



2025 Fall Operations Conference

Tracks:

Field Operations & Construction
Energy & Infrastructure Evolution
Pipeline Safety Risk Mitigation & Regulatory
Change

October 14-15, 2025

Saratoga Hilton

Saratoga Springs, NY



2025 Fall Operations Conference Visit Our Exhibiting Companies

**Bascom-Turner Instruments
Eastcom Associates, Inc.
Heath Consultants Incorporated
Industrial Training Services, Inc.
Kerotest Manufacturing Corp.
Kerr Engineered Sales Co.
Locusview
Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation
Mueller Company
Mulcare Pipeline Solutions, Inc.
Precision Pipeline Solutions
Ritmo America, LLC
ULC Technologies , Inc.**



2025 Reception Sponsors

**Reception Immediately Following the
Conclusion of Wednesday's Session Hosted By:**

**Consolidated Pipe & Supply Company Inc.
Precision Pipeline Solutions, LLC
Supreme Industries**

2025 Hosts

Lanyard Sponsor: Storti Quality Services

Registration Sponsor: Platinum Natural Gas Solutions

Breakfast Sponsor: Bascom-Turner Instruments, Inc.

Lunch Sponsor: Magnolia River

Name Badge Sponsor: Ritmo America LLC

Thank you to all of our Sponsors!

Supply Chain Workshop



At the 2025 Fall Operations Conference

Agenda - Wednesday, October 15th 9:30-11:30AM

- Flexing your business plan to mitigate uncertainty
Kate Hearn, Rhode Island Energy
- Member Supply Chain Roundtable

Fall Operations Conference

October 14-15, 2025

Hilton Saratoga Hotel – Saratoga Springs, NY

Register at <https://forms.office.com/r/WM4mCFTJPs>



2025 Fall Operations Conference

Program at-a-Glance

Tracks

Field Operations & Construction

Saratoga 1

Energy & Infrastructure Evolution

Saratoga 2

Pipeline Safety Risk Mitigation &
Regulatory Change

Day 1, October 14, 2025

GENERAL SESSION: 10:00 -11:00

Welcome, José Costa, NGA President & CEO and Exhibitor Presentations

Fireside Chat: The Evolving Natural Gas Industry, Michele Leone, Vice President of Gas, Rhode Island Energy

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

11:00- 11:15	Welcome by Track Chair	Welcome by Track Chair	Welcome by Track Chair
Session 1 11:15- 12:15	Leading Practices in Pigging Pipeline	NYSEARCH Project Update	Residential Methane Detectors
12:15- 1:30	Lunch in Convention Center Meeting Room 1		
Session 2 1:30- 2:15	Fundamentals of Hydro Testing	Natural Gas in the Evolving Energy Landscape	Mitigating 3rd party Damage Risk Through the use of AI
Session 3 2:15- 3:15	MAOP Leading Practices of Reconfirmation	Unintended benefits from AMI Deployment	What's next with Revision to API's 1173: Understanding the Voluntary Adoption Framework
3:15- 3:30	Break in the Exhibit Hall		
Session 4 3:30- 4:30	Nuts & Bolts of Hydrocarbon Liquid Dropout & Impacts on the Distribution System	Ethane Identification	Trust, Safety & Transparency: The Playbook for Pipeline Safety Communications

4:30-6:00pm Reception in the Exhibit Hall

Day 2, October 15, 2025 — 7:30-8:15 Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall

GENERAL SESSION: 8:30-9:15

The Dynamic Regulatory Environment: Alan M. Chichester, Managing Director – Safety, Operations, & Engineering, American Gas Association

	Field Operations & Construction	Supply Chain Forum	Pipeline Safety Risk Mitigation & Regulatory Change
Session 1 9:30- 10:15	Rehab or Relay?	Flexing your business plan to mitigate uncertainty	Intent Based Leadership: Influencing Safety Behaviors
10:15– 10:30	Break in the Exhibit Hall		
Session 2 10:30- 11:15	NGA Mutual Assistance Program Overview	Supply Chain Roundtable	CGI 101
11:15- 11:30	Wrap -up	Wrap-up	Wrap-up

Day 1 - October 14, 2025

9:00—10:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

General Session 10:00-11:00 in City Center

Welcome, José Costa, NGA President & CEO and Exhibitor Presentations

Keynote Fireside Chat: The Evolving Natural Gas Industry, Michele Leone, VP of Gas for Rhode Island Energy (RIE)

Welcome 11:0-11:15	Welcome by Track Chair
Session 1 11:15-12:15	Leading Practices in Pigging Pipeline Craig Piano, Gas Training IUOE Local 15 Pigging of natural gas mains is a vital part of new construction, maintenance, and inspection process used to clean, inspect, or maintain integrity of pipelines. Session will cover fundamentals of piping, safety protocols, and operator qualifications.
12:15—1:30	Lunch
Session 2 1:30—2:30	Fundamentals of Hydro Testing Mark Hereth, The Blacksmith Group This session will focus on the essential elements of a MAOP reconfirmation hydrotesting program including engineering principles of hydrotesting ("hydrotesting 101") to ensure safety and structural integrity as mandated by PHMSA. The presentation will include discussion of hydrotest procedures, essential elements of a hydrotesting including determining test pressure levels, duration of the test and recordkeeping requirements.
Session 3 2:30- 3:15	MAOP Leading Practices of Reconfirmation Mike Kern, National Grid, Lauren Toczyłowski, Con Edison and Mark Hereth, The Blacksmith Group On October 1, 2019, PHMSA published a final rule titled Safety of Gas Transmission Pipelines; MAOP Reconfirmation, Expansion of Assessment Requirements, and other related amendments ("The Gas Transmission Final Rule") addressing integrity management and other requirements. This session will focus on approaches and leading practices to conform with Rule Requirements regarding actions an operator must take to reconfirm the maximum allowable operating pressure of previously untested of natural gas transmission pipelines and pipelines lacking certain material or operational records.
3:15—3:30	Break
Session 4 3:30—4:30	Nuts & Bolts of Hydrocarbon Liquid Dropout & Impacts on the Distribution System Mark Castellanos, Central Hudson This presentation will explain the causes and conditions that lead to hydrocarbon liquid dropout in natural gas distribution systems. It will cover the operational impacts, safety considerations, and mitigation strategies utilities use to manage these issues and maintain system reliability.

Day 2 - October 15, 2025

7:30—8:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast

General Session: 8:30—9:15

The Dynamic Regulatory Environment: Alan M. Chichester, Managing Director – Safety, Operations, & Engineering, American Gas Association

Session 1 9:30—10:15	Rehab or Relay Stephen Dombrowski, ULC This presentation will explore the decision-making process behind repairing versus replacing natural gas pipelines, focusing on factors like pipeline condition, safety, cost, and long-term performance. The session will highlight innovative tools and technologies that support data-driven assessments to extend asset life and optimize infrastructure investment.
10:15- 10:30	Break
Session 2 10:30—11:15	NGA Mutual Assistance Program Overview Glenn Meyers, Director of Operations at Northeast Gas Association This presentation will provide an overview of the Mutual Assistance program, covering NGA staff roles and responsibilities, key duties of Requesting and Responding Companies, worker competency assessments, onboarding best practices, updates on the National Mutual Aid Agreement and new RFA, activities of the Mutual Aid Playbook workbook, and other essential information for mutual aid participants.
	Wrap-Up

2025 NGA Fall Operations Conference

Track B - Energy & Infrastructure Evolution

Day 1 - October 14, 2025

9:00—10:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

General Session 10:00-11:00 in City Center

Welcome, José Costa, NGA President & CEO and Exhibitor Presentations

Keynote Fireside Chat: The Evolving Natural Gas Industry, Michele Leone, VP of Gas for Rhode Island Energy (RIE)

Welcome 11:00-11:15	Welcome by Track Chair— Perry Sheth, PE
Session 1 11:15-12:15	NYSEARCH Project Update Suzy Chaillou, Director RD&D – Program Management and Mark Gunsalus, Vice President NYSEARCH & Northeast Gas Association This presentation will highlight the progress and results of current RD&D initiatives aimed at advancing natural gas operations, safety, and innovation. It will showcase collaborative efforts with member utilities, key technology demonstrations and deployments, including on advanced leak detection and updates on field deployment milestones.
12:15—1:30	Lunch
Session 2 1:30—2:15	Natural Gas in the Evolving Energy Landscape Christian Rodrick, NGA As regulatory dynamics shift and technologies evolve, what is the role of natural gas? What is the role of natural gas in the energy landscape today, and where is it going?
Session 3 2:15-3:15	Unintended benefits from AMI Deployment Scott LaPlante, Mulcare This presentation explores the evolution of gas meter technology and highlights the capabilities of smart residential ultrasonic meters, including how they communicate and the data they provide. It also reveals the unexpected operational benefits these meters offer gas teams, such as enhanced diagnostics, efficiency, and system awareness.
3:15—3:30	Break
Session 4 3:30—4:30	Ethane Identification Ben Hippler, Bascom Turner This presentation will clarify the differences and similarities between methane, natural gas, and pipeline gas, while highlighting the specific role and composition of ethane within pipeline gas. Attendees will learn about the natural sources of methane, tools and technologies used to detect ethane in field samples, and real-world case studies demonstrating their return on investment for operators.

Day 2 - October 15, 2025

7:30—8:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast

General Session: 8:30—9:15

The Dynamic Regulatory Environment: Alan M. Chichester, Managing Director – Safety, Operations, & Engineering, American Gas Association

Session 2 9:15—10:00	Flexing your business plan to mitigate uncertainty Kate Hearn, Rhode Island Energy This presentation will focus on how supply chain and finance professionals can collaborate to build adaptable, long-term business plans amid economic uncertainty, rising costs, and resource fluctuations including strategies for resilience and how Finance can support Supply Chain in delivering sustainable, flexible plans. Attendees will gain practical tools to navigate disruptions and improve responsiveness in planning and execution.
10:00– 10:15	Break
Session 3 10:15—11:15	Member Supply Chain Roundtable This session will be a moderated discussion led by NGA staff open to all, however the target audience are LDC supply chain, procurement professionals, vendors, manufacturers, and suppliers. Topics will include opportunities and challenges including tariff policy, standardization, planning and forecasting, and more.
Session 4	Wrap-Up

Day 1 - October 14, 2025

9:00—10:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

General Session 10:00-11:00 in City Center

Welcome, José Costa, NGA President & CEO and Exhibitor Presentations

Keynote Fireside Chat: The Evolving Natural Gas Industry, Michele Leone, VP of Gas for Rhode Island Energy (RIE)

Welcome 11:00-11:15	Welcome by Track Chair—Karen Sousa, Rhode Island Energy
Session 1 11:15-12:15	Residential Methane Detectors – The Evolution of NFPA 715 Standard for the Installation of Fuel Gas Detection and Warning Equipment Stephen Olenick, Principal Engineer, Combustion Science & Engineering, Inc. This session will focus on the evolution of NFPA 715, now it's second revision, and the NFPA 715 development process. Steve Olenick Chairs the Technical Development Committee for NFPA 715 and will take participants through the revision process, what the committee focused on during the latest revision cycle including practical application and enhancements to placement and
12:15—1:30	Lunch
Session 2 1:30—2:15	Mitigating 3rd party Damage Risk Through the use of AI Robert Terjesen, National Grid This presentation highlights how utilities are using AI to reduce third-party damage risk by identifying high-risk areas, improving locate accuracy, and prioritizing responses. Real-world examples will show how AI enhances safety and protects critical infrastructure.
Session 3 2:15- 3:15	What's next with Revision to API's 1173: Understanding the Voluntary Adoption Framework Colin M. Frazier, Director, System Programs, American Petroleum Institute This presentation from the American Petroleum Institute will provide an overview of the upcoming revisions to API 1173, the Pipeline Safety Management Systems standard. It will focus on the Voluntary Adoption Framework, outlining how operators can implement updated safety practices, improve organizational culture, and proactively manage risk.
3:15—3:30	Break
Session 4 3:30—4:30	Trust, Safety & Transparency: The Playbook for Pipeline Safety Communications Michael Vigeant, Great Blue Research Data shows public expectations around pipeline safety are continuously evolving—calling for faster, clearer, and more empathetic communication. This session offers a refreshed playbook grounded in transparency, proactive messaging, and crossagency

Day 2 - October 15, 2025

7:30—8:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast

General Session: 8:30—9:15

The Dynamic Regulatory Environment: Alan M. Chichester, Managing Director – Safety, Operations, & Engineering, American Gas Association

Session 1 9:15—10:00	Influencing Safety Behaviors Peter Russian, Chief Executive Intent-Based Leadership International & Andy Jordan, Director UNY Gas Field Operations at National Grid This presentation will cover the practical approaches to embracing Intent Based Leadership approach to encouraging operational ownership of pipeline safety in day-to-day operations. Peter will discuss practical examples of applying principles of IBL such as pre-job briefs and tools you can implement to help drive safety behaviors that support a Plan-Do-Check-Act Safety Culture. It's all about understanding the “why” in driving a leader – leader culture where everyone thinks and acts as a safety leader, and IBL is a proven “tool” recently implemented at National Grid to facilitate this behavior shift.
10:00– 10:15	Break
Session 2 10:15—11:15	CGI 101 Brad Thomas, Heath The combustible gas indicator (CGI) is one of the most important tools our day-to-day workforce counts on to conduct safety assessments. However, fit-for-purpose use requires a clear understanding of the technology to ensure appropriate intended safety outcomes. This session will focus on CGI technology advances, applicability and limitations of technologies and the importance of training, procedures, and equipment maintenance to ensure reliable operation of these mission critical tools.