



Presented by:

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Heath Consultants Inc.**



Discussion Overview

- How did it start and develop?
- What is the relationship with OPS?
- What does the membership look like?
- What does the Committee do?
- What does the Guide look like?
- What is the DIMP Guidance?
- What is the value of GPTC for me ?



How did it start and develop?



GPTC HISTORY

- Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act in 1968
- DOT Office of Pipeline Safety formed
 - Interim adoption of industry standard ASME B31.8
 - Decision to develop performance-based regulation
- Discussions between OPS and ASME
 - Publication of regulations and recommended practices
 - Mutual participation in development of “guide material”



- Formation of ASME Gas Piping Standards Committee to write proven methods & practices guidance
- Safety regulations published November 12 ,1970
- GPSC Guide published December 15, 1970



- GPSC changed to Gas Piping Technology Committee (GPTC) in 1982
- AGA became sponsor and secretariat in 1990
- American National Standards Institute accreditation in 1992
 - ASC GPTC Z380 committee
 - Guide is ASC Z380.1



**What is the relationship with
OPS?**



- Historic partnership
- OPS members of GPTC
- Reference of GPTC Guide in NPRM
- Letter from Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety



“The Office of Pipeline Safety believes that the Guide for Gas Transmission and Distribution Piping Systems is of **significant assistance** to gas piping system operators in their **efforts to comply with the Minimum Federal Safety Standards for the Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipeline (49 CFR Part 192)**. Your method of presentation is an excellent means of helping operators comply with the standards.”

Office of Pipeline Safety



- John Frantz is the GPTC Liaison to PHMSA
- John meets regularly with Jeff Wiese



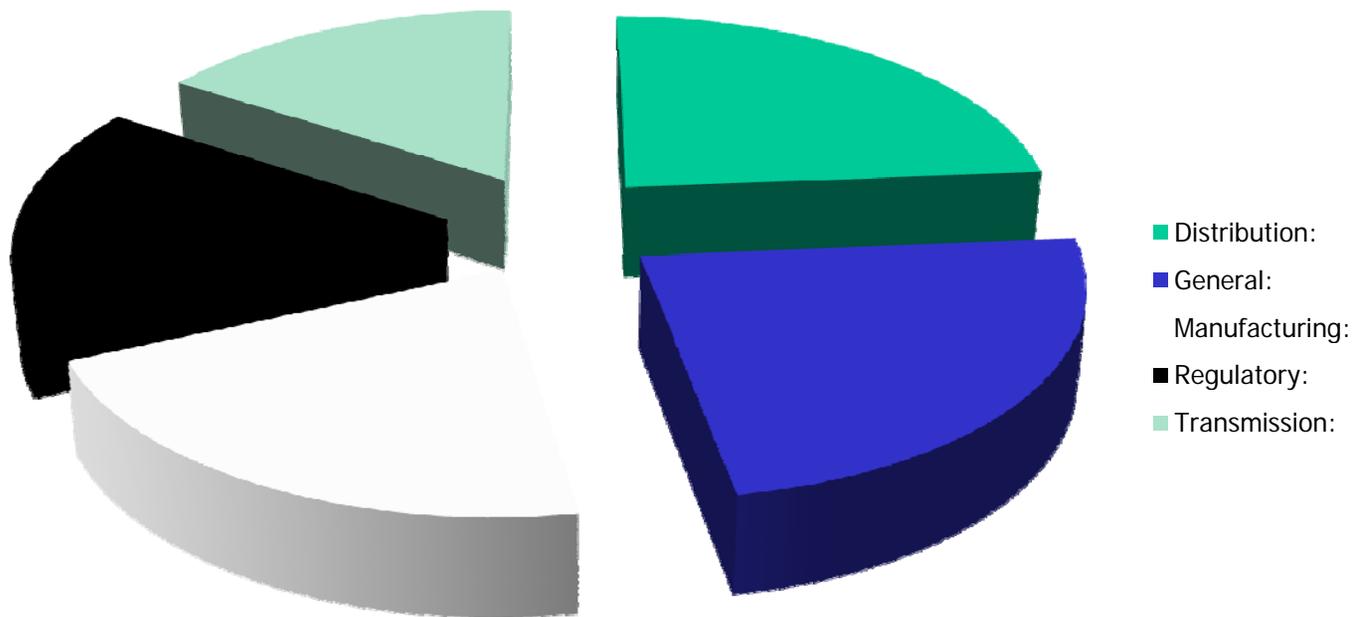
**What does the membership
look like?**



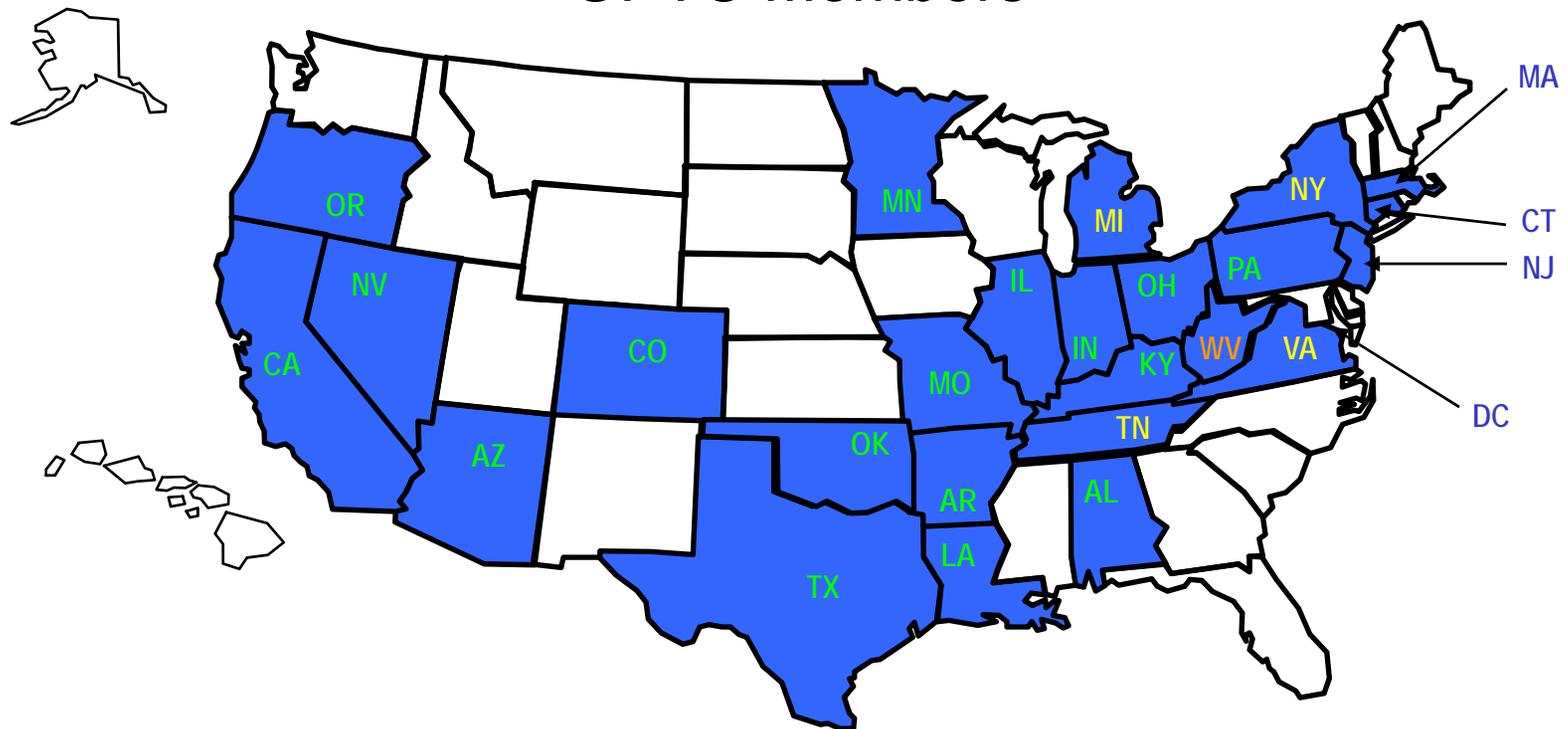
- Currently 99 members representing the distribution, manufacturing, transmission, and regulatory segments of the gas industry.

GAS PIPING

technology
committee



GPTC Members





Pennsylvania is well represented:

John Frantz – PECO (Retired)

Andrew Benedict – Opvantek

Victor Frederick, III – Omega Tools

Steve Groeber – PGW

Ralph Graeser – PA PUC (Pending)

Jim Heintz – UGI

Larry Krummert – Columbia Gas of PA

Seth Mackay-Smith – UMAC

(Dan O'Leary)

Jack Mackin – EQT (Pending)

Heather Risley – UGI



- Technically based
- Independent
- Members represent their profession



**What does the
committee do?**



- Develop Guide material to help comply with the Federal (and State) Pipeline Safety Regulations, 49 CFR Parts 191 and 192.



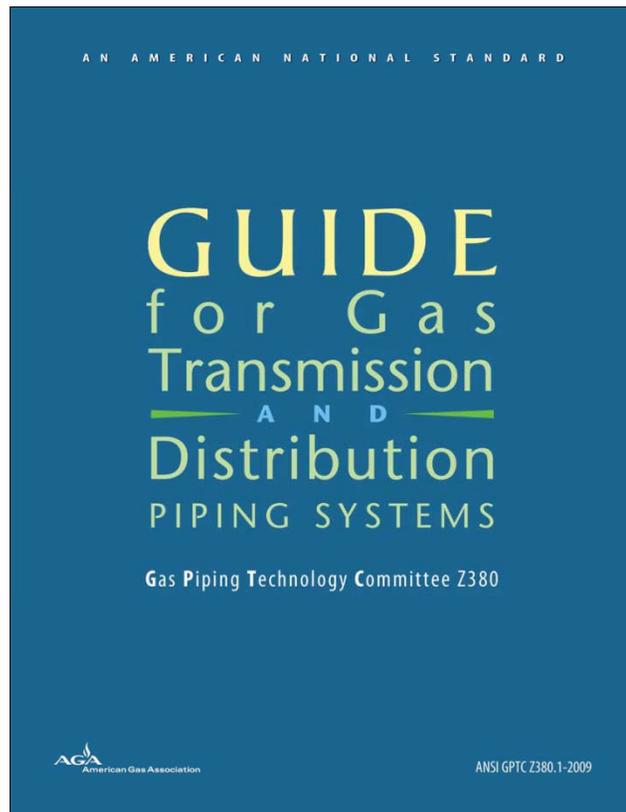
- Review NTSB & State accident reports
- Comment on ANPR & NPRM
- Respond to NTSB recommendations
- Propose changes to regulations



- Further safe application of technology
- Develop technical reports
- Publish the GPTC "Guide"



What does the Guide look like?



Prepared by the
Gas Piping Technology
Committee
ASC GPTC Z380



- Structured in the same fashion as the regulations (Parts 191 and 192).
- Includes design recommendations, material reference, and recommended practices.
- Includes “how to” supplementary recommendations related to the regulations.

192.703 FEDERAL STANDARD

§192.703 General (11-12-70)

(a)...

(b)...

(c) **Hazardous leaks must be repaired promptly.**



GUIDE MATERIAL

Appendix, GMA G-192-11

Establishes gas leakage detection guidelines.

Leak classification and action criteria table

Grade 1

Grade 2

Grade 3



What is the DIMP Guidance?



Writing DIMP Guidance

Requested by PHMSA & NPSR to develop companion DI guidance

- Provide different options for operators
- Develop in parallel with regulation, i.e., before an NPRM is published
- Based on the DIMP Phase I Report (Prepared for PHMSA in 2005)



Writing DIMP Guidance

GPTC asked to form a task group:

- Include members from outside of GPTC (particularly regulators and small operators)
- Address the needs of small operators – preserve the KISS principal
- Follow the 7 elements of Phase I
- Provide examples to indicate the level of effort expected
- Make available as a stand-alone appendix to the Guide



**What is the value of GPTC for
me?**



- Historic relationship with OPS
- Independent group not industry committee
- Technically based committee
- Membership includes Federal and State regulators and NTSB



Guide is used by:

- Federal & State regulators
- Transmission (pipeline) operators
- Distribution (LDCs) operators
- Municipalities
- Master Meter operators.



Many gas operators, both large and small, incorporate sections of the Guide in their O&M manuals.



Where are we now?

DIMP Guidance published and available

www.AGA.org (Publications)

DIMP Appendix \$49

Entire Guide \$430

Task Group formed to sync up Guidance with Final DIMP Rule

Expect publication of the new version in August 2010



GPTC

Meets three times a year

Always looking for knowledgeable members

Welcomes visitors

Next meetings

November 2010 - San Diego, California

March 2011 - Clearwater, Florida



**The Gas Piping Technology Committee
provides value to gas operators.**