



NGA PSMS Excellence in Safety Recognition Program

Introduction:

The intent of the Northeast Gas Association's "PSMS Excellence in Safety Recognition Program" is to recognize NGA member companies that have a particularly innovative and exceptional approach to implementation and sustainability of PSMS core principles and elements. Successful applicants should be able to demonstrate that the program has an overall direct impact on PSMS employee engagement, operational excellence and compliance conformance including incident prevention, emissions mitigation and overall safety culture.

Unlike conventional safety recognition programs that are based entirely on injury frequency rates; NGA seeks to recognize companies that have worked hard to develop and implement a unique approach to pipeline safety focused on pipeline safety management system operational excellence. For example, we encourage submissions related to demonstrated PSMS leadership and management commitment, stakeholder engagement, risk management, operational controls, incident investigation, evaluation and lessons learned, safety assurance and management reviews, emergency preparedness programs, competency, awareness and training, and continuous improvement practices as well as regulatory compliance conformance and employee injury prevention and wellness programs.

Two benefits are:

- 1) Peer Recognition for the Company and its employees.
- 2) Recognized programs may serve as guides for other companies wishing to implement similar programs and practices.

Selected companies will receive recognition in the form of a certificate and plaque at the NGA Executive Conference, which takes place each September and at the NGA Fall Operations Conference.

Interested participants will be required to complete an application form. There will be four categories of awards considered including recognition of a small, medium and large member operating organizations as well as member contractor companies.



HOW TO APPLY:

Any NGA member organization (operating organizations and contractors that serve operators) are welcome to submit a completed application.

- The application has two parts. Part I & II must be completed in full to qualify.
- Submit the completed application to the NGA no later than July 26th
 - Send all information to:

Northeast Gas Association
1800 West Park Drive, Suite 340, Westborough MA 01581
Attention: Paul Armstrong, Vice President Operations
Or
parmstrong@northeastgas.org

Please direct any questions about this program to Bob Wilson, Vice President Special Projects, bwilson@northeastgas.org , (607) 643-5111

SELECTION PROCESS:

The NGA Leadership Team in conjunction with our PSMS Consultant, will review submitted applications. There are 4 categories of awards including Large Operators, Medium Operators, Small Operators and Contractors. The Review Team will determine recipients prior to the NGA Executive Conference, which takes place in September of each year. The Review Team may select more than one recipient in each category when submitted programs warrant such recognition.

SCHEDULE & DEADLINES:

June 21, 2024,	Applications are available.
July 26, 2024,	Application submittal deadline. NGA Review Team begins the review process.
August 23, 2024,	NGA Review Team completes review of submitted applications and selects and notifies recognition recipient(s).
September 2024	Recipient(s) will receive recognition at the NGA Executive Conference.
October 2024	Recipient(s) will receive recognition at the Fall Operations Conference and will be asked to address the attendees at the Conference to describe their safety program.



APPLICATION: PART I (Sections 1 & 2)

Has your company experienced an occupational-related fatality event involving an employee of your company, a contractor employee working on behalf of your company or a member of the public during the previous year?

Yes - Stop here. Your company is ineligible to apply for this year's awards. (Exemption: If the program that you are seeking recognition for was created in direct response to the fatality, then you may apply).

No - Continue with the application.

NOTE: If your company has a fatality involving a company employee, a contractor employee or a member of the public after submitting this application, but prior to the NGA Executive Conference in September, you must contact the NGA and notify them of the fatality. Your company will not be eligible for award recognition this year.

SECTION 1 (General information):

Company Name:	Contact Person:
Address:	Title:
City:	Phone:
State/Zip Code:	Fax:
	E-mail:

Applicant Signature/date: _____



SECTION 2 (Injury & Illness Incidents & Frequency Rate):

Although lost time injury rates and recordable injury rates are important, they will not be the primary metric used in the evaluation process. Injury rates do provide insight to a company’s overall safety program performance, and a significant change in rates from one year to the next would be noteworthy. However, less than favorable incident rates will not automatically preclude a company from receiving recognition.

	Five Year Average	CY 2023
Total Employee-hours Worked		
Total number of lost work-day cases Injuries/Illnesses (Total in column H of the OSHA 300 log)		
Lost work-day Incidence Rate (LWD) (see formula below)		
Total Recordable Injury/Illnesses (Totals in columns H, I & J in OSHA 300 log)		
Recordable Incidence Rate (TRIR) (see formula below)		

The formulas for LWD & TRIR are defined by OSHA as:

$$LWD = \frac{\text{Total \# of Lost Workdays} * 200,000}{\text{Total Employee-hours worked}}$$

$$TRIR = \frac{\text{Total \# OSHA Recordable Incidents} * 200,000}{\text{Total Employee-hours worked}}$$



SECTION 3 (Pipeline Safety Compliance Conformance):

While your pipeline safety regulatory compliance posture is directly influenced by PSMS implementation program success, and is important indicator of overall program effectiveness, NOPV's and non-conformance penalties will not be the primary metric used to determine award recipient. State programs and interpretation of federal requirements may vary by jurisdiction as well as driven by a variety of jurisdictional rate case-based compliance performance metrics. In some cases, assessed violations are subjective and need to be considered on an individual basis. However, as with injury rates, this data does provide insight to a company's overall PSMS safety program performance and effectiveness, and a significant change in assessed violations and associated penalties from one year to the next would be noteworthy. However, less than favorable regulatory compliance conformance assessments will not automatically preclude a company from receiving recognition.

Please provide a detailed narrative describing the nature of your regulatory compliance audit results in CY 2022 and 2023. Where possible, identify associated PSMS Elements related to the audit finding, for example, for procedure non-conformance findings, this may be associated with operational controls. Your narrative should consider:

- Your State / Federal record and field audit process.
- Description of overall results for record and field audits for 2022 and 2023.
- A brief description of state issued performance metrics (if applicable) and overall results in meeting those goals.
- Summary / description of penalties you may have experienced because of alleged pipeline safety compliance non-conformance.
- Brief description of any compliance agreements / consent orders resulting from settlements related to compliance conformance.

Please describe the nature of your regulatory compliance audit results *and corrective action measures taken to address the findings*. Please limit your description to no more than three single spaced pages using an Arial 12-point font.



APPLICATION: PART II

Section 1: Description of PSMS Program

Provide a detailed narrative (qualitative description) of your program. Be creative. This is your opportunity to demonstrate that "special something" that sets your program apart from the others. Points you may want to address could include:

- An overview of the program and approach to PSMS Element Conformance.
- Approach to addressing API 1173 Gap Analysis, API 1173 Gap Mitigation Roadmap conformance progress.
- Leadership Commitment level and employee engagement.
- Execution strategy.
- QA/QC Integration as a component of the program.
- Competency, awareness, and training components.
- PSMS process performance metrics

Section 2: Explain why your program should be recognized.

Provide an explanation why you believe your program should be recognized by the NGA. Points you may want to address could include:

- Success rate/process performance metrics – has the program met your goals.
- Resources used by company to implement and support the program including implementation of PSMS Collaborative Operationalization Tools (lessons Learned Resource Center Portal, Tactical Guides, PSMS Quick Tips, Technical Guidelines etc.);
- Demonstrated commitment to voluntary information sharing and event learning.
- Addressing results of the Safety Culture Survey.
- Unique elements of the program that would benefit other NGA companies.
- Program impacts on overall pipeline safety compliance posture.
- Results of API assessments, Internal Audit assessments, NGA PSMS Implementation Performance Check-In's.

NOTE: For Sections 1&2 above, please try to limit your description to no more than six single spaced pages using an Arial 12-point font.