

# The PIOGA Press

The monthly newsletter of the  
Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Association  
September 2025 • Issue 185

## TOP NEWS

- PIOGA's Fore the Love of Golf Outing
- PIOGA Board of Director Candidates
- PIOGA Event Updates
- Industry News

## For the Love of Golf: A Sold-Out Success

On September 11, PIOGA hosted its annual golf outing, this year themed "Fore the Love of Golf" and held for the first time at Lake Arthur Golf Club. The new venue was a hit, providing the perfect backdrop for a day filled with camaraderie, networking, and plenty of fun on the course.

This year's outing was a sellout, reflecting the strong enthusiasm and support from across our membership. From the first drive to the last putt, the day showcased the best of what our annual tradition is all about: building connections, strengthening relationships, and celebrating the unity of our industry.

While the golf, laughs, and friendly competition made for a great time, the outing also highlighted the deeper value of coming together as colleagues and partners to share ideas and reinforce our collective commitment to the industry.

We extend a sincere thank-you to everyone who participated, sponsored, and supported this year's outing. Your involvement made "Fore the Love of Golf" a memorable success, and we look forward to continuing this tradition in the years ahead.



Check out page 3 for more photos



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## PIOGA Member Spotlight IGS Energy Producer Services

Headquartered in Dublin, Ohio, IGS Energy Producer Services is part of IGS Energy — one of the largest privately held energy companies in the U.S. With more than 30 years of experience, IGS has built its reputation on innovation, transparency, and customer-focused energy solutions.

IGS Energy Producer Services specializes in natural gas marketing, asset management, and risk management for producers in the Appalachian Basin and beyond. Their in-depth market knowledge helps independent operators maximize value, manage volatility, and maintain strong, reliable market connections.

As a family-owned company, IGS takes a long-term, relationship-driven approach — prioritizing trust, collaboration, and steady growth that aligns with the needs of its partners and the broader energy industry.

A committed member of PIOGA, IGS Energy Producer Services supports responsible energy development and remains focused on advancing the success of Pennsylvania's producers through practical, market-based solutions.

We're proud to feature IGS Energy Producer Services in this month's Member Spotlight and thank them for their continued commitment to our industry.

**Learn more at:** [www.igs.com](http://www.igs.com)



## Outing *Continued from page 1*



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## Networking, Knowledge & A Little Golf

August 14 was a packed and productive day for PIOGA and our partners, highlighting both innovation in safety and the strength of our producer community.

In St. Clairsville, OH, the Appalachian STEPS Network held its 3rd Quarter Meeting at Belmont College, drawing safety professionals, service providers, and operators from across the region. Co-hosted by PIOGA, the Ohio Oil & Gas Association, the Gas & Oil Association of WV, and STEPS, this hybrid event delivered a full slate of critical safety content.

Attendees heard presentations from SPSI, United Rentals, and the Ohio Natural Energy Institute, followed by live demonstrations covering trench safety equipment, gas monitoring, fire suppression, and emergency response techniques. The day also featured display tables from top safety vendors like Wolfpack Rentals, Industrial Scientific, MSA, and Workwear—providing a hands-on look at the latest gear.


Meanwhile, a few hours north in Tionesta, Pa, PIOGA hosted its annual Producers Golf Outing at Hunter's Station Golf Course. This well-attended event brought together oil and gas producers and invited guests for an afternoon of golf, followed by dinner and discussion.

Beyond the friendly competition, the outing was a key opportunity to share insights on industry challenges. Producers voiced the unique hurdles they're facing, while PIOGA shared updates on how the Association is advocating on their behalf across Pennsylvania.

Both events showcased what makes this industry strong—collaboration, communication, and a commitment to safety and progress.


A big thank you to all our sponsors, speakers, partners, and attendees who made the day a success. We look forward to seeing you at future events as we continue working together to power Pennsylvania forward.





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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.

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## Cast Your Vote!

### 2025 PIOGA Board of Directors Candidates

Ballots are being distributed for ten positions on the 2025 PIOGA Board of Directors. Below are profiles of the 13 member companies and their representatives who are candidates in this year's election. Elected board members will serve a three-year term (2025–2028), beginning with the Annual Membership Meeting on October 23.

Per the 2020 bylaws change, **ballots are sent electronically to each member company's primary representative.** Ballots must be submitted electronically or mailed to the PIOGA office by 5 p.m. October 10. The ten candidates with the most votes will be elected. Electronic ballots will be released September 5. Questions, missing ballots, or requests for hard copies should be directed to Deana McMahan, PIOGA Director of Administration, at [deana@pioga.org](mailto:deana@pioga.org)

### Candidate Profiles

#### American Refining Group, Inc.

Based in Bradford, PA, ARG operates ISO-certified refining, blending, and packaging facilities that handle everything from crude intake to finished refined products. Services include custom blending, bulk loading, warehousing, and shipping across multiple package sizes and modes. For more details, visit [www.amref.com](http://www.amref.com).



**Representative: David Cook** – ARG's Crude Relationship Manager for PA/NY, David works closely with producers to bring PA-grade crude to the refinery. Previously with Reliance Well Services, he expanded operations across multiple states and grew both fleet and workforce, and earlier worked with Universal Well Services in field sales. David joined ARG in 2018 and has served on PIOGA's Board since 2021.

#### Billman Geologic Consultants, Inc.



Founded by Dan and Pam Billman, BGC provides consulting services across the Appalachian Basin, including property reviews, exploration, development, storage, and disposal projects. Clients include major producers, independents, attorneys, and landowners. For more details, visit their website. <https://billmangeologic.com>

**Representative: Dan Billman, P.G., C.P.G.** – President of BGC with 36+ years in the basin, Dan is recognized for expertise in both unconventional and conventional plays.

He has authored technical papers and presentations, served as president and officer in several professional associations, and is active in AAPG, the Pittsburgh Geological Society, and PIOGA. Dan holds geology degrees from the University of Toledo (B.S.) and WVU (M.S.).



#### Bitteringer Drilling

Bitteringer Drilling is a fourth-generation, family-owned business based in Kittanning, PA, operating conventional oil and gas wells since the 1950s. The company is known for its technical expertise, reliability, and strong community ties, maintaining long-standing relationships with landowners, contractors, and local businesses. Bitteringer Drilling emphasizes succession planning to ensure its legacy and expertise continue to serve Pennsylvania's energy industry. For more company details, reach out to PIOGA and we will provide further information.

**Representative: Brian Bitteringer** – Brian began working at age 13, gaining experience in every part of the business. Today, as Executive VP, he carries on the family legacy alongside his father. Since 2017, when the company passed to their generation, Brian has emphasized leadership development, succession planning, and building long-term growth in a challenging industry.



#### BlackRock Resources, LLC

Founded in Canonsburg in 2012, BlackRock provides staffing, consulting, engineering, and field services to the energy sector and has expanded into infrastructure, construction, and utilities. Known for flexibility and expertise, they serve both startups and large corporations. For more details, visit their website: <https://blackrockres.com>

**Representative: Gene Pietrowski** – Gene is Director of Business Development with more than 30 years of experience in consulting engineering. His background spans electric generation, transmission, industrial, and oil & gas projects. For the past decade, his primary focus has been the oil and gas sector. Gene co-chairs PIOGA's Market Development Committee, chairs its New Projects Subcommittee, and is a frequent speaker and published author.

*Continued on page 6*



## Election *Continued from page 5*



### Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. (CEC, Inc.)

Founded in Pittsburgh in 1989, CEC provides engineering and environmental solutions for upstream, midstream, and processing projects nationwide. Ranked among ENR's top design firms, CEC is employee-owned and committed to responsive client service. For more details, visit [www.cecinc.com](http://www.cecinc.com).

**Representative: Paul Kanouff** – A Principal at CEC for 25 years, Paul specializes in permitting wetlands, streams, and endangered species issues for natural gas projects. He co-chairs PIOGA's Environmental Committee and chairs the wetlands/erosion subcommittee, providing monthly updates and representing PIOGA in PADEP oil and gas industry meetings.

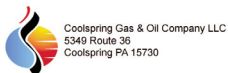
### CNX Resources Corporation

Pittsburgh-based CNX is one of the largest independent natural gas exploration, development, and production companies, with operations focused in the Appalachian Basin. For more details, visit their website: <https://www.cnx.com>



**Representative: Josh Horvath** – Josh has over 5 years of experience in drilling and plugging operations across conventional, unconventional, and CBM wells. He is IADC Well Control Certified and currently serves as Manager of Plugging at CNX, where he oversees drill-outs, fishing, milling, and artesian flow control. His technical expertise supports multiple aspects of CNX's operations.

### Coolspring Gas & Oil Co., LLC



Coolspring Gas & Oil is a Pennsylvania-based producer with operations across Clarion, Clearfield, Jefferson, Armstrong, and Indiana counties. The company operates a portfolio of conventional wells and brings decades of hands-on experience in regional production. Coolspring is also committed to supporting local communities through business partnerships, job creation, and charitable involvement. For more company details, reach out to PIOGA and we will provide further information.

**Representative: Robert Beatty** – With more than 40 years in natural gas and compression, Robert previously led "O" Ring & Associates and founded "O" Ring CNG Fuel Systems. Today, as CEO/partner in a multi-entity alternative fuels venture, he oversees construction, optimization,

and product development while remaining active in advocacy and education. A recipient of the Pittsburgh Business Times Energy Leadership Award, Robert is widely recognized for his work in advancing CNG, LNG, and RNG technologies.

### Critical Control Energy Services



Critical Control helps energy companies achieve accurate, reliable measurement through field services, lab analysis, calibration, and advanced data systems. Their AI-driven tools improve efficiency and compliance from wellhead to reporting. For more details, visit their website:

<https://criticalcontrol.com>

**Representative: Alykhan Mamdani** – Alykhan has been in oil and gas measurement since 2005, leading Critical Control's expansion into the Appalachian Basin in 2009. He focuses on improving measurement operations to meet regulatory and competitive demands. Most recently, he has led development of AI tools that reduce costs and set new benchmarks for industry efficiency.



### Huntley & Huntley, LLC

Privately owned and based near Pittsburgh, Huntley & Huntley manages a portfolio of mineral rights, royalties, and working interests across the U.S., including both conventional and unconventional plays. For more details, visit their website: <https://huntley-llc.com>

**Representative: Michael Hillebrand** – Mike is President & CEO with 38 years of industry experience. Since joining Huntley in 1998, he has raised over \$150 million through partnerships and helped secure \$1.1 billion in capital for affiliated companies, including Olympus Energy, recently acquired by EQT. A Penn State petroleum engineering graduate, Mike has also held leadership roles at PGMT, Sithe Energies, and multiple industry associations. He currently serves as Chairman of both IPAA and PIOGA.



### Snyder Brothers Inc.

One of the largest privately funded independent producers in Pennsylvania, Snyder Brothers has been drilling since the 1970s and produces more than 400,000 mcf/day from operations in 10+ counties. For more details, visit their website:

<https://www.snyderbrothersinc.com>

**Representative: Bryan Snyder** – Bryan is VP of Snyder Brothers, with over 30 years of industry experience. He



oversees daily operations of the company's sandstone and shale holdings, along with its gas marketing division serving 6,000+ customers. A Mercyhurst University geology graduate, Bryan has served on the boards of POGAM and PIOGA, and he remains active in community organizations and youth sports.



#### **S.T.L. Resources**

S.T.L. Resources is an agile E&P company committed to safe, efficient operations and environmental stewardship in the Appalachian Basin. Their values emphasize transparency, accountability, innovation, and community support. For more details, visit their website:

<https://www.stlresources.com>

**Representative: William Dressel** – Founder and Chief Vision Officer of S.T.L., William has nearly 20 years in energy innovation across oil, gas, renewables, and power systems. He also leads Gateway Digital Infrastructure, advancing sustainable microgrid power solutions. His ventures have raised multiple equity funds and delivered successful full-cycle projects. Known for hands-on leadership and investor relations expertise, William is committed to building innovative, sustainable energy businesses.



#### **The Lynch Law Group**

Founded in 2002, The Lynch Law Group (LLG) is a full-service law firm with offices in Southpointe and Cranberry Township, representing clients from multinational corporations to family-owned businesses and public entities. Their attorneys are consistently recognized by Super Lawyers, Martindale Hubbell, Best Lawyers in America, and Best Law Firms in America. Practice areas include corporate transactions, oil & gas, litigation, real estate, regulatory, labor & employment, intellectual property, and more. For more details, visit their website: <https://lynchlaw-group.com>

**Representative: Frank C. Botta** – Frank chairs LLG's Transportation and Employment Practice Groups, advising local to international clients on logistics, supply chain, and employment matters. With 7 years as in-house counsel at RPS (now FedEx Ground), he defended the independent contractor model and has deep expertise in labor law and dispute resolution. Frank is a past President of the Transportation Lawyers Assoc., recipient of the TLA Lifetime Achievement Award, and has served in leadership roles with the ABA's Labor & Employment Section. An experienced trial attorney, mediator, and arbitrator, Frank is also a certified Major League Baseball Player Agent, hav-

ing represented players for 13 years. He is a graduate of Washington & Jefferson College and Temple University School of Law.



#### **WGM Gas Company, Inc.**

Founded in 1989 by the Houser family, WGM Gas has drilled over 100 conventional wells in Indiana and Armstrong counties while focusing on shallow gas production for local markets. Beyond drilling, the company has supported hundreds of local jobs, businesses, and charities over more than three decades. For more company details, reach out to PIOGA and we will provide further information.

**Representative: Paul Castelnovo** – Paul serves as CFO of Vogel Holding, Inc., where he oversees financial strategy and operations. With 34+ years in corporate finance and leadership, he has been central to the company's growth and innovation, particularly in launching its renewable natural gas (RNG) program that transforms landfill waste into sustainable energy. A Duquesne University graduate and CPA, Paul is a member of AICPA and PICPA and has served on numerous civic boards. Known for integrity and strategic thinking, he is also an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting, fishing, golfing, and spending time with his wife and three children in Mars, PA.

### **To Recap: PIOGA Board Election Details**

**Ballots are now out for ten open positions on the 2025 PIOGA Board of Directors. Thirteen member company representatives are running, with the top ten vote-getters elected to serve three-year terms (2025–2028) beginning at the Annual Membership Meeting on October 23.**

**Per the 2020 bylaws, ballots were emailed on September 5 to each member company's primary representative.**

**Deadline to vote: 5:00 p.m. on October 10 — Ballots must be submitted electronically or mailed to the PIOGA office.**

**If you have questions, haven't received your ballot, or need a hard copy, please contact: [deana@pioga.org](mailto:deana@pioga.org)**



## Bring a Guest, Build the Future PIOGA Annual Meeting & Reception

There's no better time to come together, share success stories, and chart the future of Pennsylvania's oil and gas industry than at **PIOGA's 2025 Annual Membership Meeting & Reception** — happening **Thursday, October 23 at the Pittsburgh Event Center in Harmony, PA.**

This annual gathering is more than just a meeting — it's a chance to celebrate our shared progress, reinforce our collective voice, and ignite new momentum for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

### Bring a Guest — Strengthen Our Voice

This year, members are encouraged to **bring a guest — a colleague, a partner, or a prospective member** — and show them firsthand the value of being part of the PIOGA community. It's the perfect opportunity to introduce new faces to our mission, connect them with like-minded industry leaders, and expand our network of advocates working for a strong and sustainable oil and gas future in Pennsylvania.

### A Meeting That Matters

The **2 PM Member Meeting** will be packed with valuable updates on the vital work PIOGA is doing in the legislative, regulatory, and market development spaces — work that directly impacts your business and our industry as a whole. ***We'll also be announcing our newly elected Board of Directors***, recognizing the leaders who will help guide the association forward.

### Celebrate & Connect at the Reception

Immediately following the meeting, the **4 PM – 6 PM Reception** offers a relaxed atmosphere to reconnect with peers, make new connections, and celebrate the successes we've achieved together over the past year. It's not just a social event — it's a statement of unity and purpose.

### Put Your Name Behind the Mission – Become a Sponsor

Support PIOGA's mission and put your brand in front of industry leaders by becoming a sponsor of the Annual Meeting. With sponsorship levels starting at

just \$250, there are meaningful ways to contribute no matter your budget — and top-tier levels include resource tables, speaking opportunities, and prominent logo placement across event materials and PIOGA's media channels.

Whether you're a long-time member or just beginning your journey with PIOGA, this is an event you won't want to miss.

### Event Details:

**Date:** Thursday, October 23, 2025

**Location:** Pittsburgh Event Center, 232 Wise Road, Harmony PA 16037

**Member Meeting:** 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**Reception:** 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

***FREE for all PIOGA Members and Guests – RSVP Required***

 **Speakers to be announced soon!**

### Sponsorship Opportunities:

- \$250 (Supporting Sponsor): Printed recognition on website, emails, and event materials
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- \$2,500 (Reception Sponsor) – \$5,000 (Platinum Sponsors): Full exposure + signage + speaking opportunity at the reception

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**<https://pioga.org/event/pioga-annual-meeting/>**





## DUG Appalachia 2025 Keynote: Mike Hillebrand on the Future of Natural Gas and Industry Resilience

The DUG Appalachia 2025 conference opened with a compelling and forward-looking keynote address from Michael Hillebrand, CEO of Huntley & Huntley, Chairman of the PIOGA Board of Directors, and newly appointed Chairman of the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA).

Standing before a packed room of energy professionals, Hillebrand brought a unique and respected voice to the stage—one shaped by decades of leadership in the Appalachian Basin and sharpened by the recent landmark \$1.8 billion sale of Olympus Energy to EQT, one of the largest upstream transactions in the region's recent history.

His message? The natural gas industry in Appalachia is not only essential to the domestic energy mix, but it is also poised to play a critical role on the global stage—if given the room to grow.

### A Region of National Significance

Hillebrand began by highlighting the unmatched contributions of the Appalachian Basin, particularly Pennsylvania, to U.S. energy production. With decades of reserves, world-class geology, and a deep bench of independent operators, Appalachia has become a cornerstone of American energy security.

He emphasized that Appalachian natural gas is not just powering homes and businesses across the country—it's keeping the lights on around the world, thanks to the growing LNG export market. "Our region has the resources and expertise to deliver reliable, affordable, and clean-burning energy," Hillebrand noted. "But we need smart policy that recognizes and supports that reality."

### Regulatory Stability is Key

In one of the most powerful moments of his keynote, Hillebrand called attention to the unpredictable nature of U.S. energy regulation and its impact on operational certainty.

*"The U.S. needs to stabilize its oil and gas regulations so that operators are less at the mercy of a volatile political climate,"* he stated.

For an industry that plans and invests over multi-decade horizons, swings in federal and state energy policy—often driven by politics rather than science or market realities—create serious headwinds. Hillebrand urged policymakers

to consider the long-term importance of domestic production and to create a more predictable, streamlined regulatory environment that supports energy independence.



### Industry Unity and the Power of Advocacy

As Chairman of both PIOGA and now IPAA, Hillebrand spoke with passion about the importance of industry collaboration, especially in a time of increasing scrutiny and misinformation about fossil fuels.

*"We cannot afford to operate in silos,"* he said. *"Whether you're a small producer in western Pennsylvania or a large operator with national reach, we all benefit when we speak with a unified voice."*

He credited PIOGA's advocacy efforts at the state level—and IPAA's work in Washington—as critical tools in ensuring the industry's concerns are heard and understood by lawmakers, regulators, and the public.

### A Call to Action for the Next Generation

Finally, Hillebrand closed with a call to action aimed at the next generation of energy leaders.

*"We need new voices, new talent, and fresh ideas in this industry,"* he said. *"If we want a strong future for natural gas in the U.S., we must invest not just in infrastructure, but in people—mentoring young professionals and creating career pathways for the long haul."*

### Moving Forward with Confidence

Mike Hillebrand's keynote set the tone for the rest of DUG Appalachia 2025—one of cautious optimism, clear-eyed realism, and deep pride in the role Pennsylvania and the Appalachian Basin continue to play in shaping the energy landscape of tomorrow.

As PIOGA members, we are fortunate to have a leader of Hillebrand's caliber representing our shared interests both here in Harrisburg and in the halls of Congress. His remarks are a reminder that while challenges persist, our industry has never been more essential—or more capable—of driving solutions. ■



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## Babst Calland Article

Gary E. Steinbauer, Esq., Gina Falaschi Buchman, Esq. and Christina M. Puhnaty,

### EPA Extends Certain Compliance Deadlines for Oil and Natural Gas Clean Air Act Requirements

On July 31, 2025, EPA published in the Federal Register its highly anticipated Interim Final Rule to extend several deadlines in 40 C.F.R. Part 60, Subparts OOOO, OOOOa, OOOOb and OOOOc that were promulgated in EPA's 2024 Methane Rule. 90 Fed. Reg. 35966 (July 31, 2025). That same day, environmental groups filed a lawsuit challenging the Interim Final Rule. *Envtl. Defense Fund v. U.S. EPA*, Case #25-1164 (D.C. Cir.). Absent a stay by the court, which the environmental groups are currently not seeking, the Interim Final Rule and the various extended deadlines are effective.

#### Summary of Deadline Extensions

The Interim Final Rule extends numerous compliance deadlines for oil and gas air emission sources subject to the New Source Performance Standards in 40 C.F.R. Part 60 Subparts OOOO, OOOOa, OOOOb and OOOOc. The previous compliance deadlines were published in a March 2024 final rule. 89 Fed. Reg. 16820 (March 8, 2024). The Interim Final Rule, which became effective upon publication, extends many deadlines in OOOOb, the date that the requirements of the Super-Emitter Program apply with respect to OOOO, OOOOa, and OOOOb, and the date by which states must submit plans to EPA pursuant to the OOOOc emissions guidelines.

EPA extended the following OOOOb compliance deadlines to at least January 22, 2027:

- **Process Controllers:** The date by which process controller affected facilities are required to be zero-bleed devices. 40 CFR §§ 60.5370b(a)(5)(i), 60.5390b(a), 60.5415b(h)(1).
- **Storage Vessels:**
  - The date by which receiving additional crude oil, condensate, intermediate hydrocarbons, or produced water throughput at tank batteries triggers a modification. 40 CFR § 60.5365b(e)(3)(ii)(C) and (D).
  - The date by which a legally and practicably enforceable limit used to determine the potential VOC and methane emissions from a storage vessel must include the elements provided in paragraphs 40 CFR § 60.5365b(e)(2)(i)(A) through (F). 40 CFR § 60.5365b(e)(2)(i).

- The date by which the potential for VOC and methane emissions from storage vessels must be calculated using a generally accepted model or calculation methodology that accounts for flashing, working, and breathing losses, based on the maximum average daily throughput to the tank battery determined for a 30-day period of production. 40 CFR § 60.5365b(e)(2)(ii).

- **Covers and Closed Vent Systems:** The date by which a required closed vent system or cover must be designed and operated with no identifiable emissions and corresponding inspections must be performed. This new compliance deadline is 18 months after the date the Interim Final Rule is published in the Federal Register or upon startup, whichever is later. 40 CFR §§ 60.5411b(a)(3), § 60.5411b(b)(4), 60.5416b(a)–(b).

*Continued on page 12*

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## Babst *Continued from page 11*

• **Control Devices:** The date by which you must install and operate a continuous burning pilot or combustion flame, as applicable, and the date by which an alert must be sent to the nearest control room whenever the pilot or combustion flame is unlit. 40 CFR §§ 60.5412b(a)(1)(viii) and (3)(viii), 60.5413b(e)(2), 60.5415b(f)(1)(vii)(A)(1), 60.5417b(d)(8)(i), 60.5417b(i)(6)(v).

EPA also gave regulated facilities until November 28, 2025, or 180 days after startup, whichever is later, to comply with continuous monitoring system requirements for enclosed combustors or flares. 40 CFR §§ 60.5370b(a)(9)(i) and (iii).

Regarding OOOOc, the EPA emission guidelines that States are required to use when regulating existing sources (i.e., regulated emission sources that commenced construction, modification, or reconstruction on or before December 6, 2022), EPA extended the deadline for States to submit their OOOOc plans to January 22, 2027. 40 CFR § 60.5362c(c). As indicated in our recent Alert, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (“PADEP”) has issued public notice and provided an opportunity for comment for its proposed OOOOc plan. The comment period on PADEP’s proposed OOOOc plan closed on July 30, 2025. Several commenters urged PADEP to delay implementation of the OOOOc plan until EPA finalizes its reconsideration of OOOOc, and others raised concerns about PADEP’s analysis, or lack thereof, related to considering the “remaining useful life and other factors” when devising the proposed OOOOc plan requirements. PADEP’s proposed OOOOc plan noted the original March 2026 deadline for submission to EPA. It remains to be seen whether PADEP will continue moving forward with its plan given that it now has an additional 10 months to finalize and submit Pennsylvania’s OOOOc plan to EPA for approval.

EPA also extended deadlines in OOOOa and OOOOb associated with the so-called “super emitter program” created under the March 2024 Methane Rule. In the preamble for the Interim Final Rule, EPA notes that in implementing the “super emitter program,” which would allow EPA-approved third parties (using EPA-approved technologies) to provide EPA with data on super-emission events, “EPA has experienced unanticipated difficulties and concerns that require additional time for effective and lawful adminis-

tration of various program procedures.” 90 Fed. Reg. at 35976. EPA is delaying implementation of the super-emitter program until after January 22, 2027, during which time EPA will not act on applications seeking approval for remote-detection technologies for use under the program. See 40 CFR §§ 60.5371a and 60.5371b.

The Interim Final Rule indicates that EPA may make additional, substantive revisions to the 2024 Methane Rule in a separate reconsideration action. EPA invites comments on the revisions in the Interim Final Rule by September 2, 2025, even though the rule became effective on July 31, 2025.

### **Environmental Groups’ Challenge**

Ten environmental groups promptly filed a petition for review in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, challenging the Interim Final Rule. The Court has set initial filing deadlines, including a deadline to file any dispositive motions by September 18, 2025. A briefing schedule has not been established.

Press releases by the environmental groups suggest that they may attack the Interim Final Rule on both procedural and substantive grounds. Procedurally, the grounds contend that EPA violated the law by offering no opportunity for public input. Substantively, the groups indicate that they plan to defend the 2024 Methane Rule requirements, including the original deadlines and requirements of that rule. ■

*Babst Calland’s Environmental Practice Group is closely tracking these regulatory developments, and our attorneys are available to provide strategic advice on how these actions may affect your business.*

*For more information or answers to questions, please contact Gary Steinbauer at [gsteinbauer@babstcalland.com](mailto:gsteinbauer@babstcalland.com), Gina Buchman at [gbuchman@babstcalland.com](mailto:gbuchman@babstcalland.com), Christina Puhnaty at [cpuhnaty@babstcalland.com](mailto:cpuhnaty@babstcalland.com), or your Babst Calland relationship attorney.*

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Attorneys at Law

## Historical Figure in Oil & Gas

### The Lady in the Oil Patch: Edith Whatley McKanna

In a male-dominated era of oil and gas, Edith Whatley McKanna stood out—not just for her success, but for her style. Often arriving at rig sites in a white hat and gloves, McKanna became known as the “Lady in the Oil Patch,” earning national recognition from Time magazine in 1949.

Born near Waco, Texas, around 1899, McKanna was introduced to oil through her husband and father, both early independent operators. After WWII, she launched her own venture—Imperial Oil Company—in 1945. Within just a few years, she controlled 86,000 acres and operated seven producing wells in West Texas.

McKanna was also a pioneer in aviation—the first licensed female pilot in Texas and a founding member of the Ninety-Nines, an organization of women aviators. She logged over 3,000 flight hours, often flying herself to lease sites because, as she put it, “If the deal was hot, you had to get there.”

In 1951, Vice President Alben Barkley honored her with a Scroll of Distinction in Petroleum, recognizing her as one of the Southwest’s most accomplished women in energy.

Beyond oil, she supported civic life, education, and the arts—organizing golf associations, teaching Japanese flower arranging, and contributing to the Western Texas College museum.

Edith McKanna’s story is a powerful reminder that leadership, innovation, and grit know no gender. ■



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## In The Courts

### Well Bonding Under Fire: Act 96 Challenge Advances

**Court:** Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania

**Issue:** Constitutionality of Act 96's 10-year freeze on increasing well bonding requirements for conventional wells

**Update (August 2025):** Environmental groups have challenged Act 96, arguing the law—passed in 2022 to prevent arbitrary increases in well bonding for 10 years—is unconstitutional. The statute locked in the bonding rate at \$2,500 per conventional well, preempting any regulatory increases.

Though the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has not mounted a strong defense—appearing to align more closely with NGO positions—industry associations are actively defending the law's constitutionality, standing as the primary voices pushing back in court.

The attempt to intervene by the Republican legislative caucuses in the case was denied by the Commonwealth Court and recently upheld by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on August 4. While the legislative caucuses are now limited to filing amicus briefs, the Attorney General's Office may still seek to enter the case directly—and all eyes are on AG Dave Sunday, who could act in the coming weeks.

A motion to dismiss filed by industry is currently pending in Commonwealth Court, with oral arguments expected. Depending on the court's approach, the case may be decided based solely on the legal briefs already submitted.

**Next Steps:** Oral arguments are expected later this year, with a possible decision on the motion to dismiss in early 2026.

### PA AG Files Criminal Charges Over Natural Gas Leak

**Issue:** Environmental contamination from a prolonged gas well leak

**Update (July 24, 2025):** Attorney General Dave Sunday filed 14 criminal counts against Equitrans, LP, for negligent maintenance that resulted in a 14-day leak at the Rager Mountain Storage Field (2022). The leak caused soil, groundwater, and vegetation contamination.

**Link:** <https://aglaw.psu.edu/shale-law-weekly-review/shale-law-weekly-review-week-of-august-11-2025/>

### Gas Pipeline Legal Battle in NJ Highlands

**Issue:** Legal challenge against the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company's Compressor Station 327 project, claiming it violated the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act.

**Update (July 27, 2025):** The New Jersey Appellate Court upheld the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) decision, affirming that the compressor station project was legally exempt under the Highlands Act. The decision is expected to conclude the four-year legal battle, with environmental groups having unsuccessfully argued the project should not have been exempted.

**Link:** <https://njbia.org/court-decision-effectively-ends-legal-battle-over-utility-compressor-station/>

### FERC Adopts Narrower NEPA Review Standards

**Issue:** Scope of environmental impact assessments for pipeline projects under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**Update (July 24, 2025):** In response to a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has revised its approach to environmental reviews for pipeline projects. FERC will now limit its NEPA assessments to only direct environmental impacts caused by the pipeline itself, excluding broader upstream and downstream effects such as natural gas production and distribution. This decision is expected to streamline the permitting process for new natural gas infrastructure by reducing the scope and complexity of environmental reviews. Critics argue this could undermine thorough environmental oversight, while proponents claim it will expedite infrastructure development critical for meeting energy demands.

**Link:** <https://www.ferc.gov/news-events/news/ferc-revises-nepa-procedures-make-permitting-more-efficient>

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## Oil & Gas Dashboard

### Sources

American Refining Group:  
[www.amref.com/Crude-Prices-New.aspx](http://www.amref.com/Crude-Prices-New.aspx)  
 Ergon Oil Purchasing: [www.ergon.com/crudeoil](http://www.ergon.com/crudeoil)  
 Gas futures: [quotes.ino.com/exchanges/?r=NYMEX\\_NG](http://quotes.ino.com/exchanges/?r=NYMEX_NG)  
 Baker Hughes rig count:  
[bakerhughesrigcount.gcs-web.com/na-rig-count](http://bakerhughesrigcount.gcs-web.com/na-rig-count)  
 NYMEX strip chart: Mid American Natural Resources  
 Basis futures values: IGS Energy, Inc.

### Penn Grade Crude Oil Prices

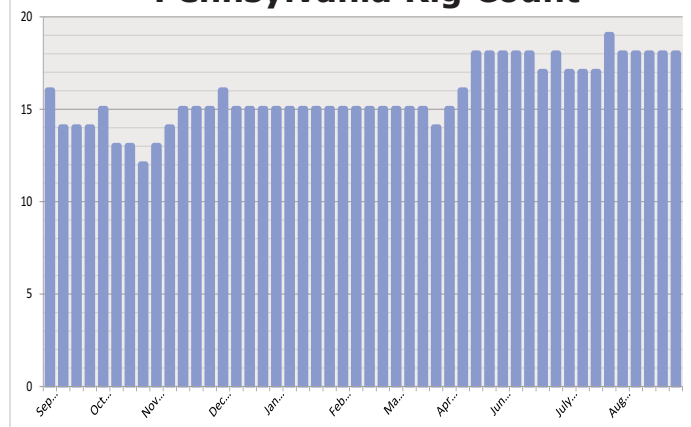


### Natural Gas Futures Closing Prices

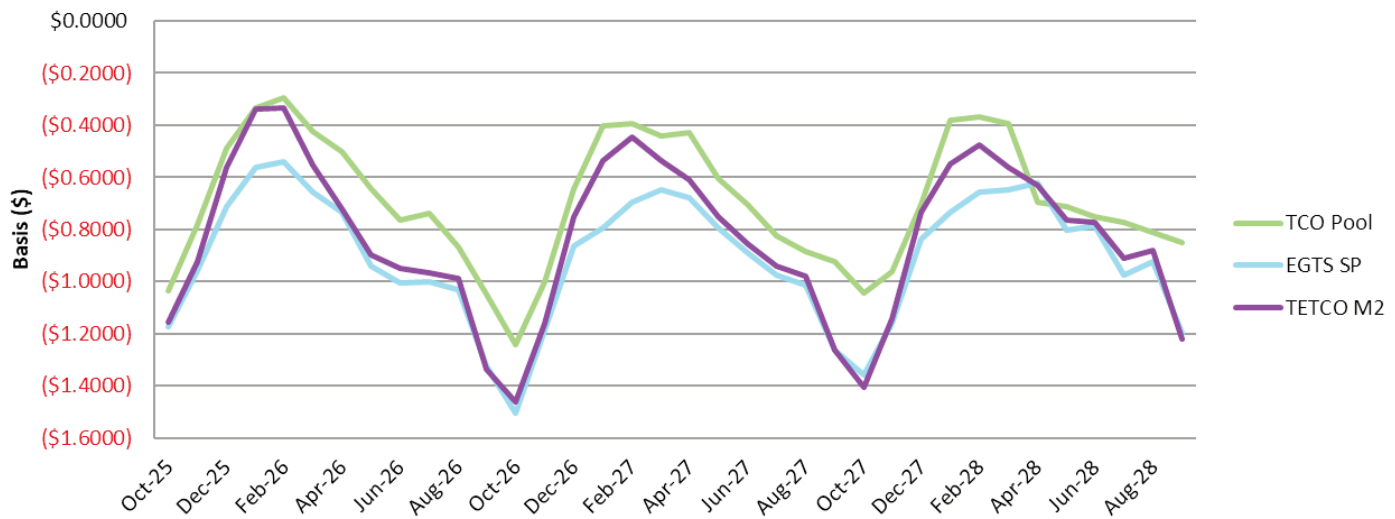
October 2025	3.117
November	3.365
December	3.914
January 2026	4.230
February	4.013
March	3.644
April	3.512
May	3.536
June	3.696
July	3.878

Prices as of September 9 2025

### Pennsylvania Rig Count



### Basis Futures Values



# Northeast Pricing Report — September 2025

As of late August 2025, Henry Hub natural gas is priced at \$2.77/MMBtu, up 1.91% from the day before. September forecasts project prices between \$2.33 and \$2.98, averaging \$2.73 and ending near \$2.83. The U.S. Energy Information Administration expects prices to stay relatively low in the short term due to increased production and storage, with potential for increases later in 2025 as demand rises and LNG exports grow.

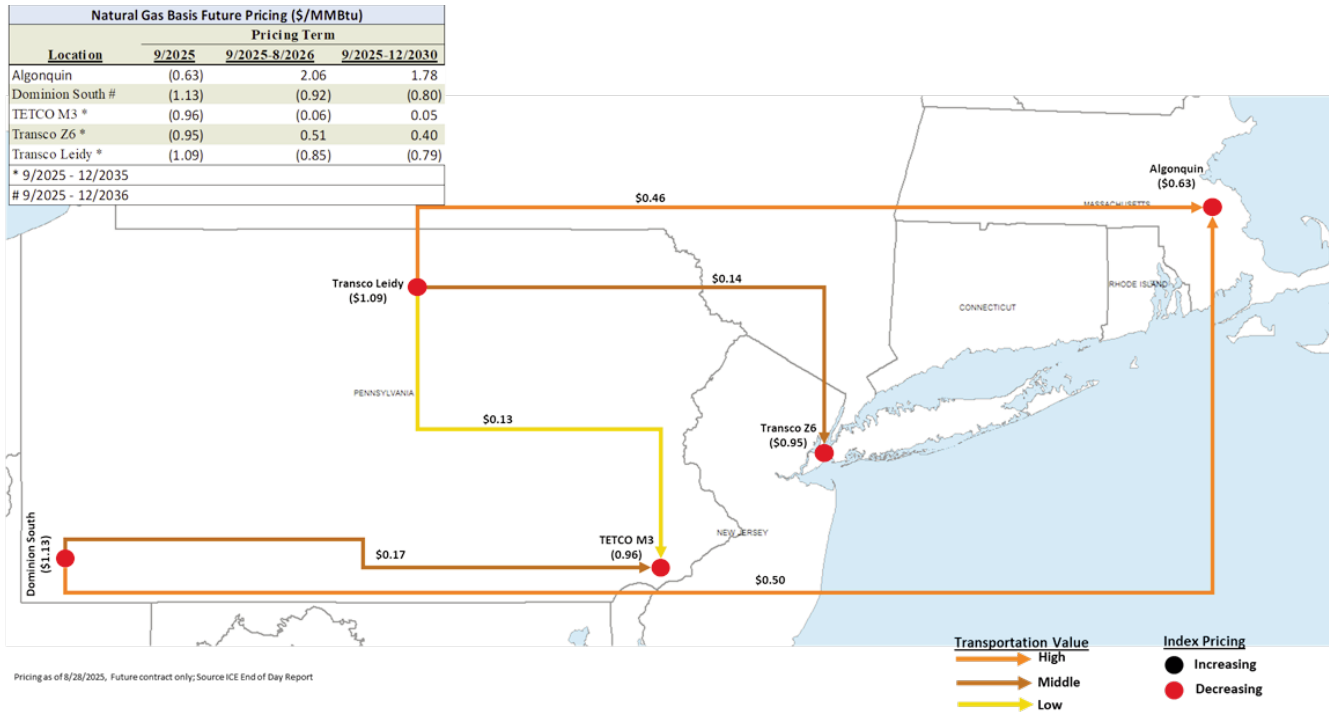
Throughout July 2025, natural gas prices in the Marcellus region experienced a notable decline, mirroring broader market softness. This price erosion was driven by, above-average storage injections, which pushed inventories well above the 5-year average, muted power sector demand, despite summer heat, due to economic switching and efficiency gains, and steady production levels, especially in Appalachia, which kept supply elevated.

Appalachian transportation values fell slightly, mainly because demand in New York and Boston weakened sharply late August. This downturn was influenced not only by weather demands, but also by broader economic trends that affected shipping and freight volumes.

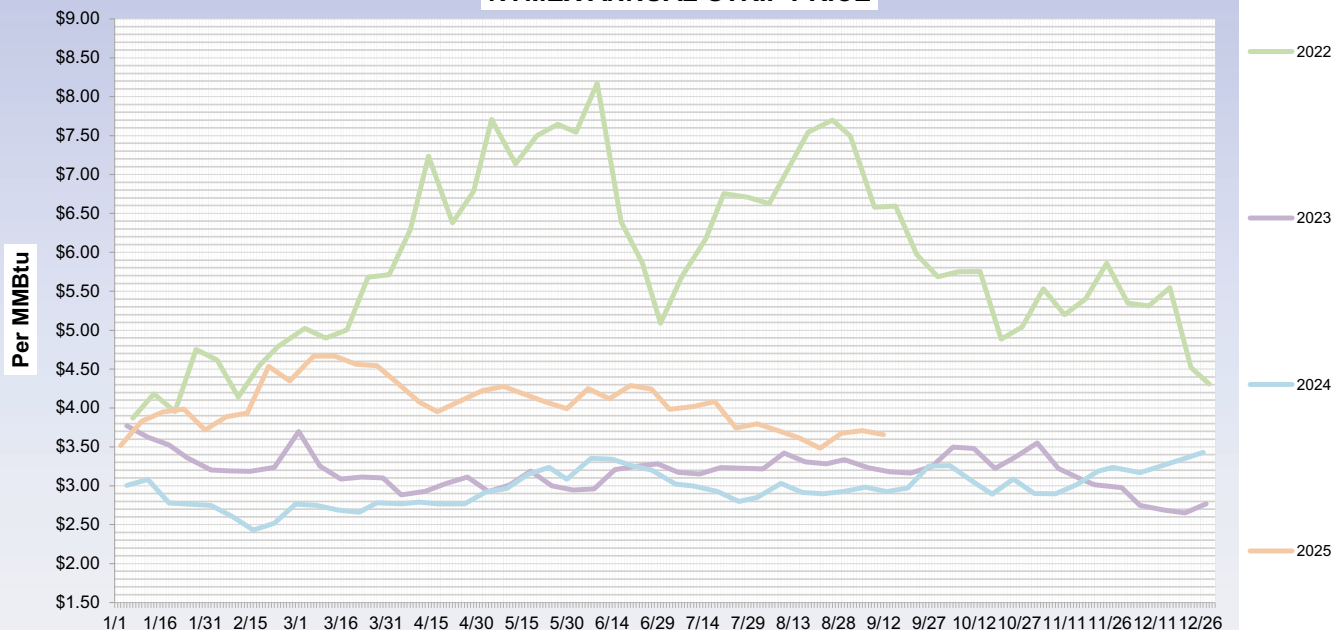
## Transportation Value Market Indicator



Provided by Bertison-George, LLC  
www.bertison-george.com



## NYMEX ANNUAL STRIP PRICE





## Spud Report: August



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](http://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
Anderson Energy		8/5/25	123-49027	Warren	Pleasant Twp		8/14/25	081-22046	Lycoming	Plunketts Crk	
BKV Opr		8/8/25	131-20678	Wyoming	Washington		8/15/25	081-22045	Lycoming	Plunketts Crk	
Cameron Energy *	3	8/5/25	123-49052	Warren	Sheffield Twp	Pennhills Res	8/26/25	123-49143	Warren	Sheffield Twp	
		8/13/25	123-49053	Warren	Sheffield Twp	Range Resources	6	8/13/25	125-29228	Washington	Buffalo Twp
		8/26/25	123-49055	Warren	Sheffield Twp		8/13/25	125-29229	Washington	Buffalo Twp	
CNX Gas	5	8/28/25	003-22674	Allegheny	Findlay Twp		8/14/25	125-29224	Washington	Buffalo Twp	
		8/28/25	003-22673	Allegheny	Findlay Twp		8/14/25	125-29225	Washington	Buffalo Twp	
		8/28/25	003-22672	Allegheny	Findlay Twp		8/14/25	125-29226	Washington	Buffalo Twp	
		8/28/25	003-22671	Allegheny	Findlay Twp		8/14/25	125-29227	Washington	Buffalo Twp	
		8/28/25	003-22670	Allegheny	Findlay Twp	Scorpio Energy *	2	8/15/25	053-31118	Forest	Howe Twp
Coterra Energy	5	8/12/25	115-23206	Susquehanna	Middletown		8/25/25	053-31119	Forest	Howe Twp	
		8/12/25	115-23207	Susquehanna	Middletown	Seneca Resources	6	8/5/25	081-22015	Lycoming	Gamble Twp
		8/12/25	115-23208	Susquehanna	Middletown		8/5/25	081-22040	Lycoming	Gamble Twp	
		8/12/25	115-23209	Susquehanna	Middletown		8/5/25	081-22043	Lycoming	Gamble Twp	
		8/12/25	115-23179	Susquehanna	Middletown		8/6/25	081-22041	Lycoming	Gamble Twp	
EQT Prod	5	8/13/25	003-22695	Allegheny	West Deer		8/6/25	081-22042	Lycoming	Gamble Twp	
		8/13/25	003-22692	Allegheny	West Deer	Snyder Bros	8/6/25	081-22044	Lycoming	Gamble Twp	
		8/13/25	003-22693	Allegheny	West Deer	Vanderhoof Eng *	8/28/25	005-31525	Armstrong	East Franklin	
		8/13/25	003-22694	Allegheny	West Deer	Weldbank Energy *	8/4/25	083-57706	McKean	Keating Twp	
		8/13/25	003-22662	Allegheny	West Deer		5	8/4/25	123-49172	Warren	Mead Twp
Expand Oper	5	8/11/25	015-23975	Bradford	Franklin Twp		8/12/25	123-49168	Warren	Mead Twp	
		8/11/25	015-23976	Bradford	Franklin Twp		8/19/25	123-49170	Warren	Mead Twp	
		8/11/25	015-23977	Bradford	Franklin Twp		8/26/25	123-49171	Warren	Mead Twp	
		8/25/25	015-23981	Bradford	Wysox Twp		8/29/25	123-49169	Warren	Mead Twp	
		8/25/25	015-23979	Bradford	Wysox Twp	Wilmoth Interests *	8/27/25	123-49178	Warren	Sheffield Twp	
Minard Run Oil	2	8/5/25	053-31143	Forest	Howe Twp						
		8/14/25	053-31138	Forest	Jenks Twp						
PA Gen Energy	9	8/6/25	081-22014	Lycoming	Plunketts Crk						
		8/7/25	081-22052	Lycoming	Plunketts Crk						
		8/9/25	081-22051	Lycoming	Plunketts Crk						
		8/10/25	081-22050	Lycoming	Plunketts Crk						
		8/11/25	081-22049	Lycoming	Plunketts Crk						
		8/12/25	081-22048	Lycoming	Plunketts Crk						
		8/13/25	081-22047	Lycoming	Plunketts Crk						

	Aug	July	June	May
<b>Total Wells</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>22</b>
Unconventional Gas	43	33	30	13
Conventional Gas	0	0	0	0
Oil	12	11	13	8
Combination Oil/Gas	4	4	5	0
Waste Disposal	0	0	0	1

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## Calendar

### **PIOGA events**

Information: [www.pioga.org](http://www.pioga.org) > PIOGA Events

#### PIOGA 2025 Events

**PIOGA - Annual Meeting**  
October 23

**PIOGATech - Air Quality**  
December 17th

**PIOGA - Holiday Jingle Ball**  
December 17th

### **Other events**

**Appalachian Hydrogen & Carbon Capture Conference**  
October 16  
(<https://pioga.org/event/appalachian-hydrogen-carbon-capture-conference-2/>)

**2025 E+AMP: Pathways Career Awareness**  
October 22  
(<https://pioga.org/event/2025-eamp-pathways-career-awareness/>)

**2025 Society of Petroleum Engineers Eastern Regional Meeting**  
October 28-30  
(<https://pioga.org/event/2025-society-of-petroleum-engineers-eastern-regional-meeting/>)

**Full Calendar - PIOGA Event & Meeting Schedule -**  
[https://pioga.org/publication\\_file/2025-PIOGA-Calendar.pdf](https://pioga.org/publication_file/2025-PIOGA-Calendar.pdf)

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