

The PIOGA Press

The monthly newsletter of the
Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Association
March 2024 • Issue 167

PIOGA **SPRING MEETING**
April 18, 2024 | Rivers Casino Pittsburgh

PIOGA's 2024 Spring Meeting



PIOGA On Fire Cigar Networking Event

PIOGA was on fire February 29th at BURN for our annual Cigar Networking Event! PIOGA would like to give a BIG "THANK YOU" to all the Sponsors and to all those that attended!



Check out all the photos at:
<https://pioga.org/about/photo-galleries/>

Climate, Commodities and Chaos *Threats to a Strong U.S. Energy Game Plan*

We hope you will join us for PIOGA's Spring Meeting – **Climate, Commodities & Chaos – Threats to a Strong U.S. Energy Game Plan**. As the oil and gas industry changes, it's crucial to stay ahead of the curve. From the industrial revolution to the current day, fossil fuels have seen a dramatic climate shift due to changes in regulations, consumer preferences, government intervention and economics. Industry commodities are headed to a different and uncertain place – which can be seen through market sentiment, prices, production, and corporate actions such as mergers. The future of energy is in complete disorder and confusion – the definition of chaos. The threats to the industry seem overwhelming but together we can create a strong game plan.

Don't miss this year's 2024 Spring Meeting & Exhibition on Thursday, April 18, at Rivers Casino, featuring presentations from top experts providing thought-provoking information about the future of energy, along with updates on the regulatory, legislative, market development and business climate issues impacting your business now. In addition, the event will again feature an exclusive vendor exhibit area and, as always, plenty of time for networking.

Continued on page 3

PIOGA Cigar Event	1
PIOGA Spring Meeting	1 & 3
Babst Calland - Developments in Data Privacy	4-5
Article of Interest - RGGL	6-8
Schneider Downs - Federal Grant Reporting/Well Plugging	9
Article - Court OKs Lawsuit Over Solar Hookups	12
PIOGATech - First Aid/AED/CPR	13
PIOGA Partners	15
PIOGA Calendar of Events	19

Trusted Legal Counsel to Energy Companies

Step toe & 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



For more information visit
step toe-johnson.com

11 Grandview Circle, Suite 200, Canonsburg, PA 15317

THIS IS AN ADVERTISEMENT

2024 PIOGA Committee Schedule

Market Development and Environmental Committee (Market Development 9-10:30 am. Environmental 10:45 am - 12:30 pm.)

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 (Meetings will be held from 2-3 pm the second Thursday of each month)

March 12

April 9

May 14

June 11

July 9

August 13

September 10

October 8

November 12

December 10

Legislative Committee (1:30 - 3 pm. All Legislative Committee Meetings are virtual/call-in only.) April 4; May 1; June 6; July 11; August 1; Sept. 5; Oct. 3; Nov. 7; and Dec. 5.

Diversity Committee (9-10 am. All Diversity Committee Meetings are virtual/call-in only.) June 11; Sept. 3; and Dec. 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 about the schedule.

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



Spring Meeting *Continued from page 1*

Agenda

Registration opens at 7:45 a.m. The program kicks off at 8:45 and lasts until 5 p.m. followed by a networking reception and casino time until 7. ***Below are speakers confirmed as of the end of February – please note the agenda is being updated frequently.***

Be sure to visit www.pioga.org > **PIOGA Events** for updates.

- **Conference Open & Welcome** – Dan Weaver, PIOGA President & Executive Director
- **Opening Speaker – But I'd Like to Keep My Gasoline Truck and Gas Stove** – Steve Goreham, New Lenox Books, Inc.
- **Producers Roundtable – Navigating the Risks to Energy Development (Panel Discussion)** Brad Gray, Diversified Energy; Art Stewart, Cameron Energy Co.; William Dressel, S.T.L. Resources; moderated by Mike Hillebrand, Huntley & Hutley.
- **Highlighting the Positives: Natural Gas Expansion, LNG and Market Growth Opportunities.** Toby Rice, President and Chief Executive Officer – EQT Corp.
- **Presidential Election Prognostication.** Keith Naughton, Silent Majority Strategies.
- **Weaponizing Public Relations – Misinformation Spreading and Creating Distrust.** Jeff Eshelman, IPAA.
- **A Cup of Tea: A Discussion with PA State Government Leaders.** Kim Ward, President Pro Tempore of the PA Senate; moderated by Teresa Irvin McCurdy, TD Connections.

Registration

Registration opened on February 1 and will run through April 8th. The cost for PIOGA members is \$565 and \$665 for non-members. A special student rate is available too. (Participants must be 21 years of age or older and present a valid photo ID to enter the facility).

Exhibitor and sponsor opportunities

Again, this year we will have an exclusive Vendor Exhibit Area that allows your company to showcase its products or services and meet face-to-face with attendees of the meeting. By exhibiting at the Spring Meeting

your company will get great visibility and have the ability to network and make business connections. Twenty-three (23) spaces are available on a first come, first served basis. The cost is \$1,290 for members and \$1,540 for non-members.

Exhibitor registration includes two conference registrations along with lunch and the networking reception, a 6-foot table and two chairs, and recognition as a Copper-level sponsor. Sponsoring the Spring Meeting allows your company the opportunity to market to and network with hundreds of oil and gas executives and operations staff in the upstream and downstream sectors. There is a sponsorship level—both exclusive and general—for every budget. Be sure to check the event page of our website for the complete list of levels and features.

Register Now

Make your plans now to attend! The event takes place in the spacious Grand Ballroom at Rivers Casino on Pittsburgh's North Shore. It's easy to get to and parking is free. If you're coming from out of town, PIOGA has secured a special rate at the new Landing Hotel – attached to the casino, and our events page lists other hotels in the vicinity as well.

Find out more at PIOGA.com > Events

(<https://pioga.org/event/spring-meeting-2024/>)

PIOGA's 2024 Spring Meeting Kick-Off Happy Hour

PIOGA and The Women's Energy Network – Greater Pittsburgh Chapter invite you to our second joint Happy Hour as we kick-off PIOGA's Spring Conference! Last year this event sold out so we decided to buy out the entire venue! (Voodoo Brewing - 337 North Shore Drive, Pittsburgh)



Space is limited. Drink tickets are guaranteed to the first 150 people that RSVP.

For more information on the event or information on Sponsoring check out PIOGA's website.

<https://pioga.org/event/piogas-spring-meeting-happy-hour-kick-off/>

Developments in Data Privacy

Article provided by Babst Calland - Authors: Ember K. Holmes and Justine M. Kasznica

In 2023, Pennsylvania's Breach of Personal Information Notification Act (BPINA), underwent its first major update since it was signed into law in June 2006. The Amended BPINA¹ went into effect on May 2, 2023. The Amended BPINA affects all Pennsylvania entities that store information belonging to Pennsylvania residents, including energy companies, but has the most significant impact on state agencies and entities that contract with state agencies.

BPINA was designed to set security parameters and standards for entities that maintain, store, or manage computerized data containing the Personal Information (as defined below) of Pennsylvania residents. BPINA sets forth specific requirements for notifying residents of security system breaches. The Amended BPINA creates new definitions for previously undefined terms in BPINA, amends existing term definitions, and bolsters notification and security requirements for state agencies, state agency contractors, counties, public schools, and municipalities.

As a state agency, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) will be subject to this higher level of scrutiny with regard to its handling of personal information. In addition, any entity that contracts with the PADEP or maintains data on behalf of the PADEP or any other state agency is also subject to these more stringent requirements and should be familiar with the updates as applicable to their notification, reporting, and encryption practices.

Expanded Definition of "Personal Information" and Related Notification Requirements

- The original BPINA definition of "Personal Information" included: (i) social security numbers; (ii) driver's license numbers or state identification card numbers issued in lieu of driver's licenses; and (iii) financial account numbers and credit or debit card numbers, in combination with any required access codes or passwords that would permit access to an individual's account.
- The Amended BPINA expands "Personal Information" to include medical information, health insurance information, and username or email address information in combination with a password or security question. This change applies to all entities that collect and store information of Pennsylvania residents and will most significantly

impact companies that contract with third-party vendors to provide services such as online payments, health portals, and banking. These services almost always involve use of a username and password, and exposure of this information will now trigger response and notification protocols.

- The Amended BPINA also added "electronic notice" as a valid means of notifying individuals that their information may have been materially compromised. This can be accomplished by directing the individual to promptly change their password and security question or take any other steps that may be appropriate to protect their information.

Notification and Security Requirements for State Agencies, State Agency Contractors, Counties, Public Schools, and Municipalities

- With regard to state-related entities, the Amended BPINA redefines the scope of notification requirements and imposes a variety of heightened, new notification requirements on these entities. The term "State Agency Contractor" is defined for the first time as "a person, business, subcontractor, or third-party subcontractor that has a contract with a state agency for goods or services that require access to personal information for the fulfillment of a contract."
- Under the Amended BPINA, entities that maintain, store, or manage computerized data containing Personal Information on behalf of the Commonwealth are required to utilize encryption or other adequate security measures to protect Personal Information from view or access by an unauthorized party. These entities must also maintain a policy governing encryption or other security measures, and a policy relating to data storage and retention.

Federal Regulation Compliance

- The Amended BPINA provides a "safe harbor" for entities, state agencies, and state agency contractors that comply with federal notification requirements imposed by a functional federal regulator – such entities are deemed to be compliant with BPINA. For example, any entity that is subject to and in compliance with the privacy and security standards under the Health Insurance Portability

and Accountability Act of 1996 ² (HIPAA) or the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act ³ (HITECH) are deemed to be compliant with the Amended BPINA.

- The Amended BPINA also provides that any entity that complies with the notification requirements or procedures pursuant to the rules, regulations, procedures, or guidelines established by the entity's primary state or functional federal regulator is deemed to be compliant with the Amended BPINA. Entities that are not currently in compliance with any such federal requirement must actively ensure compliance with the BPINA.

Next Steps

- All entities that do business in Pennsylvania, maintain data belonging to Pennsylvania residents, or do business with the Commonwealth or its agencies, should familiarize themselves with the new requirements, and should review their security-related policies, practices, and incident response plans to ensure compliance with the Amended BPINA.

- Violations of the Amended BPINA are considered unfair or deceptive acts under Pennsylvania's Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law and the penalties for violations may be injunction, restitution, or other civil penalties. ■

¹ Breach of Personal Information Notification Act-Omnibus Amendments, Act of Nov. 3, 2022, P.L. 2139, No. 151.

² Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-191 (Aug. 21, 1996).

³ Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, Pub. L. 111-5, Title XIII (Feb. 17, 2009).

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

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



Go beyond reclamation standards - commit to environmental stewardship



<https://ernstseed.co/adPP>



ERNST SEEDS

800-873-3321

sales@ernstseed.com



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.

www.amref.com

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

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

Reconsidering the reckoning over RGGI

As both sides dig in ever deeper over the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, fault lines and strategies become clearer, even as its future remains up in the air.

The future of the commonwealth's carbon emissions is up in the air – no cap.

The will-they-or-won't-they dance between the state and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative – an interstate compact that limits carbon emissions from power plants – is entering its third calendar year of legal and legislative back-and-forth.

But even as the state courts consider whether a governor has the executive power to enter the state into such an agreement, plenty of uncertainty surrounds how the commonwealth will prioritize production as it looks to cement and expand its role as a leader in the energy sector.

RGGI recap

RGGI is an interstate compact established in 2005 that requires emitters, such as power plants and large manufacturers, to purchase carbon allowances from the member state where they are emitting. Revenue from the carbon allowances, which decrease over time to reduce the state's overall emissions, can be used to invest in renewable energy generation, support communities that are losing jobs because of the transition to cleaner energy production, and invest in communities historically impacted by high pollution levels.

RGGI has now been implemented in 11 states – Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Virginia – with Pennsylvania's proposed entrance coming through an executive order signed by then-Gov. Tom Wolf in 2019. Legislative efforts to reject RGGI ultimately came up short and in 2022, after the regulation was approved by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission and Environmental Quality Board, the final-form regulation was published, enabling Pennsylvania's participation in RGGI.

The commonwealth's entrance never took place, however. Opponents – among them state Republicans and industry groups – quickly opposed the move, calling it not only an

abuse of power but a poor policy decision. The issue was also brought to the courts, with the opposition arguing that the emissions allowances qualify as a tax that can only be levied by the legislature, not through an executive order.

In November, after roughly two years of legal delays, the Commonwealth Court ruled against Pennsylvania joining RGGI. Gov. Josh Shapiro's administration has appealed the ruling specifically related to executive authority while urging the legislature to act independently in the meantime and pass a cap-and-trade alternative to RGGI.

"The Commonwealth Court's decision on RGGI – put in place by the prior administration – was limited to questions of executive authority, and our Administration must appeal in order to protect that important authority for this Administration and all future governors," Manuel Bonder, a spokesperson for Shapiro, said in a statement. "Should legislative leaders choose to engage in constructive dialogue, the governor is confident we can agree on a stronger alternative to RGGI – if they take their ball and go home, they will be making a choice not to advance commonsense energy policy that protects jobs, the environment, and consumers in Pennsylvania."

And while no legislative alternative has been introduced, state Sen. Gene Yaw, a Republican from Bradford County and chair of the Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee, recently introduced a bill, Senate Bill 1058, to repeal the program regulation promulgated by the Department of Environmental Protection and the EQB.

"For four years, Pennsylvania taxpayers have footed the bill for this unconstitutional, unilateral decision," Yaw said in a statement. "RGGI is wrong for Pennsylvania, and it is time to repeal this regulation and focus on putting forth commonsense, environmentally responsible energy policy that recognizes and champions Pennsylvania as an energy producer."

State Rep. Greg Vitali, chair of the House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee, said he's hopeful the Shapiro administration will do more to lead the charge on green energy.

"Shapiro throughout his campaign said if a bill requiring

30% renewables by 2030 were to be put on his desk, he would sign it. We're also waiting on the Shapiro administration for policy along those lines," Vitali told City & State. "One of my observations – after having spent more than 30 years in state government – is that nothing really happens without the support of the governor."

Reactions and reports

Wolf's use of executive power – on top of the contentious energy policies the commonwealth would adhere to under RGGI – led to heated debate in Harrisburg over the future of Pennsylvania's energy sector.

Republicans and industry leaders applauded the Commonwealth Court's decision in November, arguing the program would cost the state jobs and raise energy bills for consumers.

Carl Marrara, vice president of government affairs for the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association, questioned the need for a statewide program aimed at reducing carbon emissions, arguing that the commonwealth has already reduced its emissions significantly in recent years with the proliferation of natural gas production.

"Are we implementing a solution in search of a problem?" Marrara asked rhetorically during an interview with City & State. "You're seeing the market do exactly what the market should do, and that is create efficiencies and develop technologies, which ultimately lowers emissions. I don't know that we need any government interference to make that happen at a faster rate than it already is."

Pennsylvania has seen a reduction in carbon emissions in recent years. According to the state Department of Environmental Protection, statewide net emissions decreased 25.9% from the 2005 baseline, largely due to fuel sources switching from coal to natural gas.

Nonetheless, discussions regarding cutting carbon emissions and planning Pennsylvania's energy future have continued. When Shapiro took office in 2023, he created a working group of stakeholders, including organized labor, energy leaders, and environmental and consumer advocates, to "evaluate the merits of Pennsylvania's membership in RGGI and any proposed alternatives."

The working group's findings, released last September, resulted in a vague but broad consensus that reducing carbon emissions is necessary and inevitable, and included the conclusion that "any cap-and-invest program should

include policy levers and investment strategies which help avoid any potential emissions leakage, higher localized pollution, increased energy costs, and job loss."

Brian Regli, executive director of the Office of Critical Investments within the governor's office, told City & State that the transition to green energy shouldn't result in increased unemployment.

"Ultimately, we don't think there are any job losses in this," Regli told City & State, saying those in the energy industry can leverage what they already know to transition to growing job fields. "You're going to be doing things that are involved in drilling when you're going for geothermal wells, or you're going to do things that are involved in grid enhancements when you're adding more electrons onto the grid."

Marrara said the job losses and communities impacted by an abrupt shift toward renewable energy shouldn't be downplayed.

"We are for all forms of energy as long as those forms of energy compete in an open market and the government is not picking winners and losers," Marrara told City & State. "Telling those guys that have put in just massive amounts of training to work on these complex (energy production) systems, 'Hey, now you're going to slap solar panels in the ground' ... it is insulting."

In contrast, a 2023 analysis conducted by the University of Pennsylvania's Kleinman Center for Energy Policy and Resources for the Future found that if the commonwealth were to adopt the RGGI standards, it could reduce emissions and generate additional revenue, with more jobs being created in renewable and nuclear energy than would

Continues on page 8

<https://pioga.org/event/the-great-energy-gathering-x/>

be lost in the coal industry by 2030.

The report estimated that by joining RGGI, Pennsylvania could reduce electricity sector emissions by 25 to 28 million metric tons, equivalent to 84% below 2020 emissions levels. It noted that the state would also generate anywhere from \$101 million to \$148 million from the auction of emissions allowances in 2030, some of which could be spent on programs to assist impacted communities and consumers with electricity bills.

“With participation in RGGI, the state has an opportunity to use the auction proceeds to ensure that the transition to clean power is just and equitable and that the communities most affected by the job losses benefit not only from air quality improvements but also from job creation and economic welfare,” the report added. “If Pennsylvania remains outside RGGI, coal plants will likely continue to shut down but the state will not have the extra revenues to provide options to the affected communities.”

Revamped resolutions

As both sides of the RGGI debate remain in wait-and-see mode, many – including the governor – are calling for the legislature to take matters into their own hands.

“We urge Republican and Democratic leadership to join us at the productive table the Governor has set with labor, environmental advocates, energy producers, and consumer advocates to further a commonsense energy policy that moves our Commonwealth forward. Now is the time for action, inaction is not an acceptable alternative,” Bonder said in a statement.

Despite this, industry leaders aren’t holding their breath that a clean energy program is on the horizon.

“If (solar and wind) technologies are both environmentally beneficial and economically beneficial, certainly I think that those should be developed,” Marrara said. “I don’t think that the government choosing that technology over something else is necessarily the answer.”

Yaw said he wouldn’t close the door on talks about other cap-and-trade proposals, but expressed concern with the concept of Pennsylvania’s energy production being tied to other states. “The idea of putting us in RGGI – that had a tremendous economic impact on Pennsylvania,” he told City & State. “That happened in 2019 – we have not had a major investment in electricity power generation since then.

I don’t blame companies. They say, ‘Well, wait a minute. This is a new carbon tax. Why should we come to Pennsylvania and do business when we can go elsewhere and get a greater return on our money?’”

In the only split General Assembly in the nation, inaction may be an accepted reality. Vitali said that given the holdups with RGGI and the lack of movement related to green energy initiatives in the legislature, the federal government will have to play a bigger role in pushing states toward renewable energy.

“President Biden needs to be commended for the monies in federal programs like the Inflation Reduction Act and for incentivizing things like electric vehicle charging stations, well-plugging and other methods to address climate issues,” Vitali said. “Federal government leadership on this issue is crucial.”

Regli, whose role includes leveraging federal dollars and tax credits available through legislation like the Inflation Reduction Act, said such federal investments can “ensure that Pennsylvania retains its position as an all-the-above energy state that has all kinds of opportunities to lead the transformation of the energy complex in the United States.”

Vitali, who has spent 28 years on the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, said he hasn’t seen any concrete plans to set the state on a path toward prioritizing renewable energy.

“Frankly, Pennsylvania is not really doing much to address climate change,” Vitali said. “It just seems like our salvation, if it’s to come, would need to come from the federal level.”

As it stands, the Shapiro administration’s appeal to the state Supreme Court is being considered. However, given the time it took the Commonwealth Court to decide on the state’s entrance into RGGI, there is an assumption Pennsylvania won’t be getting a final decision anytime soon.

The lower court decision “took far longer than anyone anticipated,” Marrara said, adding that in regard to future action by the state Supreme Court, “I think it’s going to be quite some time before we see any movement.” ■

Link to full article:

<https://www.cityandstatepa.com/policy/2024/02/reconsidering-reckoning-over-rggi/394403/>



Reporting Responsibilities Under Federal Grants for Orphaned Well Plugging and Reclamation

Article provided by Schneider Downs- Author: Nick Seiler

Orphaned wells are non-producing gas wells for which no legal responsible party can be found, or where the owner or operator leaves the financial responsibility to plug and remediate the well to local, state or federal agencies.

Recipients, subrecipients and subcontractors receiving federal grants under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to clean up orphaned wells have important reporting responsibilities or risk having to repay the grants.

Pennsylvania is among the states with the highest number of documented abandoned wells in the country. So far, about 27,000 have been identified, but researchers estimate there could be as many as 760,000 in the state. Total projected funding for the state is \$412 million.

States must submit quarterly financial and performance reports to the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI):

- *The Federal Financial Report Form 425 is used for reporting the financial status of awards.*
- *The Federal Technical Performance Report is used to report the progress toward performance objectives, a comparison of actual accomplishments to performance goals and an explanation of why any milestones were not met.*
- *An annual Personal Property Report is required if funds are used to acquire equipment.*

States must also submit final financial and performance reports to the DOI within 120 days of the performance end date.

In addition to periodic reporting, states must report problems that will affect the ability to meet the objective of the award, including a statement of the action taken or contemplated and any assistance needed.

Data for the above reports can be tracked via the Ground Water Protection Council's Risk-Based Data Management System, including data such as well location information; pre- and post-plugging methane emission measurement; actual total cost per well of plugging and surface reclamation and other pertinent data.

State recipients, subrecipients, subcontractors and others will need to track and coordinate reportable information and should carefully consider how data will be collected prior to signing contracts. Feel free to contact your Schneider Downs consultant for help with any orphaned well funding or reporting matters or with any plugging and abandonment and asset retirement obligation accounting and related strategies. ■

Link: <https://www.schneiderdowns.com/our-thoughts-on/reporting-responsibilities-under-federal-grants-for-orphaned-well-plugging-and-reclamation>



©2024 NFP Corp. | 224-FCB-EMBN-C-178154

Solving problems. Enabling success.

NFP is proud to serve and support Pennsylvania's oil and gas industry through risk management, employee benefits, wealth and retirement solutions and more.

Casey Maschue, Senior Advisor
814.289.4228 | casey.maschue@nfp.com

Benefits insurance services provided through Benefits Network Inc., a subsidiary of NFP Corp. (NFP). Property and casualty insurance services provided through NFP Property & Casualty Services, Inc., a subsidiary of NFP Corp. (NFP) doing business in California as NFP Property & Casualty Insurance Services, Inc. (License # 0F15715).

**For your business.
For your people.
For your life.**

NFP.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

Attention PIOGA Members!

We would like to offer our members the opportunity to introduce yourself/your company to other members via our monthly newsletter, **The PIOGA Press**. The PIOGA Profile section of the newsletter gives members a chance to share information about their company and the products and services they offer to others in Pennsylvania's oil and natural gas industry. We encourage you to take advantage of this free member service!

Interested in submitting a PIOGA Profile or any other article/news release for **The PIOGA Press**? Contact Meghan Keely – meghan@pioga.org.

PIOGA Member Profile:
Share Your Story!



Check out PIOGA's Tech Team's Podcast

INFOSEC with the 3 Hackateers!

www.sher-technologies.com

INFOSEC with the 3 Hackateers

by SherTech LLC



PODCAST

<https://www.youtube.com/@SherTechLLC>

Available on all platforms. Have topic you'd like to hear us discuss?

Let us know at 3hackateers@sher-technologies.com



Thoughts, opinions, and practical advice from 3 guys who care about people, businesses, and information security.

Check out PIOGA's Educational fact sheets - focused on the oil and gas industry!



The **JUST THE FACTS** series can be found on PIOGA's website! To read the **Just The Facts** and to share it with friends and colleagues - visit the Latest News and Blog section at pioga.org.

Coming Soon - PIOGA's *Reality Check* Series! PIOGA's new industry fact sheet!



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

Court OKs Lawsuit Over Solar Hookups

Published by BiznewsPA. Author - Joel Berg

A state court has handed a preliminary legal victory to a business owner in a fight over the cost of connecting solar projects to the electric distribution system.

1. The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission had objected to the business owner's lawsuit on procedural grounds.

2. But in a ruling last week, Commonwealth Court overruled the objections, allowing the case to proceed on the substance.

3. "That means we get to go to the meat of the case, which is great, because that's the strongest part," said the business owner, David Hommrich, president of Pittsburgh-based **Pennsylvania Microgrids LLC**.

4. A PUC spokesperson declined to comment, citing the ongoing litigation.

What's the issue: One is how so-called interconnection costs are levied -- against individual projects or against utility ratepayers as a whole.

1. The second is the distinction between a state law encouraging renewable energy and the regulations adopted by the PUC to make it happen.

2. Hommrich contends that the PUC has misconstrued the law -- the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act - so as to allow utilities to recover costs from the solar projects themselves.

3. But the law, he argues, says the costs "shall" be recovered from ratepayers, leaving no wiggle room.

4. Hommrich is undertaking several commercial-scale solar projects, each generating less than three megawatts of electricity and connecting directly to the distribution system.

5. Utility-scale projects generate significantly more power and connect to the regional grid.

What's the cost: A project could incur a bill of more than \$1 million to cover the cost of improvements to the distribution system, according to the court ruling

1. Hommrich argues the bills often reflect an effort by utilities to recover the cost of deferred maintenance.

What's next: PUC has until the end of the month to

respond to Hommrich's lawsuit.

1. The lawsuit is the second by Hommrich over PUC regulations.

2. In the late 2010s, he successfully pressed a challenge to rules on net metering, which allow customers to earn money if their renewable energy installations generate more power than they need.

3. The case hinged on whether a solar project had to consume some of the power it was generating in order to qualify for net metering.

4. The state Supreme Court ruled that it did not.

The trend: Solar developers statewide have had issues with interconnection, according to Matt Mahoney, government affairs director for the **Pennsylvania Solar Center** in Pittsburgh.

1. To get a clear handle on them, the center is planning a survey, Mahoney said.

2. The results could point to potential policy changes that make the process more efficient.

3. "It would seemingly fall in line with the governor's interest in expediting the speed of business in Pennsylvania," Mahoney said, referring to Gov. Josh Shapiro's efforts to modernize and streamline state permitting and application processes. ■

BiznewsPA: <https://biznewspa.com/>

biznews PA

**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

2024 PIOGATech First Aid/CPR/AED Certification Class



The Safety Committee hosted a PIOGATech and certification class March 6th on First Aid, CPR and AED. A small group of industry professionals gathered for an in-person training that covered first aid in the field, AED training and CPR certification. There was great interaction between the group and the instructor, Bill Zelnis, that included real-life stories and Q&A throughout the day.

The 5-hour class was taught by Bill Zelnis of CNX Resources and hosted at their training facility in Washington, PA. Certification was completed through the American Red Cross.

PIOGA would like to extend a personal thank you to our instructor and our Safety Committee Co-Chairs, Eric Staul and Wayne Vanderhoof for putting this training together.



Bill Zelnis
CNX Resources



Adam Gailey
Gailey Environmental



Dena Robinson
LOLA Energy



AED Training



Certification Time

PIOGA's Membership Matters & We Need You!

Do you have a passion for the Pennsylvania oil and gas industry and want to see PIOGA's membership grow? Are you someone who loves to connect with other business colleagues and talk about the benefits of the industry and the importance of being involved in the industry trade association? Well, if you do, then PIOGA needs YOU!



Did you know that PIOGA has an active Membership Committee that's focused on growing and retaining PIOGA members. The Committee's mission statement is to ensure the sustainability and growth of PIOGA via connection with current members, potential members, and the public about the value the association holds in the oil and gas industry.

The Membership Committee is Co-Chaired by Jessica Houser - WGM Gas Company, Inc., and Don Zuch - Fusilier Resources, LLC.

The committee is in search of members to join the committee and help with their efforts. We are looking for more committee members that can bring fresh ideas and new connections to the committee. WE NEED YOU! Contact

Jessica Houser (wgmgascompany@gmail.com) or Don Zuch (dzuch@fusilierresources.com) if you'd like to join the committee and get more involved!

Additionally, if you or someone you know has social media experience, we are asking you to get involved on the committee to help PIOGA grow its social media presence. Getting involved is a great resume builder and helps you to connect with other industry representatives.



Choose how you get your news

If you now receive a printed copy of The PIOGA Press in the mail each month but prefer to read it online only, please email Deana McMahan at deana@pioga.org to opt out of the hard-copy version.

Current and past issues are always available by clicking on the News & Resources tab at pioga.org.

29th Annual LDC Gas Forum Northeast

The 29th Annual **LDC Gas Forum Northeast** takes place in Boston June 10 – 12, 2024. This long-standing natural gas industry event focuses on northeast U.S. natural gas markets, including celebration of the continuing vital role played by natural gas in ensuring an energy future that offers lower carbon emissions, reliability, and affordability.

Beyond the northeast, five other Forums focus on other market regions throughout the country. Several hundred leading market professionals representing stakeholders spanning the commercial natural gas value chain convene at the Forum for 2 ½ days of insight, networking, and deal-making.

Following are key topic categories that will be the subject of insightful presentations by industry experts, including Keynote Speakers Toby Rice, President and CEO, EQT Corporation and Danny Rice, CEO, NET Power, and Paul Ruppert, President, Berkshire Hathaway Energy.

- **Energy Transition / Innovations:** lowering carbon content of the energy supply mix while maintaining reliability and affordability (incl. Certified Gas, RSG, RNG, H2, CCS, etc.).

- **Energy Policy:** implications of recent federal, state and local policies (e.g. LNG export pause, gas connection moratoriums, etc.).

- **Ensuring Reliability:** measures to ensure gas and electric grid integrity during extreme weather (e.g. postponement of Everett LNG import facility, etc.)

- **Infrastructure Constraints:** overcoming fierce resistance to needed expansion of natural gas infrastructure to meet demand, etc.).

- **Price Volatility:** forecast and analysis of price escalation and volatility in the next year.

- **LNG Exports:** implications of continued substantial growth in U.S. LNG exports to serve global markets.

- **Capital Markets:** anticipation of capital market appetite for natural gas market growth; M&A activity.

- **Powergen:** forecast and analysis of gas-fired powergen, including local regional requirements and extreme weather capability.

Uncertainty in market conditions stemming from these issues translates into potential for volatility and the need for informed decisions on structuring commercial arrangements in the future. The **LDC Gas Forum Northeast** participants will benefit from the shared insight for these topics and more, as well as unparalleled networking opportunities with Speakers, and potential and existing customers.

The **LDC Gas Forums**, **US-Mexico Natural Gas Forum**, and **Gulf Coast Energy Forum** series now consists of six annual events each focused on the key natural gas market regions across North America. This is where buyers and sellers meet to conduct business. Much more than simply conferences, the Forums are a venue that deliver insights on critical issues affecting natural gas markets, but in addition provide participants opportunities to meet with industry counterparts to complete commercial business transactions. Timely panel discussions featuring key industry authorities focus on important questions facing buyers, sellers, transportation operators and other market stakeholders in competitive energy markets. Topics addressed include: Supply & Demand, Financial Outlook, Pipeline/Storage/LNG Infrastructure Projects, LNG Export Markets, Mexico Export Markets, Gas/Electric Coordination, Regulatory Updates, Gas Buyer Insights, Risk Analysis/Hedging Strategies, Global Energy Geopolitics, Energy Transition, RNG, RSG/Certified Gas, LNG, CNG, ESG, H2, Carbon Capture/CCS, Carbon Offsets and Virtual Pipeline. Participants at the Forums include market leaders, decision makers and subject matter experts, representing all segments of the commercial value chain including utilities, industrial gas consumers, producers, pipelines, marketers, key product and service providers, as well as regulators and analysts. Vast networking opportunities give you access to your clients, prospects, and peers to further explore relevant issues in your region.

Where the Natural Gas Industry Gathers: Networking - Insights - Deal-Making

www.ldcgasforums.com

www.usmexiconaturalgasforum.com

www.gulfcoastenergyforum.com

Follow us on:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ldcgasforum>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ldc-gas-forums/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LDCForums>





PARTNERS 2024



KEYSTONE PARTNERS



EXECUTIVE PARTNERS



MEETING PARTNERS



GOLF PARTNERS



CLAY SHOOT PARTNERS



COMMITTEE/PIOGAtech PARTNERS



NETWORKING PARTNERS

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

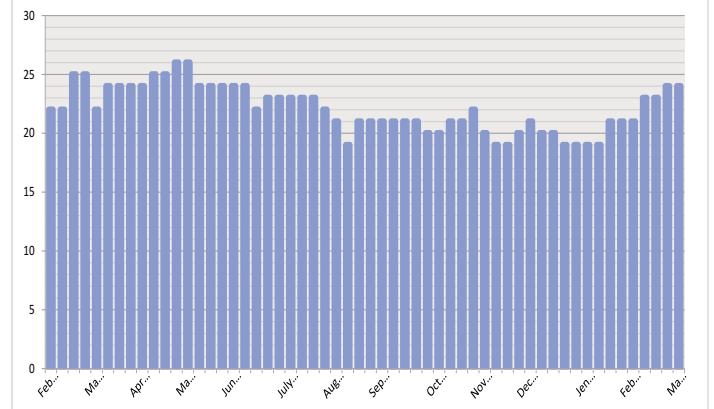


Natural Gas Futures Closing Prices

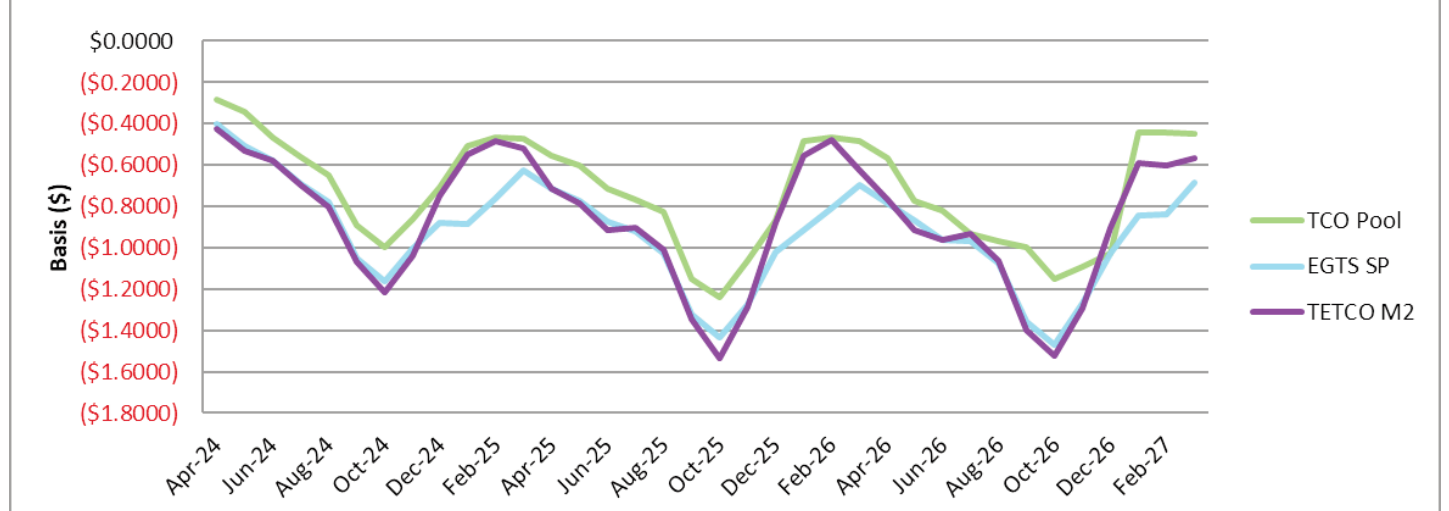
March 2024	1.920
April	1.918
May	2.065
June	2.306
July	2.565
August	2.637
September	2.620
October	2.686
November	3.060
December	3.531

Prices as of March 5, 2024

Pennsylvania Rig Count



Basis Futures Values



Northeast Pricing Report — March 2024

Natural gas futures have recorded their first weekly gain in five weeks, thanks to lower U.S. production. However, the upside is limited by the mild temperature forecasts for the tail end of the heating season, which is expected to see further increases in storage surpluses. Despite long-range weather maps teasing colder air into the U.S. for the second half of March, the risk of warmer trends showing up in time is high, as has been the case for the past six weeks, according to forecaster NatGasWeather.com. The EIA reported this week that natural gas in storage decreased by 96 Bcf to 2,374 Bcf as of Feb 23, which was 26.5% above the five-year average. Natural gas for April delivery settled down 1.3% at \$1.835/mmBtu, but recorded an 8% increase for the week.

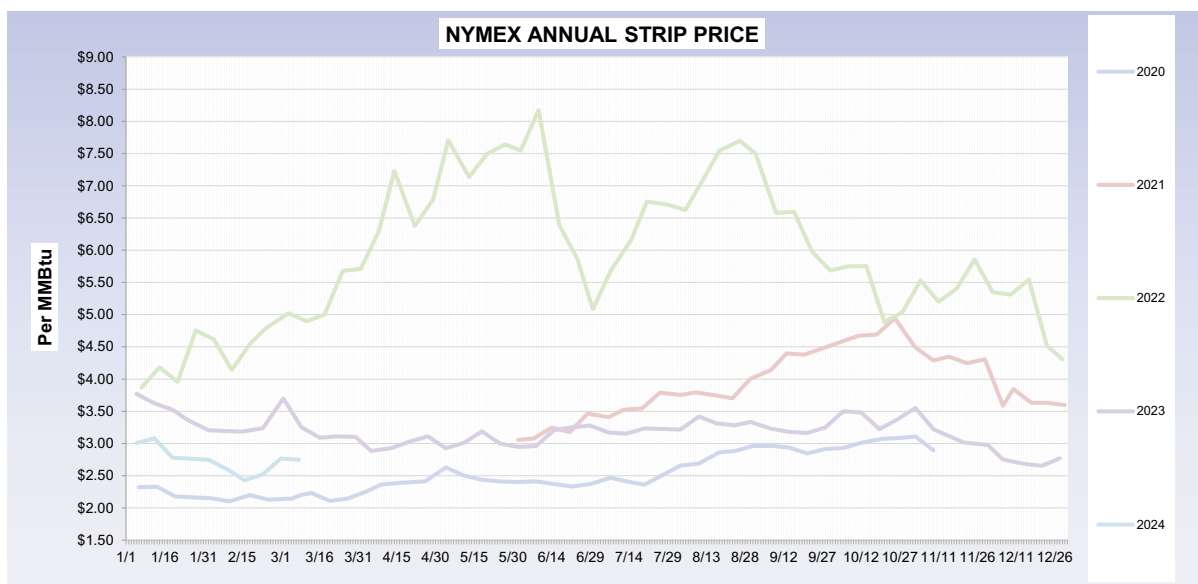
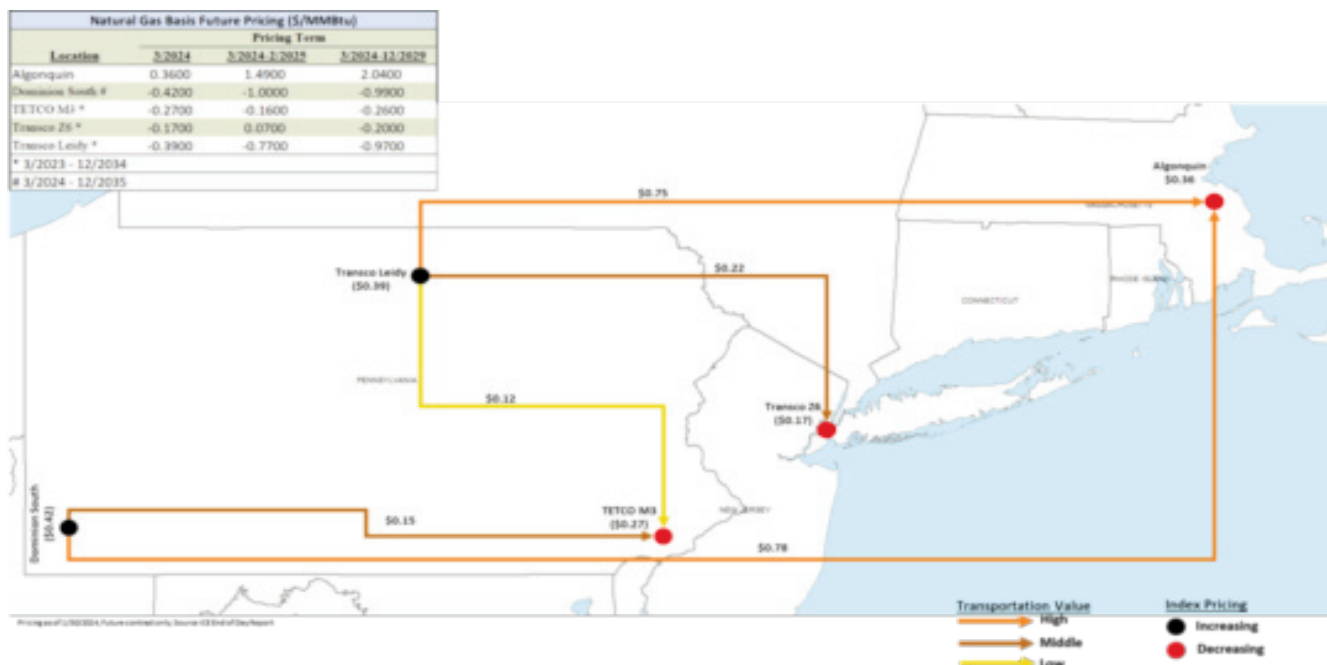
For the second month in a row, all transportation routes decreased significantly. Dominion South to Algonquin dropped \$5.08 per MMBtu while Transco Leidy to Algonquin dipped \$4.62 per MMBtu. Transco Leidy to Transco Z6 and TETCO M3 to Transco Z6 lost value by \$1.70 and \$2.03 per MMBtu respectively.

Transportation Value Market Indicator



Provided by Bertison-George, LLC

www.bertison-george.com



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: February



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
Beech Resources	5	2/7/24	081-22001	Lycoming	Lycoming	EQT Aro LLC	8	2/12/24	081-21994	Lycoming	Plunketts Crk
		2/7/24	081-21998	Lycoming	Lycoming			2/12/24	081-21995	Lycoming	Plunketts Crk
		2/7/24	081-22000	Lycoming	Lycoming			2/12/24	081-21996	Lycoming	Plunketts Crk
		2/7/24	081-21954	Lycoming	Lycoming			2/12/24	081-21989	Lycoming	Plunketts Crk
		2/22/24	081-22002	Lycoming	Lycoming			2/12/24	081-21990	Lycoming	Plunketts Crk
Chesapeake Appalachia	4	2/7/24	015-23886	Bradford	Herrick Twp			2/12/24	081-21991	Lycoming	Plunketts Crk
		2/26/24	015-23909	Bradford	Herrick Twp			2/12/24	081-21992	Lycoming	Plunketts Crk
		2/26/24	015-23910	Bradford	Herrick Twp			2/12/24	081-21993	Lycoming	Plunketts Crk
		2/26/24	015-23908	Bradford	Herrick Twp	Hedgehog Energy	1	2/23/24	123-48808	Warren	Watson Twp
CNX Gas Co.	5	2/1/24	129-29249	Westmoreland	Bell Twp	Pierce & Petersen	2	2/13/24	123-48901	Warren	Mead Twp
		2/12/24	129-29248	Westmoreland	Bell Twp			2/19/24	123-48897	Warren	Mead Twp
		2/12/24	129-29214	Westmoreland	Bell Twp	Range Resources	2	2/26/24	125-29115	Washington	Donegal Twp
		2/12/24	129-29247	Westmoreland	Bell Twp			2/27/24	125-29114	Washington	Donegal Twp
		2/1/24	129-29250	Westmoreland	Bell Twp	Seneca Resources	3	2/20/24	117-22236	Tioga	Westfield Twp
Coterra Energy	7	2/26/24	115-23099	Susquehanna	Springville			2/21/24	117-22234	Tioga	Westfield Twp
		2/15/24	115-23102	Susquehanna	Lathrop Twp			2/21/24	117-22235	Tioga	Westfield Twp
		2/15/24	115-23103	Susquehanna	Lathrop Twp						
		2/15/24	115-23104	Susquehanna	Lathrop Twp						
		2/15/24	115-23105	Susquehanna	Lathrop Twp						
		2/26/24	115-23100	Susquehanna	Springville						
Curtis & Son Oil *	2	2/1/24	123-48832	Warren	Farmington						
		2/5/24	123-48830	Warren	Farmington						
Daniel P. Hornburg *		2/16/24	123-48894	Warren	Pleasant Twp						

	Feb.	Jan.	Dec.	Nov	Oct
Total Wells	40	48	46	38	61
Unconventional Gas	34	37	41	29	42
Conventional Gas	0	1	0	1	0
Oil	4	1	7	7	13
Combination Oil/Gas	2	10	1	1	6

New PIOGA Membership Category - Gas Storage Operator

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**

New PIOGA members Welcome!

BLS Oil & Gas LLC

Kyle Shannon
PO Box A, Dubois, Pa 15801
Producer

Calendar

PIOGA events

Information: www.pioga.org > PIOGA Events

PIOGA's Spring Meeting 2024 Happy Hour

April 17. Pittsburgh, Pa.

PIOGA's Spring Meeting 2024

April 18. Rivers Casino. Pittsburgh, Pa.

PIOGA's Clay Shoot

May 2. Promise Land Clay Shoot. Freeport, Pa.

PIOGA's Oil Patch Classic Golf Outing

June 4. Wanango Country Club

Other events

The Great Energy Gathering X

March 20, 2024. Hilton - Garden Inn. Pittsburgh
(<https://pioga.org/event/the-great-energy-gathering-x/>)

Rig Zone - Marcellus/Pa Oil & Gas Job Fair

March 21, 2024. Hilton - Garden Inn. Pittsburgh
(<https://pioga.org/event/rig-zone-marcellus-pennsylvania-oil-gas-job-fair/>)

DUG Gas 2024 (Shale Gas + LNG + Midstream)

March 27, 2024. Shreveport, LA.
(<https://pioga.org/event/dug-gas-2024-shale-gas-lng-midstream/>)

Appalachian STEPS Network Quarterly Meeting (PIOGA Safety Committee)

May 9, 2024. CNX - Canonsburg, Pa.
(<https://pioga.org/event/the-appalachian-steps-network-quarterly-meeting-piogas-safety-committee-meeting/>)

LDC Gas Forum Northeast

June 10-12. Boston, Mass.
(<https://pioga.org/event/ldc-gas-forum-northeast/>)

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

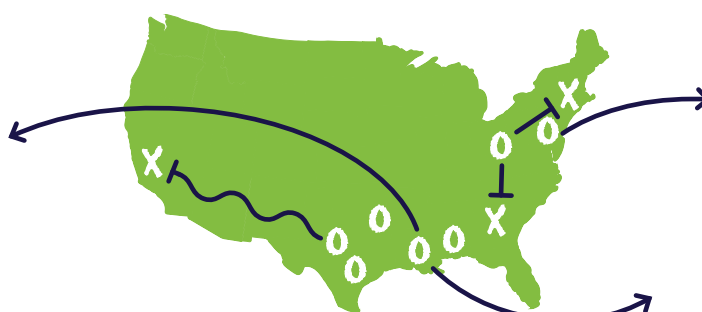
100 Allegheny Drive, Suite 104
Warrendale, PA 15086

Address Service Requested



SPRING MEETING

April 18, 2024 | Rivers Casino Pittsburgh



CLIMATE, COMMODITIES & CHAOS
Threats to a Strong
U.S. Energy Game Plan

<https://pioga.org/event/spring-meeting-2024/>