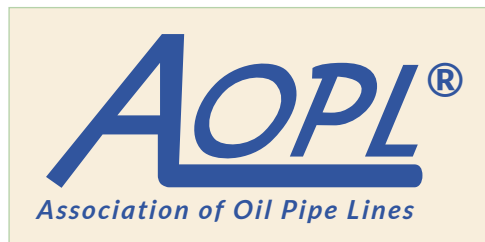
### Pipeline Industry Associations

#### AGA – The American Gas Association – Website: [www.aga.org](http://www.aga.org)

The American Gas Association, founded in 1918, represents more than 200 local energy companies that deliver clean natural gas throughout the United States. More than 68 million residential, commercial and industrial natural gas customers in the U.S. receive their gas from AGA members. Today, natural gas meets almost one-fourth of the United States' energy needs.



AGA's vision is to be the most effective and influential energy trade association in the United States while providing clear value to its membership.



#### AOPL – The Association of Oil Pipelines – Website: [www.aopl.org](http://www.aopl.org)

The Association of Oil Pipe Lines ("AOPL") represents the interests of owners and operators of America's liquid pipelines. Liquid pipelines bring crude oil to the nation's refineries and important petroleum products to our communities, including all grades of gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, home heating oil, kerosene, propane, and biofuels. AOPL members also transport carbon dioxide to oil and natural gas fields, where it can be used efficiently to enhance production. Established in 1947, AOPL is a nonprofit organization whose membership is comprised of owners and operators of liquid pipelines. AOPL members carry nearly 85% of the crude oil and refined petroleum products moved by pipelines in the United States.

As a trade association, AOPL:

- Represents common carrier crude and petroleum product pipelines, as well as carbon dioxide pipelines, before Congress, regulatory agencies, and the courts;
- Provides coordination and leadership on key industry issues, including pipeline rates and services, pipeline safety initiatives, pipeline security, and the industry's Environmental and Safety Initiative; and
- Acts as an information clearinghouse for the public, media, and pipeline industry regarding liquid pipeline issues.

### **APGA – American Public Gas Association – Website: [www.apga.org](http://www.apga.org)**

The American Public Gas Association (APGA) is a not-for-profit nationwide association for municipal and community-owned gas utilities and represents over 700 members in 37 states. APGA represents the interests of public gas before Congress, federal agencies and other energy-related stakeholders by developing regulatory and legislative policies that further the goals of our members. In addition, APGA organizes meetings, seminars, and workshops with a specific goal to improve the reliability, operational efficiency, and regulatory environment in which public gas systems operate.



APGA's mission is to be an advocate for municipally owned natural gas distribution systems, and educate and communicate with APGA members to promote safety, awareness, performance and competitiveness.

### **API – American Petroleum Institute – Website: [www.api.org](http://www.api.org)**



The American Petroleum Institute (API) is the only national trade association that represents all aspects of America's oil and natural gas industry. API's

more than 600 corporate members, from the largest major oil company to the smallest of independents, come from all segments of the industry. They are producers, refiners, suppliers, pipeline operators and marine transporters, as well as service and supply companies that support all segments of the industry.

Although API's focus is primarily domestic, in recent years its work has expanded to include a growing international dimension, and today API is recognized around the world for its broad range of programs. API's mission is to influence public policy in support of a strong, viable U.S. oil and natural gas industry.

### **CEPA – Canadian Energy Pipeline Association – Website: [www.cepa.com](http://www.cepa.com)**

The Canadian Energy Pipeline Association (CEPA) is an industry trade organization representing Canada's transmission pipeline companies. Member companies transport 97% of Canada's daily natural gas and on-shore crude oil production from producing regions to markets throughout Canada and the U.S.. CEPA's mission is to continually enhance the operating excellence, business environment and recognized responsibility of the Canadian energy transmission pipeline industry through leadership and credible engagement between member companies, governments, the public and stakeholders.





**INGAA – Interstate Natural Gas Association of America – Website: [www.ingaa.org](http://www.ingaa.org)**



The Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA) is a trade organization that advocates regulatory and legislative positions of importance to the natural gas pipeline industry in North America.

INGAA is composed of 25 members, representing the vast majority of the interstate natural gas transmission pipeline companies in the U.S. and comparable companies in Canada. INGAA's members operate approximately 200,000 miles of pipelines, and serve as an indispensable link between natural gas producers and consumers.

The INGAA Foundation, Inc. was formed in 1990 by INGAA to advance the use of natural gas for the benefit of the environment and the consuming public. The Foundation works to facilitate the efficient construction and safe, reliable operation of the North American natural gas pipeline system. It also promotes natural gas infrastructure development worldwide. Membership in the INGAA Foundation is open to natural gas pipelines and companies that provide goods and services to pipelines worldwide.

## Standard and Recommended Practice Organizations

**ASME – founded as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers – Website: [www.asme.org](http://www.asme.org)**

ASME is a not-for-profit membership organization that enables collaboration, knowledge sharing, career enrichment, and skills development across all engineering disciplines, toward a goal of helping the global engineering community develop solutions to benefit lives and livelihoods. Founded in 1880 by a small group of leading industrialists, ASME has grown through the decades to include more than 130,000 members in over 150 countries worldwide.



From college students and early-career engineers to project managers, corporate executives, researchers and academic leaders, ASME's members are as diverse as the engineering community itself. ASME serves this wide-ranging technical community through quality programs in continuing education, training and professional development, codes and standards, research, conferences and publications, government relations and other forms of outreach.

**ASCE – American Society of Civil Engineers – Website: [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org)**



Founded in 1852, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) represents more than 146,000 members of the civil engineering profession in 174 countries, and is the nation's oldest national engineering society.

ASCE's Mission is to provide essential value to its members and partners, advance civil engineering, and serve the public good.

In carrying out that mission, ASCE:

- Advances technology
- Encourages lifelong learning
- Promotes professionalism and the profession
- Develops civil engineer leaders
- Advocates infrastructure and environmental stewardship

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### **ASTM International – founded as American Society for Testing and Materials –**

**Website:** [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)

ASTM International, formerly known as the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), is a globally recognized leader in the development and delivery of voluntary consensus standards. Today, over 12,000 ASTM standards are used around the world to improve product quality, enhance health and safety, strengthen market access and trade, and build consumer confidence.



ASTM's leadership in international standards development is driven by the contributions of its members: more than 30,000 of the world's top technical experts and business professionals representing 140 countries. Working in an open and transparent process and using ASTM's advanced IT infrastructure, ASTM members create the test methods, specifications, classifications, guides, and practices that support industries and governments worldwide.

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### **CGA - Common Ground Alliance - Website:** [www.commongroundalliance.com](http://www.commongroundalliance.com)



The Common Ground Alliance (CGA) is a member-driven association of 1,700 individuals, organizations and sponsors in every facet of the underground utility industry. CGA is committed to saving lives and preventing damage to underground infrastructure by promoting effective damage prevention practices.

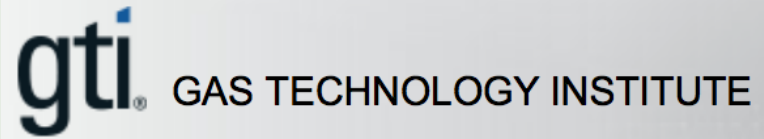
CGA provides clear and tangible value to its stakeholders by helping to reduce damages to North America's underground infrastructure. The CGA works cooperatively, fostering a sense of shared responsibility to enhance safety and protect underground facilities by:

- Identifying and disseminating the stakeholder best practices;
- Developing and conducting public awareness and education programs;
- Sharing and disseminating damage prevention tools and technology; and,
- Serving as the premier resource for damage and one call center data collection, analysis, and dissemination.

Officially formed in 2000, the CGA represents a continuation of the damage prevention efforts embodied by the Common Ground Study. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation and completed in 1999, this Study represents the collaborative work of 160 industry professionals who identified best practices relating to damage prevention.

### **GTI – Gas Technology Institute – Website: [www.gastechnology.org](http://www.gastechnology.org)**

The Gas Technology Institute (GTI) was formed in April 2000 by the combination of two major research and technology development organizations serving the natural gas industry – Gas Research Institute and the Institute of Gas Technology. GTI is the leading research, development and training organization addressing energy and environmental challenges to enable a secure, abundant, and affordable energy future. For nearly 75 years, GTI has been providing economic value to the natural gas industry and energy markets by developing technology-based solutions for industry, government, and consumers. To date, GTI programs have resulted in nearly 500 products, 750 licenses, and more than 1,300 associated patents.



GTI is a research organization with “the energy to lead.” It solves important energy challenges, turning raw technology into practical solutions that create exceptional value for its customers in the global marketplace. GTI is driven by four primary objectives, which span the energy industry value chain. They provide both the focus and enduring opportunity for its business endeavors. These objectives are:

- Expanding the supply of affordable natural gas and renewable energy
- Ensuring a safe and reliable energy delivery infrastructure
- Promoting the clean and efficient use of energy resources
- Reducing carbon emissions to the environment.

### **MSS – Manufacturers Standardization Society – Website: [www.msshq.org](http://www.msshq.org)**

Officially founded in 1924, the Manufacturers Standardization Society (MSS) of the Valve and Fittings Industry is a non-profit technical association organized for development and improvement of industry, national and international codes and standards for:



- Valves
- Valve Actuators
- Valve Modification
- Pipe Fittings
- Pipe Hangers
- Pipe Supports
- Flanges
- Associated Seals

The primary function of MSS is to provide its members the means to develop engineering standard



practices for the use and benefit of the industry and users of its products. The Society, the only organization dedicated solely to the technical needs of the industry, is currently comprised of 25 technical committees to write, revise and reaffirm industry standards.

### **NACE International – The Corrosion Society – Website: [www.nace.org](http://www.nace.org)**

NACE International, The Worldwide Corrosion Authority, serves 35,000+ members in 130 countries and is recognized globally as the premier authority for corrosion control solutions. The organization offers technical training and certification programs, conferences, industry standards, reports, publication, technical journals, government relations activities and more.



The mission of NACE International is to protect people, assets and the environment from corrosion. Since establishment in 1943, NACE International has become the global leader in developing corrosion prevention and control standards, certification and education.

### **NFPA – National Fire Protection Association – Website: [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)**

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is a global nonprofit organization established in 1896 and devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The NFPA mission is to help save lives and reduce loss with information, knowledge and passion.



NFPA knowledge comes in many forms:

- Support for the development, adoption and enforcement of 300 codes and standards
- Research and data analysis
- Technical training and certification
- Public education
- Outreach and advocacy

### **PPI – Plastic Pipe Institute – Website: [www.plasticpipe.org](http://www.plasticpipe.org)**

With administrative offices located in Dallas, Texas, The Plastics Pipe Institute Inc. (PPI) is the major trade association representing all segments of the plastics piping industry. PPI members share a common interest in broadening awareness and creating opportunities that expand market share and extend the use of plastics pipe in all its many applications. As an association, PPI focuses collaborative efforts to accumulate data, concentrate facts and target resources toward advancements in applications and increases in widespread usage.



PPI serves as a channel for information sharing, issues resolution, idea exploration and successful imple-

mentation guidance. The association is dedicated to advocacy and outreach efforts in support of these goals, and strives to expand the scope of overall education by broadcasting the many benefits and features of polyethylene pipe. The association is comprised of approximately 300 members and associates.

PPI promotes contemporary use of plastics piping for water and gas distribution, sewer and wastewater, oil and gas production, industrial and mining uses, power and communications, duct and irrigation.

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### **PRCI – Pipeline Research Council International – Website: [www.prci.org](http://www.prci.org)**

The Pipeline Research Council International (PRCI) is the preeminent global collaborative research development organization of, by, and for the energy pipeline industry. PRCI is a community of the world's leading pipeline companies, and the vendors, service providers, equipment manufacturers, and other organizations supporting our industry. Since 1952, PRCI has been recognized around the world as a unique forum within the energy pipeline industry delivering great value to its members and the industry — both quantitative and qualitative — through the development and deployment of research solutions to the operational, maintenance, and regulatory challenges that face it.



PRCI is dedicated to assuring the maximum efficiency of research development and deployment through a highly-leveraged funding model of member and external funding, information sharing, cooperative project development, and the broad dissemination and application of its research results. Along with funding, the strength of the collaborative model stems from the contributions to PRCI of member technical and operations experts and the ongoing support to them from PRCI and their companies. It is this collaboration in the direction, implementation, and adoption of research that defines PRCI's value to members and their organizations.