

2015 Pipeline Safety Conference



SCC and VGOA Collaboration



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History

- The formational meeting for the “*Gas Operators Association of Virginia*” was held at Commonwealth Natural Gas Corporation, Richmond, Virginia on February 11, 1970, with Paul H. Riley, President of Commonwealth Natural Gas Corporation and A.W. Buckley, Vice President – Operations for Roanoke Gas Company presiding.
- The purpose was organizing an association composed of representatives from natural gas companies operating in the Commonwealth of Virginia
- This meeting was attended by 15 individuals representing 10 gas operators in Virginia. Seven other companies were unable to attend but designated company representatives.
- Municipally owned gas companies were included in the Association.
- The following officers were elected:
Chairman: A.W. Buckley, Roanoke Gas Company
Secretary: Daniel C. Wimer, Commonwealth Natural Gas Corporation

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Original Purpose

The purpose for the association was to establish a “coordinated group to handle commission regulatory and company operational matters and policies and to lend assistance to the staff of the State Corporation Commission.”

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Early Collaborations:

- **Gas Safety Information Booklet**
- **New SCC Enforcement Procedures and Plans**
- **Incident Reporting**
- **Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act**
- **Parallel Spacing**
- **Cast Iron Replacement Program**
- **Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act**
- **Operator Training**

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Early Collaborations

- **Enforcement Provision from Damage Prevention Task Force**
- **Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act Advisory Committee**
- **Reporting Violations of the Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act**
- **VA Code 56-257 Underground Clearance**
- **Damage Prevention Programs**

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Early Collaborations

- 1999 Operator Qualification Task Group
- Y2K: Remember Satellite Phones?
- 2002 Pipeline Safety Conference; Adding Vendors

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VGOA Current Structure

- Since the initial formational meeting, the Association has maintained the originally established structure.
- Officers now consist of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. Their term of office is normally two years.
- Meetings are set by the officers with normally four meeting per year depending upon issues before the gas operators in Virginia
- June 7, 2000, it was proposed to change the name of the organization to the *Virginia Gas Operators' Association*
- A set of by-laws were approved by unanimous decision on April 3, 2002, and modified to include the Treasurer position and approved December 12, 2002. On September 6, 2012, the by-laws were amended and approved to allow for the formation of an Executive Committee

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Virginia Gas Operators' Association Executive Committee



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Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will provide guidance, direction, and certain oversight to the activities of the VGOA as a whole and any sub-committees that may be formed. Executive Committee membership shall include:

- One (1) key operating officer, or their designee, from each Full Member. This includes all Municipal Systems in the Commonwealth.
- The Director- Division of Utility and Pipeline Safety or Designee (non-voting Associate Member).
- Chair of the VGOA (or Vice Chair, if the Chair is unavailable)

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Executive Committee Officers

The Executive Committee Officer group consists of the following officers, elected from Full Member Operating Companies, each serving a one-year term;

- Executive Committee Chair:
- Executive Committee Vice-Chair (will assume the Chair position the following year)
- Executive Committee Secretary

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Executive Committee Actions

The Executive Committee will vote on issues that are to be forwarded to the entire VGOA membership or sub groups of standing committees for research and discussion. The issues may be raised by any Full or Associate Member. A simple majority of the Executive Committee members present, in the affirmative, is required to send the item in question on to the applicable VGOA Committee.

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Executive Committee Actions

To build a definitive "link" between the two groups, a member of the Executive Committee will be assigned as an "Advisor" to each of the committees. Associate members may also participate on each of the standing committees.

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Executive Committee Actions

The Executive Committee shall establish priorities for the issues to be covered by standing committees.

Subjects for standing committees include:

- a. Operator Qualification including Mutual Aid issues
- b. Public Awareness Programs (RP 1162)
- c. Pipeline Safety Management System Requirements (RP 1173)
- d. Failure Investigation
- e. Damage Prevention
- f. Integrity Management
- g. Others as may be determined by the Executive Committee

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Current Standing Committees

- **Operator Qualification**
- **Distribution Integrity Management**
- **Pipeline Safety Management System Requirements (RP 1173)**

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Virginia Enhanced Operator Qualification

- **VGOA Executive Committee with LDC's formed in 2011
SCC began discussions regarding OQ**
- **SCC reviewed existing plans, training and testing materials
and shared their concerns with the VGOA Executives**
- **After discussions, it was agreed that the existing OQ
programs needed to be improved**

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Virginia Enhanced Operator Qualification

- It was decided to partner with a third party vendor, Northeast Gas Association
- Use their OQ model as a foundation on which to build the Virginia Enhanced Operators Qualifications
- Protocols and guidelines were established to address any potential conflicts or other issues

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Virginia Enhanced Operator Qualification

- **SME Teams were scheduled to work on specific tasks**
- **Established Rules by the Executive Committee has helped the structure and flow of the process**

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Distribution Integrity Management

- **March 2014, based on recommendations from the VGOA Executive Committee, a DIMP Committee and an Executive Advisor was establish to share ideas between the two committees.**
- **There have been five meetings to date with one scheduled in December 2015.**

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Distribution Integrity Management

- **Topics of discussion have included**
 - **SME selection criteria and qualifications**
 - **Data cleansing / gathering**
 - **Threat identification**
 - **Additional or Accelerated Actions**
 - **Performance Measures**
 - **Documentation**
 - **GIS benefits**
 - **Advisory Bulletins**
 - **Risk modeling**

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Distribution Integrity Management

Mission Statement

The mission of the VGOA DIMP Committee is to support continuous improvement in the integrity of Virginia's gas distribution pipeline system. Committee members will review and analyze DIMP related data, potential and actual threats to the system, and measures to reduce the risks. This peer-to-peer interaction will provide a learning environment so members help improve the integrity of their own individual systems and further enhance the safety of Virginia citizens.



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Pipeline Safety Management System Requirements

- Formed at the 2014 Pipeline Safety Conference

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“It’s easy to get good players. Getting them to play together, that’s the hard part.”

Casey Stengel

