# DCA & AGA
# UTILITY CONTRACTOR WORKSHOP

## PRELIMINARY TOPICS

- PHMSA Presentation
- OQ Integrity Process Update
- CGA/DPI Presentation
- Workforce Leadership Development Training
- Pipeline SMS Presentation
- GIS in the Pipeline Industry
- Artificial Intelligence & Gas Distribution Construction
- Economic/Market Outlook

**REGISTER NOW**

**SPEAKERS**

**MASSOUD TAHAMTANI**
Deputy Associate Administrator PHMSA

**SAM HALL**
Vice President Damage Prevention Institute

**BARB CEDERBERG**
Executive Director Gopher State One-Call

**MARK BRIDGERS**
Principal Continuum Capital

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**Date**
March 18-20, 2024

**Location**
InterContinental Kansas City at The Plaza
Kansas City, Missouri

# PRELIMINARY AGENDA

## MONDAY, MARCH 18

**6:00 pm**      **Welcome Reception**

## TUESDAY, MARCH 19

**7:30 am**      **Breakfast**

**8:15 am**      **Welcome from Workshop Chairs**
Todd Lakatos, Director, Capital Construction, UGI Utilities, Inc.
Luke Litteken, Executive Vice President, Mears Group

**8:30 am**      **PHMSA Presentation**
A Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration will speak on topics related to a re-evaluation of minimum requirements for State One-Call damage prevention programs and criteria of damage prevention enforcement adequacy and other current activities of interest to the gas distribution industry.
**Presenter:** Massoud Tahamtani, Deputy Associate Administrator for Policy and Programs; Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

**9:30 am**      **OQ Integrity Process Update**
The Operator Qualification Integrity Process (OQIP) has been integrated by the three initial pilot program operators, Puget Sound Energy, New Mexico Gas Company, & SEMCO Energy Gas.  In this session, the focus will be to elaborate on the proof of concept each operator has experienced on their journey to continuously improve their operator qualification programs in partnership with contractors and service providers.  The speakers will discuss aspects of mutual aid, audit program, and process implementation including the incorporation into Pipeline Safety Management System (PSMS) efforts.
**Panelists:**
Troy Nutter, Puget Sound Energy
Andrea Martinez, New Mexico Gas Company
Heather Stein, SEMCP Energy Gas
Moderator: Brad Heck, Miller Pipeline

**10:30 am**      **Break**

**10:45 am**      **CGA/DPI Presentation**
CGA's Damage Prevention Institute (DPI) creates an innovative opportunity for the industry to address systemic inefficiencies in the damage prevention process through a metrics-focused, peer-reviewed model of shared accountability that serves all stakeholders. The creation of the DPI was announced in April 2022 and was formally launched in January 2023. The DPI mission builds on the industry-leading insights of CGA's Next Practices Initiative and by utilizing a stakeholder-centered approach to develop performance metrics that reflect commitment to Best Practices and dedication to improving the reliability of the U.S. damage prevention system for everyone involved.
**Presenter:** Sam Hall, Vice President, Damage Prevention Institute

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# PRELIMINARY AGENDA

**11:30 am**   **Workforce Development – Leadership Development Training**
Workforce capacity problems continue to plague all stakeholders in the gas distribution industry. This panel of contractors, operators and service providers will discuss how they are navigating and applying innovative solutions associated with the challenges of recruiting, developing, retaining, and rewarding a new age workforce. The panel will focus on workforce training programs and assessment tools, providing insight into leadership training curriculum and self-awareness assessments and why they are used in tandem for leadership development.
Panelists:
Stephanie Krabbe, Infrasource
Matt Dvorak, Groebner

**12:30 pm**   **Lunch**

**1:30 pm**   **Legislative Update:** *Pending AGA*

**2:30 pm**   **Pipeline SMS Presentation:**
As the industry responsible for delivering critical energy throughout the nation, measures need to be taken to ensure all is done to protect communities and the environment with safe pipeline operations. Safety management systems (SMS) have proven to help in other industries, such as aviation, nuclear power and chemical manufacturing, and is now being implemented throughout the pipeline industry.

This discussion will include a presentation from Xcel Energy focusing on how the operator has integrated SMS into their Operational Excellence Plan and its utilization with contractors, followed by members of DCA's Pipeline SMS Task Force.
Presenter: Lauren _____, Xcel Energy
Panelists: TBD

**3:30 pm**   **Break**

**3:45 pm**   **RNG Presentation:** *Pending AGA*

**4:45 pm**   **Wrap Up and Adjourn**

**5:30 pm**   **Reception and Dinner**

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# PRELIMINARY AGENDA

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

**7:30 am** **Breakfast**

**8:30 am** **GIS in the Pipeline Industry and the Minnesota Utilities Mapping Project**
Underground facility mapping is in dire need of improvement, and technologies like geographic information systems (GIS) are gaining high levels of attention in multiple industries, including the gas distribution sector. As part of the Common Ground Alliance's Next Practices Initiative, this presentation will describe a pilot program overseen by the Gopher State One Call (GSOC) and the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council to improve the 811 process through digital visualizations of underground facilities. The case study highlights the efforts of the Minnesota Utilities Mapping Project (MUMP), which seeks to produce a new tool that could revolutionize underground utility mapping for damage prevention stakeholders by leveraging widely accessible technology that provides safeguards to protect sensitive information about the specific location of a given pipeline. This discussion will provide background of the project and the current status of this innovative approach to provide superior mapping of underground facilities.
**Presenter:** Barb Cederberg, Executive Director, Gopher State One-Call

**9:30 am** **How and When Artificial Intelligence will Transform Gas Distribution Construction**
Artificial Intelligence is all the rage. Nearly all of the discussion is how it can perform repetitive tasks, forecasting, etc. There are fears, as well, that AI will displace humans and their jobs. The gas industry has long believed that gas distribution construction work required such a high skill level and experience, it will be insulated from change…is this true any longer? Attend this session and gain insights into how AI is being applied within the construction industry and more specifically how and when Artificial Intelligence (AI) will transform the physical execution of gas distribution capital construction. Topics covered will include:
- How machine learning systems can and will be applied to gas distribution construction
- AI used to optimize workforce forecasting and scheduling
- AI powered robots performing jobsite material management, movement, and installation
- AI powered robots performing physical construction
- AI used to optimize field productivity and reduce "recoverable lost time" and "waste"
- AI as a tool to power the design, application, and use of LEAN Construction techniques
- AI used to respond to and interact with stakeholders (utility customers, permit authorities, landowners, the public, etc.) at the jobsite
**Presenter:** Mark Bridgers, Principal; Continuum Capital

**10:30 am** **Economic/Market Outlook**
~~Mark Bridgers of Continuum Capital agreed to do a market update re: gas distribution construction (and other utility markets), which has done in the past and always well received.~~

**11:45 am** **Wrap Up and Adjourn**

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