

The PIOGA Press

The monthly newsletter of the
Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Association
January 2024 • Issue 165

PIOGA Giving PIOGA Helping those in Need!

PIOGA is proud to announce the association raised \$1,000 from our holiday basket raffle for the Family Service & Children's Aid Society of Venango County - Youth Connections Program.

The Youth Connections Program makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers (Mentors) and youth (Mentees) ages 6 through 18, throughout Venango, Forest, Clarion and Eastern Crawford Counties.

"We are excited to support an organization that is focused on serving the youth in and around the birthplace of the oil industry," said PIOGA President and Executive Director, Dan Weaver.

Youth Connection operates under the belief that inherent in every youth is the ability to succeed and thrive in life. The program develops positive relationships that have a direct and lasting effect on the lives of young people.

"On behalf of the organization and the children served, I would like to thank PIOGA for the generous donation," said Beth Hazlett, Youth Connections Program Director. "The donation will help to provide activity kits and gift cards to matches to use in mentoring sessions."

Volunteering just a few hours a month with a local youth will change their life forever! Any members in Northwest Pa, interested in volunteering or learning more about the program, please contact Youth Connection at 814-676-9940 ext. 1228.



Continued on page 2

PIOGA Giving	1-2
PIOGATech Air Quality	3
PIOGA Safety Article	4&5
Article - Spotlight on natural gas	8
Article - Marcellus Drilling News	9&12
Just The Facts	11
Gmerek - Legislative Update	14-15
Oil & Gas Dashboard	16
PIOGA Calendar of Events	19

Giving *Continued from page 1*

Partnering with The Lighthouse Foundation to spread holiday cheer

For the eighth year, PIOGA partnered with member company Print King to collect toys for our area's children through The Lighthouse Foundation.

Every year, PIOGA staff and members step-up in a big way to ensure no child goes without during the holiday season.



"As many families continue to struggle to make ends meet, PIOGA recognizes the importance to a child of opening a present that contains a new toy or fun game. I am proud of the PIOGA staff and our members for their commitment to this effort," said Dan Weaver, president and executive director.

The donated toys helped support the foundation's annual Christmas Toy Shoppe. The Lighthouse Foundation's Annual Christmas Toy Shoppe provides local parents who are served through the food pantry and emergency financial assistance programs with the opportunity to shop for their children's presents in a safe and cheerful atmosphere. Parents are able to personally choose their children's gifts, stuff a stocking for each child with the assistance of a personal shopper and have all their gifts wrapped by the foundation's Christmas Elves.

The foundation's toy shop took place at the Bakerstown United Methodist Church on December 16th.

Staff and members once again gave generously and appreciated the opportunity to donate to The Lighthouse Foundation that is doing great work on behalf of the impoverished individuals and families in northern Allegheny and Butler Counties.

To learn more, go to: <https://www.thelighthouse-pa.org/> ■

Trusted Legal Counsel to Energy Companies

Steptoe & Johnson is a nationally recognized U.S. energy law firm with over 400 lawyers and other professionals across 18 offices serving all sectors of the industry:

Oil & Gas | Utilities | Mining | Renewables



ST **STEPTOE**
& JOHNSON
PLLC

For more information visit
steptoe-johnson.com

11 Grandview Circle, Suite 200, Canonsburg, PA 15317

THIS IS AN ADVERTISEMENT

Final 2023 PIOGATech - Air Quality Compliance Training

On December 6th, the Environmental Committee hosted their final PIOGATech training of the year focusing on Air Quality Compliance. This training was the ninth technical session over the past seven years to address air quality compliance and the ever-changing regulations that our industry must comply with. Now more than ever, air quality compliance is a major focus federally and at the state level and the oil and gas industry must be prepared.

A group of oil and gas industry people participated in the all-day training that provided them with an overview of the air quality regulations affecting the oil and gas industry. In addition, participants were able to learn about air permitting issues, incident response air monitoring consideration, advancements in methane detection and monitoring solutions, greenhouse gas effects and issues, and Pennsylvania's existing source rule and its impacts on natural gas operators. Participants also heard an overview on the University of Pittsburgh health study and heard the latest on DEP's interim final Environmental Justice Policy update.

The group had a hands-on demonstration in fine PM and air toxics measurements, new methane detection approaches and methane leak detection with an OGI camera and drone hosted by CleanAir Engineering and assisted by Civil & Environmental Consultants and Diversified Energy.

Thank you to Babst Calland, Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc., CleanAir Engineering, Diversified Energy Company, SLR International Corp., Sommer Energy Technologies and Spilman, Thomas & Battle for putting together a very relevant program and for providing their expertise on this important topic for our members.

Check out some of the event photos below and make sure to visit the Photo Galleries section at [pioga.org](https://pioga.org/about/photo-galleries/) to view all photos from all events! (<https://pioga.org/about/photo-galleries/>) .



Jim Elliott from Spilman Thomas & Battle kicks off the day's training.



Amanda Black from Civil & Environmental Consultants giving an overview of air issues that affect the oil and gas industry.



CleanAir Engineers & Civil & Environmental Consultants – fine PM and air toxics measurements and new methane detection hands-on demonstration

PIOGA - Safety Article

Presented by Wayne Vanderhoof - RJR Safety- at the December Safety Committee Meeting

Winter Safety - Winter Driving and Working in Cold Weather

At the December 6th, Safety Committee meeting, Wayne Vanderhoof gave a presentation on Winter Safety. The following is a breakdown of the presentation. Any PIOGA members who would like to view the full presentation can do so on the PIOGA Members Portal (<https://members.pioga.org/>).

Winter Driving Tips

2021 NHTSA Statistics

- 395 fatal crashes and an estimated 22,325 injury crashes. There were snow/sleet conditions at the time of the crashes.

Recommendations for safe winter driving

- Slow down. It is harder to control or stop your vehicle on a slick or snow-covered surface.
- Increase following distance. Prepare to have enough time to stop for vehicles ahead.
- Do not crowd a snowplow.
- Do not travel beside a semi-truck or snowplow.
- Snowplow reminders: snowplows travel slowly; make wide turns; stop often; overlap lanes; and exit the road frequently.

Winter Driving Emergencies

- If stopped or stalled during a winter emergency, remember to: stay focused on yourself, your passengers, your car and your surroundings.
- Stay with your car and don't overexert yourself.
- Let your car be seen. Put bright markers on the antenna or windows; keep exterior lights/flashers on; and keep the interior dome light on.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

- Make sure the gas pipe is clear of any snow.
- Run vehicle only long enough to stay warm.
- Do not run the vehicle for long periods of time with the windows up or in an enclosed space.

Winter Weather Changes

- Tires. Cooler temperatures decrease tire pressure. Always keep tires filled to manufacturers recommendations.
- Inspect tires (including spare) monthly and before long road trips. Inspect/check tires when they are cold, meaning that they have not been driven on for at least three hours. Tread should be at least 2/32 of an inch or greater on all tires.
- Car Seats. Heavy winter coats interfere with the proper harness fit. Use thin, warm layers and blankets.
- Car Seats. Ensure car seats and booster seats are properly installed and the correct seat for a child's size/age.
- Batteries. As temperature drops, so does battery power. Make sure to check your battery, charging system, and/or belts for any other needed repairs or replacements.
- Lights. Check headlights, brake lights, turn signals, emergency flashers, interior lights, etc.
- Windshield Wipers. Check the condition of wipers and make sure they are winter duty. Check fluid levels and make sure defrosters work.
- Cooling System. Make sure the system is topped off with fresh coolant and not leaking.

Stock Your Vehicle

- Carry items and supplies in vehicle for common winter driving-related tasks/emergencies. (Snow shovel, ice scraper, abrasive material in case vehicle gets stuck in snow, jumper cables, flashlight, blankets, water, food, cell phone/charger, etc.)

Gas Up or Plug In

- Keep the gas tank close to full. Keep electric/hybrid vehicles charged.

Plan Your Route

- Check local weather and traffic reports.
- If you must travel, prepare in case of delays or winter driving emergencies.

Working in Cold Weather

Cold Injuries Prevention

- Winter weather can expose outdoor workers to frostbite, hypothermia and cold stress.
- Always know the wind chill temperature to better prepare to work safely.
- Injuries are more common with areas that are unprotected during cold weather: face, ears, fingers, toes.
- Know the symptoms of cold stress: reddening of the skin, tingling, pain, swelling, leg cramps, numbness, blisters.
- Dress Properly. Wear at least three layers of loose-fitting clothing. Use insulated gloves and boots, cover your head and face.
- Monitor your physical condition.
- Watch for symptoms in co-workers.
- Stay dry and pack extra clothes. Remember that moisture can increase heat loss from the body.
- Take frequent breaks in warm, dry areas.
- Drink warm liquids.

Link to OSHA Safety and Health Topics: Winter Weather - <https://www.osha.gov/winter-weather>

Safety Committee Update

In 2024, the Safety Committee will be partnering with the Appalachian STEPS program and holding the Safety Committee meetings in conjunction with the STEPS quarterly meetings.

The quarterly meetings will be held February 8 (GO WV), May 9 (PIOGA), August 8 (OOGA) and November 14 (joint meeting). The meetings will be from 10 am to 2 pm with lunch provided.

The next meeting (February 8) will be held at the Best Western Plus in Bridgeport, WV. The meeting will be in-person or virtual. There will be a workshop/presentation on ESG.

(<https://gowv.com/events/2024-esg-workshop/>)

For more information on the new Safety Committee meeting schedule and partnership, please reach out to Deana McMahan (deana@pioga.org).

PIOGA Committee Schedule for 2024

Market Development and Environmental Committee

(Market Development 9-10:30 am.

Environmental 10:45 am - 12:30 pm.)

January 10 – Civil & Environmental Consultants, Monroeville

February 14 – Virtual

March 13 – Kriebel Energy, Clarion

April 10 – Virtual

May 8 – Travel day TBD

June 12 – Virtual

July – Shell Cracker Plant Tour. Date TBA

August 14 – Virtual

September 11 – Travel day TBD

October 9 – Virtual

November 13 – Travel day TBD

December 11 – Virtual

Membership Committee (In-person meetings will be held from 1-2 pm. Virtual meetings will be held from 2-3 pm. Check website for location of meetings)

February 15 - In-person after PIOGA Board Meeting

March 12 - Virtual

April 25 - In-person

May 14 - Virtual

June 20 - In-person

July 9 - Virtual

August 15 - In-person

September 10 - Virtual

October 17 - In-person

November 12 - virtual

December 19 - In-person

Legislative Committee (1:30 - 3 pm. All Legislative Committee Meetings are virtual/call-in only.) **February 1; March 7; April 4; May 1; June 6; July 11; August 1; September 5; October 3; November 7; and December 5.**

Diversity Committee (9-10 am. All Diversity Committee Meetings are virtual/call-in only.) **March 5; June 11; September 3; and December 3.**

PIOGA committee chairs and staff are hoping to see more people in-person in 2024! The committee meetings are more collaborative and valuable when our members are in the same room.

Please contact Deana McMahan at deana@pioga.org or 724-933-7306 ext. 23 if you are interested in joining a committee or have any questions on the schedule.

Committee meetings are for PIOGA members only and dates are subject to change. Go to www.pioga.org for updates.

PIOGA's Online Buyers' Guide is LIVE!

PIOGA is pleased to announce that the 2024 edition of PIOGA Buyers' Guide, the premier resource of relevant products and services for oil & gas professionals, is now available via the PIOGA website or directly at www.paoilgasbuyersguide.com

The 2024 version of the Buyers' Guide features updated and expanded company and product listings, in addition to other valuable information relating to the oil & gas industry. PIOGA members and other industry professionals now have an easy way to browse for goods and services.

"For the past 9 years, the PIOGA Buyers' Guide has become a great online purchasing resource and is a "one-stop-shop" for our members looking for products and services needed for oil and gas operations," said Dan Weaver, PIOGA's President and Executive Director. "We encourage you to look for the PIOGA logo on the listings and use the products and services of our PIOGA members. They support us and we should support them!"

Our long partnership with Strategic Value Media (SVM) has allowed PIOGA to provide more options to our members to advertise their products and services.

The Buyers' Guide provides users with an efficient way to browse for goods and services and offers oil & gas suppliers and companies exceptional visibility by showcasing their products and services to a targeted, industry-specific buyer group.

PIOGA Profits too!

A portion of the proceeds from the Buyers' Guide comes back to PIOGA to help sustain our association. An investment in the Buyers' Guide is not only an investment for your company, but an investment in PIOGA too. We thank you!



Find Companies to Do Business With!

ADVERTISE IN OUR NEW ONLINE
BUYERS GUIDE



SCAN THE QR CODE

FOR ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE
CONTACT PIOGA-ADVERTISE@SVMEDIA.COM



STRATEGIC
VALUE MEDIA

Strategic Value Media © 2022. Visit www.svmmedia.com
to see what we can offer your Association.

Become a 2024 PIOGA Partner

2024 PIOGA PARTNER LEVELS	Yearly Sponsorship Amount	Networking Events (5-7 per year) Comp tickets	Golf Events (2 per year) Comp tickets	Clay Events (2 per year) Comp tickets	PIOGA Meetings (1-2 per year) Comp tickets	Committee/ PIOGATech (4-6 per year) Comp tickets	Advertising discounts	Logo Recognition, website, newsletter, printed signage
KEYSTONE	\$10,000	2	2	2	2	2	30%	YES
EXECUTIVE	\$7,500	2			2	2	20%	YES
MEETINGS	\$5,000				4		10%	YES
GOLF	\$4,000		4					YES
CLAYS	\$4,000			4				YES
COMMITTEE/ PIOGATECH	\$3,500					2		Committee meetings, PIOGA Press and eWeekly
NETWORKING	\$2,500	1						PIOGA Networking events PIOGA Press and eWeekly

We are pleased to announce the 2024 PIOGA Partners Program. The program was launched six years ago in response to member requests for a “one stop” yearlong event sponsorship option for budgetary purposes. The program also offers unique opportunities - like the Committee Partner - to both support the association’s work and make your company stand out all year long.

We also continue to offer traditional event-by-event sponsorships.

The various Partner levels and their benefits are shown in the accompanying table. If you have any questions or are ready to sign on now, contact Debbie Oyler at debbie@piog.org or 724-933-7306 ext. 22.

And finally, a big thank-you to the members who were 2023 PIOGA Partners. We greatly appreciate your support!

Don't forget your 2024 PIOGA dues

For most PIOGA members, now is the time to renew your membership for 2024. The 2024 dues renewal invoices have been sent via email and were directed to the main contact of your company membership.

Your PIOGA membership has always been a great value, worth far more than the amount you pay in dues. For more than a century, PIOGA and our predecessor associations have prided ourselves on our role of bringing together a widely diverse range of companies, individuals and interests to collaborate for the benefit of the entire industry. As stated on our website’s homepage, working together, we help members accomplish that which they cannot achieve alone. What you can be sure of is that PIOGA is working harder than ever to advocate for Pennsylvania’s oil and gas industry. Understanding the interconnectedness of all facets of the industry is crucial to the success of our industry. Coming together to work on today’s challenges is imperative and effectively communicating to our stakeholders is paramount.

If you would like to know more about how we are working together on behalf of the entire Pennsylvania oil and gas industry, please take a few minutes to read a summary of our activities at https://pioga.org/publication_file/PIOGA_Overview_and_Accomplishments.pdf. You’ll also find suggestions about how to increase the value of your membership, such as participating in PIOGA committees and taking advantage of member discounts.

Thank you in advance for continuing to be a PIOGA member in 2024 and beyond. Questions about your membership? Contact Debbie Oyler, Director of Member Services, at debbie@piog.org or 724-933-7306 ext. 22.

Spotlight on natural gas

Article written by Becky Corbin - former Pennsylvania State Representative.

We are living in turbulent times, and, in our increasingly connected world, one event can set off an international domino effect of issues. Unfortunately, these global threats aren't going away and will always be there in some form or another. One sector that is increasingly being thrust into the spotlight amid global disputes is energy. Thankfully, for the United States, our vast supplies of natural gas and oil are helping to support our national security and the security of our allies near and far. World events are putting pressure on the energy market. While Russia's unwarranted invasion of Ukraine is no longer dominating all major news headlines, the dispute is still very much ongoing. And the ramifications of that dispute are still being felt throughout Europe.

The energy market can always be volatile, but the situation is further challenged when energy-rich countries use their resources as a weapon in their bid for more power against other independent sovereignties who are dependent on energy imports. That is what happened when the international community condemned Russia's attack on Ukraine.

In retaliation, Russia, which was supplying the natural gas needs of many European nations, tried to bully other nations into submission by cutting off access to its natural gas reserves. Energy prices across Europe, already notoriously high, spiked even higher. Millions of people were left wondering about their access to reliable energy throughout the winter months.

United States has the great fortune of being home to a diverse energy portfolio. Pennsylvania is playing an increasingly important role in strengthening that portfolio and our country's energy reserves with our vast natural gas resources.

We are second in the nation in natural gas production with only Texas ahead of us. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), while the commonwealth itself has a diverse energy portfolio, since 2019, natural gas has taken the lead as the largest source of in-state

electricity generation. In addition to the role it plays in national security, natural gas has other benefits to Pennsylvanians.

Information from the EIA shows that more than half of the state's households use natural gas as their primary heating source. The government agency has also found that Pennsylvania's "48 underground gas storage sites – the most of any state – help meet regional heating demand" during winter months. Our commonwealth's natural gas supplies are a reliable and affordable energy source.

The math is simple, the more we depend on foreign energy sources, the more fragile and at risk is our independence, autonomy, and overall way of life. But the more we can increase domestic production and lessen our reliance on foreign energy sources, the more secure our country can be in the long term.

With our immense natural gas resources, Pennsylvania can also play an important role in meeting the energy needs of our international allies. But to increase our international networks, we must invest in the infrastructure that is needed to get the gas to market. We can have all the natural gas resources in the world, but it doesn't do any good if we can't get it to the people who need it.

We must embrace our role in the global energy market and make the investments necessary to cement our role as a world leader in natural gas production and exports. To that end, we need policies that support domestic energy development and infrastructure buildout.

Pennsylvania is blessed to have an abundance of natural gas. These resources are making our commonwealth a major player in the energy market space. It is critical for our elected officials and policymakers to enact strategic and long-term policies that promote our natural gas resources and promote expansion of the industry. Our energy security is a key component to our national security and helps provide reliable energy to our allies around the world. ■

Article of Interest

Published by Marcellus Drilling News. January 5, 2024.

The Pendulum is Beginning to Swing Against Climate Cultists

A new article by Gordon Tomb — a senior fellow with the Commonwealth Foundation, a Pennsylvania-based, free-market think tank, and senior advisor with the CO2 Coalition, Arlington, Virginia — has the intriguing title: “Are ‘green’ agendas carrying governors to political cliffs?” While the article focuses on recent actions by PA Gov. Josh Shapiro and Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon in pandering to the radical environmental movement, much of the article reviews the evidence that a majority of people across multiple countries are beginning to reject radical environmentalism by electing conservatives. The radicals swung the pendulum way too far and too fast, and now the pendulum is swinging back to sanity.

Tomb’s article is a warning to governors like Shapiro and Gordon. However, it is a huge encouragement for us and should be for you, too. Below, you will see evidence that the tide is beginning to turn against climate cultists. (*Tomb’s article below*)

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro and Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon are riding the same “green energy” horse, trotting into the sunset — or toward a political cliff.

After voicing concerns, Shapiro is pressing ahead with Pennsylvania’s proposed participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, appealing a Commonwealth Court ruling barring the governor from unilateral action. He also has proposed expanding subsidies for “alternative energy” sources.

In the Cowboy State, Gordon advocates “decarbonizing the West” with a facility that would suck carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Challenged by state legislators to debate his proposal publicly, Gordon ultimately declined.

Both governors have drawn fire from political critics, mostly Republicans, who note that their states’ economies rely heavily on fossil fuel production to generate affordable electricity and

create high-paying jobs.

Do Shapiro and Gordon believe they are saving the planet? Or do they consider the environmental lobby more powerful than the voters who would foot the bill for their “green” initiatives with higher energy prices and power outages?

The political headwinds of “green” energy policies aren’t restricted to Pennsylvania and Wyoming. While these governors are sticking to their agendas, politicians worldwide face career-threatening backlashes to climate activism.

As physics teaches us, every action has an equal and opposite reaction. Climate activists swung the political pendulum in one extreme direction. Now, the pendulum is heading toward its logical pivot: “Eco-friendly” governments losing to skeptical political forces.

In Germany, a constitutional court ruled that one

Continued on page 12

**Go beyond reclamation
standards - commit to
environmental
stewardship**



<https://ernstseed.co/adPP>



**ERNST
SEEDS**

800-873-3321

sales@ernstseed.com

Industry Intelligence. Focused Legal Perspective.
Unparalleled Value.

HIGH-YIELDING RESULTS.



Energy &
Natural Resources



Environmental &
Regulatory



Business
Transactions



Real Estate,
Land Use & Zoning



Pipeline &
HazMat Safety



Commercial
Litigation

We are critical thinkers who are focused, driven and
cost effective in everything we do.

Meet our attorneys at babstcalland.com.

Babst | Calland
Attorneys at Law

Where Trust and Value Meet™



PITTSBURGH, PA | CHARLESTON, WV | HARRISBURG, PA | STATE COLLEGE, PA | WASHINGTON, DC



JUST THE FACTS

© PIOGA 2023

Pennsylvania's Conventional Oil & Gas Producers Vital to Rural Energy Users & Local Economies

The role of Pennsylvania's conventional oil and natural gas developers in the history of energy production over the last 165 years is without equal in the United States - developing technologies over the decades, supporting local economies with good-paying jobs and providing a vital resource for residential, commercial and industrial energy users. Their importance continues today, as they supply vital natural gas to communities at a distance from transmission lines and feed two area refineries that produce the Pennsylvania Grade oil and lubricants valued by manufacturers across the country. Their financial contributions to the roughly 19 counties in the core of the Commonwealth's conventional producing area are also critical to those areas' economies, and could not be replaced

with any other private sector source.

These companies are also facing significant challenges to their ability to continue supplying the users of the energy they produce in the future. The contributions they make to our region and the issues they now face merit a deeper review, especially for the majority of energy consumers with a limited understanding of the logistics of transporting natural gas and oil to end users. and wise men this season, remember how much we depend on oil and gas to celebrate the season.

To read more from this month's Just the Facts – and to share it with friends and colleagues – visit the Latest News and Blog section at pioga.org.



Premium Service for Your Premium Product.

Whether buying or transporting crude, Ergon Oil Purchasing's integrated network of assets offers diversity to the market. Through Ergon's refineries, network of terminals, barge and trucking fleets, we understand the needs of the crude oil industry.

1.800.278.3364 eopsales@ergon.com [f](#) [in](#)



ERGON
Oil Purchasing

Climate Article *Continued from page 9*

of the “government’s main gimmicks for funding green projects” violates the law. The ruling forced the government to “level with voters about how much the net-zero energy transition will cost,” resulting in “a fiscal moment of truth that exploded into a political crisis.”

Calling climate change “a socialist lie,” self-described libertarian Javier Milei surprised some Argentinians by beating the incumbent president substantially, “fueling concerns that South America’s second-largest economy will back-track on climate promises.” However, Argentinians’ concerns about raging inflation and economic stagnation trumped climate change.

In the Netherlands, the Party for Freedom won parliamentary elections, replacing a government that sought to kill off large segments of Dutch agriculture to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The winning party’s manifesto declares, “We have been made to fear climate change for decades. ... We must stop being afraid.”

In addition to political fallout, economic troubles in green energy abound. Ford and General Motors have cut investments into poorly selling electric vehicles. Meanwhile, Siemens Energy, a wind turbine manufacturer, reports multibillion dollar losses.

Green projects are regularly falling by the wayside. Offshore wind has run into rough seas along America’s East Coast. A Danish company scrapped two New Jersey projects, and New England developers canceled three projects slated to provide power to Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Robert Bryce, author of *Power Hungry: The Myths of “Green” Energy and the Real Fuels of the Future*, follows the fortunes of “green” projects in the United States. His latest tally of canceled wind and solar projects is more than 600 since 2015.

“The march to ‘green’ energy, after years of uncontradicted hype, is now experiencing one reverse after another,” writes energy analyst Francis Menton.

Menton continues: “It turns out that there are

limits to how much governments can achieve by trying to hide the costs of wind and solar energy through various subsidies and tax credits. At some point, after pocketing all the subsidies and credits, the developers still must deliver power to the grid at an affordable cost; and if they can’t, they will go broke.”

It is little wonder that so-called “green” technologies are having a tough go in the marketplace. A Bank of America analysis states, “Solar and wind look more expensive than almost any alternative on an unsubsidized basis. ... Wind, biomass, and non-concentrated solar power may not be economically viable without perpetual subsidies.”

That puts taxpayers on the hook forever unless those imposing destructive policies face political consequences.

Leaders like Shapiro and Gordon might pay closer mind to certain realities, although we’ll stop short of predicting their futures. The impossibility of controlling Earth’s most complex system, the climate, may be equaled only by that of predicting the luck of a particular individual in the world’s most perplexing unnatural system: politics. ■

Gordon Tomb is a senior fellow with the Commonwealth Foundation, a Pennsylvania-based, free-market think tank, and senior advisor with the CO2 Coalition, Arlington, Virginia. He is primary editor of two books on climate change, including “A Very Convenient Warming: How modest warming and more CO2 are benefiting humanity.”

CO2 Coalition Website: <https://co2coalition.org/>

Have you discovered the many features of PIOGA’s membership management system?
Click on Members Only at the top right of our homepage to get started

www.pioga.org

Harrisburg Update - Pa Legislative and Political Report

Update/Article provided by Gmerek Government Relations, Inc.

2023: Year in Review

As we have previously reported, the two-year legislative session started slowly and with a great degree of uncertainty in the House of Representatives regarding which Party was in control...the Democrats, who won 102 of 203 races in the November 2022 elections but only had 99 active members on swearing-in day...or the Republicans which had 101 active members on swearing-in day. After two months of uncertainty in the House, Democrats regained the operating majority in February, replacing Rep. Mark Rozzi (D), who was temporarily elected the Speaker of the House with Republican and Democratic votes, with Rep. Joanna McClinton. While the Senate did not encounter any of these challenges, its legislative calendar was also limited because the House was not in session due to the frequency of legislative vacancies that occurred. And fittingly, the 2023 legislative session concluded with another vacancy when Rep. John Galloway (D) resigned in mid-December to become a Magisterial District Justice in Bucks County. Additionally, Republican Rep. Joe Kerwin, a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard, has been called to active service. While his military duties do not require him to resign from the House, he cannot participate in votes in committee or on the House Floor.

While the number of scheduled legislative session days was limited, that did not stop the Legislature from proposing and introducing legislation and reporting bills from committees:

- Senate: More than 1,000 bills and 220 Resolutions were introduced.
- House of Representatives: More than 1,900 bills and 400 Resolutions were introduced.

Prior to the final legislative push the week of December 11 to wrap up the Budget, only 43 bills had been passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Shapiro. That amount consisted of 11 budget-related bills and 32 general bills. But...during that final week of

the legislative session, the Legislature passed 34 bills, which Gov. Shapiro signed into law.

2024: Legislative Preview

So, a new year and a new legislative schedule? No, the new year started with no formal session days except for a few days the first week of February for the Senate only. Regardless, the 2024 legislative session will reexamine many issues that were left unresolved in 2023 such as:

A. School Funding: Reforming how Pennsylvania funds K-12 public education to comply with the Commonwealth Court Order that the current funding system is inequitable and therefore unconstitutional. Legislative Republicans believe that any conversation about more funding for schools must include a discussion about education reforms, including school vouchers.

Continued on page 14



AMERICAN REFINING GROUP, INC.
Refine everything.™

Producer-focused,
service-driven
purchaser of light,
sweet, paraffinic
crude oil and blender
of ARGuard™
lubricants for
all of your industrial
equipment needs.

ARG's roots are deep in the Pennsylvania oil fields. In 1881, the Bradford oil refinery was established in Northwestern PA, the birthplace of the domestic oil industry. 140 years later, ARG remains committed to supporting the Commonwealth's conventional oil and gas producers.

Bill Murray
VP - Crude Supply & Logistics
bmurray@amref.com
330-224-4408

David Cook
Crude Oil Relationship Manager
dcook@amref.com
814-598-1607

www.amref.com

Harrisburg Update *Continued from page 13*

B. Minimum Wage: The House Democrats passed legislation last year to increase minimum wage from \$7.25/hour to \$15/hour by 2026. The states minimum was last increased in 2009, and many states surrounding Pa. have increased their minimum wage multiple times since Pa. last increased its minimum wage.

With the Senate Republicans signaling an interest/support for the issue, 2024 could be the year that an increase occurs, assuming the Senate Republicans and House Democrats can agree on a dollar amount and assuming that parties are willing to trade for an increase in the upcoming budget negotiations.

C. Permitting and Regulatory Reform: Legislative Republicans continue to push for permitting and regulatory reforms, including greater transparency and creating a formal line of communication between permit applicants and agencies to resolve agency questions and permit application deficiencies. Legislative Republicans also continue to push legislation prohibiting new agency regulations without first reviewing existing regulations and rescinding outdated ones.

While the Shapiro Administration conducted an internal review of agency permitting and licensing practices and created a money-back guarantee program, legislative Republicans seek greater statutory reforms and certainty for businesses.

D. Constitutional Amendment Providing Temporary Authority to Childhood Sexual Abuse Survivors to File a Civil Lawsuit Against their Abuser: The issue has been tied up since the House Democrats took the position that the legislation should run on its own and free of proposals requiring identification each time a voter goes to the polls and to provide the Legislature to block the implementation of regulations without requiring a governor's approval. While there remains an interest in addressing the issue through a Constitutional Amendment, other issues must be addressed before the Senate considers the issue again.

2024: Election Cycle

The 2024 election cycle will impact all legislative actions this year and make, what is already expected to be another challenging Budget season, even more difficult.

A. House of Representatives: All 203 members of the House are on the ballot in 2024. The fight for the control of the House will also be waged on the House Floor through the types of legislation that the Democratic majority will attempt to bring up to address issues of interest to their supporters or to put Republicans (especially Republicans in vulnerable districts) in a difficult position of voting for/against a specific issue.

With a one-vote majority and approximately 20 legislative districts viewed as potentially competitive, the upcoming campaigns are also attracting national attention, with advocacy groups on both sides of the political aisle already engaging. The majority of the likely competitive races will be located in the Pittsburgh/Allegheny County region and in the southeast counties surrounding Philadelphia, where the trends in voting have benefited the Democrats.

Currently, 12 House members have announced that they are not running for reelection or seeking another office. Of those members not running for reelection or seeking another office, 7 are Republicans, and 5 are Democrats.

B. Senate: 25 of the 50 Senators are on the ballot this year. Republicans enjoy a 28-22 majority at this time. Of those Senate districts on the ballot this year, Republicans currently hold 15, and Democrats hold 10.

Currently, two incumbents, both Republicans, have announced that they do not plan to run for reelection. Senator Mike Regan, is completing his second 4-year Senate term. His district includes portions of Cumberland and York counties and has been a solid Republican district over the past few election cycles. Senator John DiSanto is finishing his second 4-year term in the Senate. While Senator DiSanto won two challenging and close races in a competitive district, legisla-

tive redistricting has made the 15th Senate district more favorable to Democrats, with President Joe Biden winning the district by 15 points. The 15th Senate district is the top target district for the Senate Democrats in their effort to reduce the Republican majority in the Senate. Other potentially close Senate races to watch include two Republican districts, one in Allegheny County (Robinson) and another in Erie County (Laughlin).

C. Statewide Races: This year, the Offices of State Treasurer, Auditor General, and Attorney General are on the ballot.

Republican incumbents Treasurer Stacy Garrity and Auditor General Tim DeFoor have announced their intention to seek a second term. Attorney General Michelle Henry (D) is not running for the Office. Attorney General Henry agreed not to run for the position as a condition of receiving Senate confirmation when Gov. Shapiro nominated her to fill the vacancy when he was elected Governor.

The Pennsylvania State Democratic Party recently endorsed candidates for the following statewide offices: Auditor General: State Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta, Treasurer: State Rep. Ryan Bizzarro. The State Democratic Party did not endorse a candidate for Attorney General.

The Pennsylvania State Republican Party supports the incumbents Stacy Garrity and Tim DeFoor. The State Republican Party meets in February, and other endorsements will be considered.

D. Federal Elections: With Pennsylvania's history as a swing state and the closeness of the U.S. Senate, there will again be significant attention paid to Pa. in 2024. The attention these races generate will undoubtedly impact the down-ballot races of the Pa. Senate and House.

U.S. Senator Bob Casey will likely face Dave McCormick, the presumptive Republican nominee who already has the support of the state Republican Party.

President Joe Biden, who has traveled to Pa. on many occasions, was in the state in early January for an event and speech that effec-

tively launched his 2024 reelection campaign. Year-end public opinion polls show that President Biden and former President Donald Trump (the leading Republican challenger at this time) are in a statistical tie among Pa. voters. (Biden- 42%, Trump- 41%). The same poll has Biden leading Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (Biden- 41%, DeSantis-39%), while trailing former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley (Haley-38%, Biden-33%).

Conclusion

The fundamental policy differences between the Senate Republican majority and the House Democratic majority led to the quiet death of many legislative proposals in 2023. The Senate Republicans argue that the House Democrats only want to pass legislation for political gains. The House Democrats, in control for the first time in more than a decade, argue that their priorities must be heard and considered. They argue that the Senate Republicans have been in control for so long and never had to negotiate issues as the House was under Republican control for many of those years.

At the same time, Gov. Shapiro has had some successes (I-95) and some failures (School Vouchers), but he continues to say the real problem is the lack of compromise between the Senate Republicans and the House Democrats. Others disagree.

These differences will continue in 2024 unless the legislative leaders can find common ground between the two Chambers and Gov. Shapiro takes a strong leadership role to bring the sides together and focus on issues where there are the building blocks of a compromise. ■



Gmerek
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, INC.

Oil & Gas Dashboard

Sources

American Refining Group:
www.amref.com/Crude-Prices-New.aspx
 Ergon Oil Purchasing: www.ergon.com/crudeoil
 Gas futures: quotes.ino.com/exchanges/?r=NYMEX_NG
 Baker Hughes rig count: bakerhughesrig-count.gcs-web.com/na-rig-count
 NYMEX strip chart: Mid American Natural Resources
 Basis futures values: BHE Eastern Energy Field Services

Penn Grade Crude Oil Prices

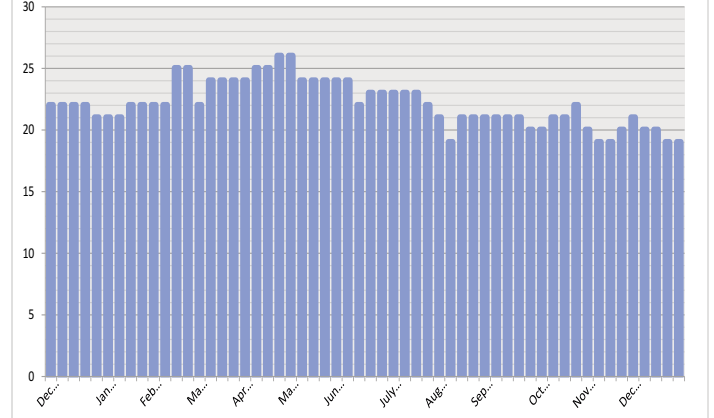


Natural Gas Futures Closing Prices

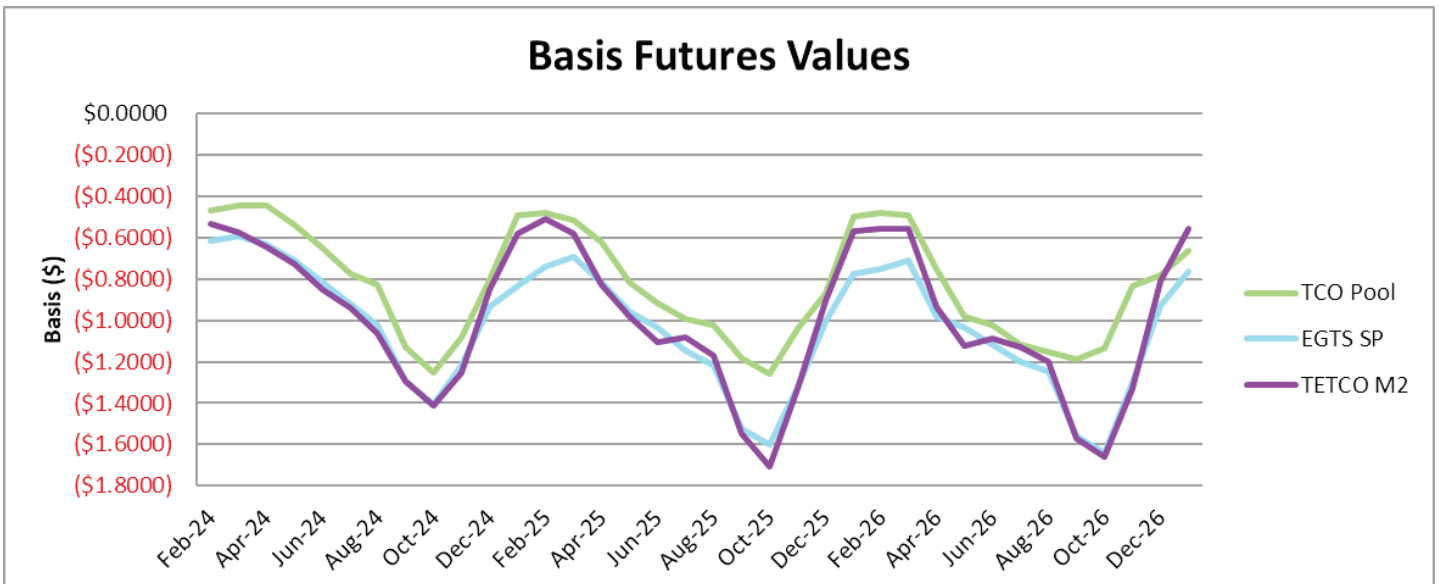
February 2024	2.575
March	2.381
April	2.361
May	2.426
June	2.576
July	2.726
August	2.762
September	2.737
October	2.800
November	3.137

Prices as of Jan. 3, 2024

Pennsylvania Rig Count



Basis Futures Values



Northeast Pricing Report — January 2024

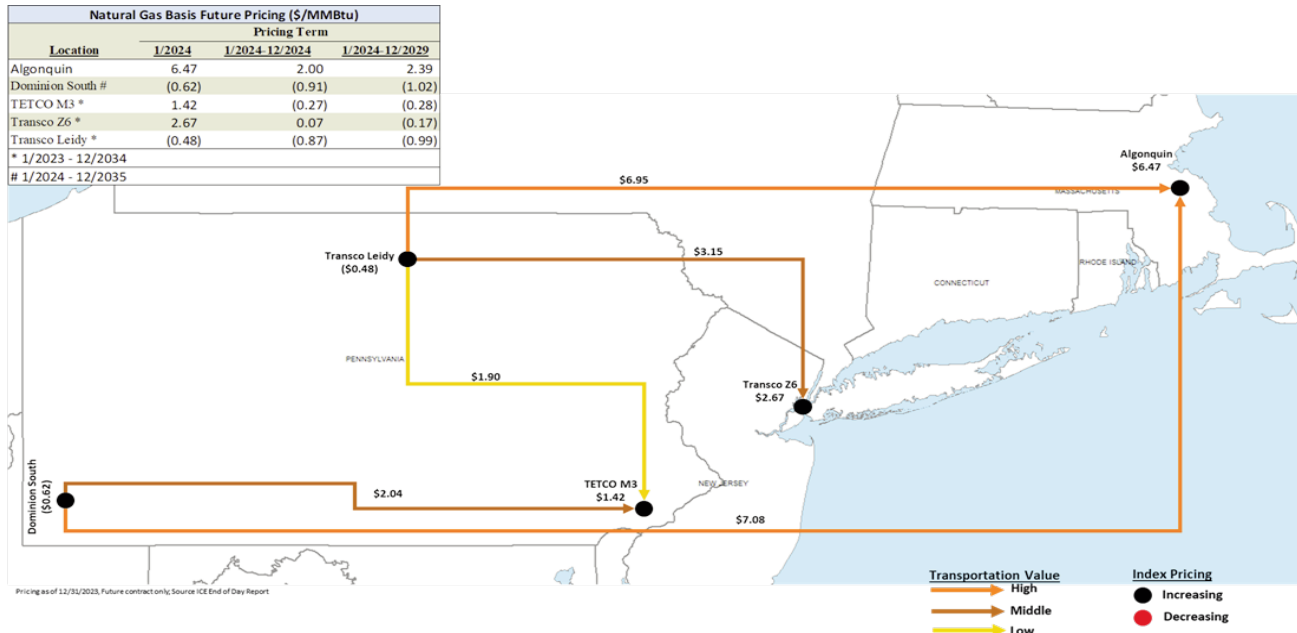
The North American gas markets have a lot going on, which might cause them to stay weak throughout the early part of 2024. Several factors contribute to this state, including higher underground gas storage inventories, a potential for warmer-than-normal winter temperatures, weak consumption from industrial and commercial sectors, and strong production growth from key U.S. basins. With these in play, natural gas inventories are expected to remain at elevated levels during the winter months, resulting in constrained prices for the immediate future. However, as the year progresses there's hope for a gradual tightening of the supply/demand balance in the U.S., which could lead to an increase in spot gas prices. In fact, it's even predicted that the NYMEX price for the entire year of 2024 will average around \$3.50 per thousand cubic feet (mcf). The Northeast area is continuing its bullish run. Algonquin's front month contract increased \$2.54 per MMBtu while TETCO M3 and Transco Zone 6 increased \$0.81 and \$1.93 per MMBtu respectively. The rolling one-year trading period was mixed with Algonquin, TETCO M3, and Transco Z6 all dropping between \$0.03 and \$0.14 per MMBtu. Dominion South and Transco Leidy increased slightly. The full-term trading period was also mixed. Algonquin, TETCO M3, and Transco Z6 all dropping between \$0.01 and \$0.30 per MMBtu. Dominion South and Transco Leidy increased slightly.

Transportation Value Market Indicator

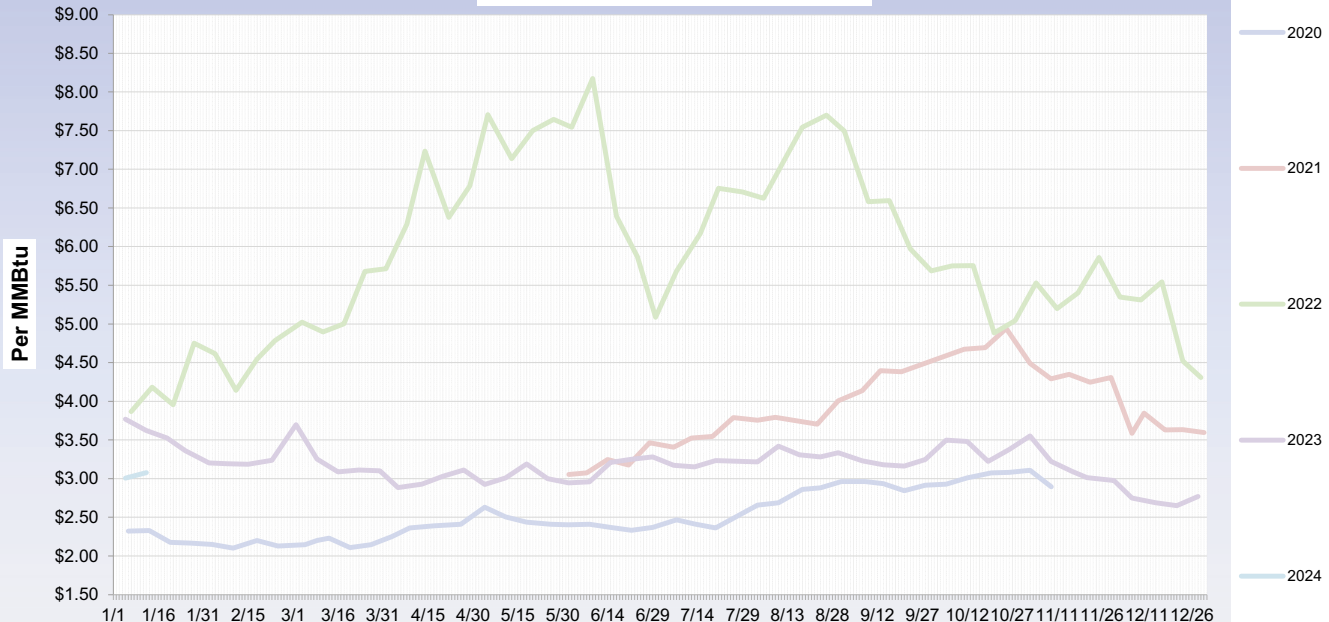


Provided by Bertison-George, LLC

www.bertison-george.com



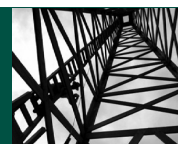
NYMEX ANNUAL STRIP PRICE



The information in this report was obtained from reliable sources but is not guaranteed for accuracy.

The views and opinions set forth are solely those of the author(s), and are subject to change without notice.

Spud Report: December



The data show below comes from the Department of Environmental Protection. A variety of interactive reports are available by going to the Office of Oil and Gas Management page at www.dep.pa.gov and choosing Report from the menu. The table is sorted by operator and lists the total wells reported as drilled last month. **Spud** is the date drilling began at a well site. The **API number** is the drilling permit number issued to the well operator. An asterisk (*) after Operator indicates a conventional well.

Operator	Wells	Date	API#	County	Municipality	Operator	Wells	Date	API#	County	Municipality
Cameron Energy Co. *	1	12/14/23	053-31058	Forest	Kingsley Twp	PA Gen Energy Co.	6	12/7/23	081-21975	Lycoming	Plunketts Creek
Chesapeake Appalachia	3	12/11/23	015-23885	Bradford	Terry Twp			12/10/23	081-21976	Lycoming	Plunketts Creek
		12/11/23	015-23884	Bradford	Terry Twp			12/13/23	081-21978	Lycoming	Plunketts Creek
		12/14/23	113-20476	Sullivan	Cherry Twp			12/14/23	081-21985	Lycoming	Plunketts Creek
CNX Gas Co.	6	12/1/23	125-29088	Washington	Morris Twp			12/15/23	081-21977	Lycoming	Plunketts Creek
		12/1/23	125-29089	Washington	Morris Twp			12/16/23	081-21979	Lycoming	Plunketts Creek
		12/1/23	125-29047	Washington	Morris Twp	Pierce & Petersen	1	12/20/23	123-48873	Warren	Mead Twp
		12/1/23	125-29090	Washington	Morris Twp	Range Resources	13	12/19/23	125-29102	Washington	Cecil Twp
		12/1/23	125-29091	Washington	Morris Twp			12/20/23	125-29101	Washington	Cecil Twp
		12/1/23	125-29092	Washington	Morris Twp			12/20/23	125-29099	Washington	Cecil Twp
Coterra Energy Inc.	8	12/19/23	115-23106	Susquehanna	Brooklyn			12/20/23	125-29100	Washington	Cecil Twp
		12/19/23	115-23107	Susquehanna	Brooklyn			12/22/23	125-29110	Washington	Cecil Twp
		12/19/23	115-23108	Susquehanna	Brooklyn			12/26/23	125-29096	Washington	Chartiers Twp
		12/19/23	115-23109	Susquehanna	Brooklyn			12/26/23	125-29097	Washington	Chartiers Twp
		12/4/23	115-23146	Susquehanna	Middletown			12/26/23	125-29098	Washington	Chartiers Twp
		12/4/23	115-23147	Susquehanna	Middletown			12/15/23	125-29046	Washington	North Franklin
		12/4/23	115-23148	Susquehanna	Middletown			12/15/23	125-29042	Washington	North Franklin
		12/4/23	115-23149	Susquehanna	Middletown			12/15/23	125-29043	Washington	North Franklin
INR OPR LLC	1	12/7/23	063-37549	Indiana	Young Twp			12/15/23	125-29044	Washington	North Franklin
Minard Run Oil Co.	3	12/4/23	053-31079	Forest	Jenks Twp			12/15/23	125-29045	Washington	North Franklin
		12/11/23	053-31075	Forest	Kingsley Twp						
		12/15/23	053-31076	Forest	Kingsley Twp						
Olympus Energy	4	12/19/23	129-29230	Westmoreland	Murrysville						
		12/19/23	129-29231	Westmoreland	Murrysville						
		12/19/23	129-29220	Westmoreland	Murrysville						
		12/19/23	129-29229	Westmoreland	Murrysville						

	Dec.	Nov.	Oct	Sept	Aug
Total Wells	46	38	61	58	55
Unconventional Gas	41	29	42	37	37
Conventional Gas	0	1	0	0	0
Oil	1	7	13	8	11
Combination Oil/Gas	4	1	6	11	7

New PIOGA Membership Category - Gas Storage

PIOGA has a new Membership Category - Gas Storage Operator!

If you are an individual or business entity engaged in the storage of natural gas with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - you can now join PIOGA!

Any current PIOGA members who know anyone in the gas storage operations sector, please share the news! Help PIOGA increase our membership and get more industry operators involved!

Storage members are entitled to vote.

For information on the new gas storage operator membership, dues and other memberships, visit: <https://pioga.org/about/membership-and-benefits/>



The PIOGA Office has MOVED!

Our new office address is:

**100 Allegheny Drive, Suite 104
Warrendale, Pa 15086**

Calendar

PIOGA events

Information: www.pioga.org > **PIOGA Events**

PIOGA's Cigar Networking Event

February 29. Location TBD

PIOGATech: First-Aid/CPR/AED Training

March 6. CNX Washington

PIOGA's Spring Meeting 2024 Happy Hour

April 17. Pittsburgh, Pa.

PIOGA's Spring Meeting 2024

April 18. Rivers Casino. Pittsburgh, Pa.

Other events

GO-WV 2024 Winter Meeting

January 17-18, 2024. Marriott Town Center Hotel. Charleston, WV. (<https://pioga.org/event/go-wv-2024-winter-meeting/>)

Appalachian Pipeliners - Meet the Board.

January 25, 2024. Wagle Whiskey, Pittsburgh.
(https://www.appalachianpipeliners.org/meetings_events.php#)

GPA Midstream Appalachian Basin Chapter Membership Drive & Appreciation Event

February 6, 2024. PPG Arena, Pittsburgh
(<https://abgpamidstream.org/calendar/2602/>)

2024 NAPE Summit

February 7-9, 2024.
(<https://pioga.org/event/2024-nape-summit/>)

Appalachian STEPS - Quarterly Meeting

February 8, 2024.
(<https://pioga.org/event/appalachian-steps-quarterly-meeting-pioga-safety-committee-meeting/>)

GPA Midstream Appalachian Basin Chapter Luncheon

February 13, 2024. Bella Sera, Canonsburg
(<https://abgpamidstream.org/calendar/first-quarter-luncheon/>)

Society of Petroleum Engineers- Local Lectures

February 14, 2024. Cefalo's, Carnegie
(<https://abgpamidstream.org/calendar/first-quarter-luncheon/>)

Full Calendar - PIOGA Event & Meeting

Schedule - <https://pioga.org/event/pioga-event-and-meeting-schedule-2024/>

PIOGA Members and Industry Partners - Please email meghan@pioga.org to advertise upcoming events.

PIOGA Board of Directors

Michael Hillebrand (Chairman), Huntley & Huntley, LLC
Ben Wallace (Vice Chairman), Penneco Oil Company, Inc.
Frank J. Ross (2nd Vice Chairman), T&F Exploration, LP
James Kriebel (Treasurer), Kriebel Energy LLC
Sam Fragale (Secretary), Freedom Energy Resources LLC
Gary Slagel (Past-Chairman), Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC.
Nicholas Andreychek, Ergon
Robert Beatty Jr., Coolspring Gas & Oil Co., LLC
Stanley J. Berdell, BLX, Inc.
Dan Billman, Billman Geologic Consultants, Inc.
Brian Bittinger, Bittinger Drilling, LLC / D&B Gas Production, LLC
Mark Cline, Cline Oil Company
David Cook, American Refining Group, Inc.
Carrie Crumpton, CNX Resources Corp.
Charles Cunningham, Diversified Energy Company PLC
David Hill, Hill Drilling
Jessica Houser, WGM Gas Company Inc.
Paul Kanouff, Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.
Bruce King, Greylock Energy
Teresa Irvin McCurdy, TD Connections, Inc.
Joe O'Donnell, Eastern Energy Field Services, Inc.
Len Paugh, Long Ridge Energy & Power
Gene Pietrowski, BlackRock Resources, LLC
Jake Stilley, Patriot Exploration Corporation
John Snedden, ShalePro Energy Services
Bryan Snyder, Snyder Brothers, Inc.
Jeff Walentosky, Moody and Associates, Inc.

Committee Chairs

Diversity Committee
Deana Stephens, Steptoe & Johnson PLLC
Whitney Nightingale, Steptoe & Johnson PLLC
Environmental Committee
Paul Kanouff, Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.
Angelo Albanese, Diversified Energy Company PLC
Legislative Committee
Ben Wallace, Penneco Oil Company
Market Development Committee
Gene Pietrowski, BlackRock Resources, LLC.
Joseph O'Donnell, Eastern Energy Field Services, Inc.
Safety Committee
Wayne Vanderhoof, RJR Safety, Inc.
Eric Staul, Diversified Energy Company PLC
Tax Committee
Bill Phillips, Baker Tilly US, LLP
Don Nestor, CPA
Membership Committee
Jessica Houser, WGM Gas Company Inc.
Donald Zuch, Fusilier Resources, LLC.

Staff

Dan Weaver (dan@pioga.org), President & Executive Director
Kevin Moody (kevin@pioga.org), Vice President & General Counsel
Debbie Oyler (debbie@pioga.org), Director of Member Services and Finance
Meghan Keely (meghan@pioga.org), Director of Communications (also newsletter advertising & editorial contact)
Deana McMahan (deana@pioga.org), Director of Administration and Committee Liaison

Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Association

100 Allegheny Drive, Suite 104. Warrendale, PA 15086
724-933-7306 • www.pioga.org

Harrisburg Office (Kevin Moody)

212 Locust Street, Suite 300, Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-234-8525

Oil Region Office (Meghan Keely)

304 East Bissell Ave., Oil City, PA 16301
814-671-2484



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PITTSBURGH, PA
15290
PERMIT NO. 1211

100 Allegheny Drive, Suite 104
Warrendale, PA 15086

Address Service Requested

