



# PROPANE EXCHANGE

December 2009 \* West Virginia Propane Gas Assn.

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

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| March 22, 2010    | Spring Membership Mtg.<br>Marriott Hotel<br>Charleston, WV |
| April 10-12, 2010 | NPGA Southeastern Conv<br>Atlanta, GA                      |



## West Virginia Joint Committees Approve Propane Certification Legislation

Meeting this fall during the Interim Session of the West Virginia Legislature, joint committees of the House and State Senate sent HB 2968 for final approval in the 2010 session. The bill, if passed, gives the State Fire Commission the power to set up certification requirements for those conducting propane installations around the state.

A special task force set up by WVPGA President Heather Haldeman has proposed that the successful completion of CETP modules 1.0 Basic Principles & Practices and 4.2 Preparing and Installing Vapor Distribution Systems be accepted to meet the new law.

Reaction from State Fire Marshal Sterling Lewis has been positive toward this suggestion. Mr. Lewis will be speaking more about this at the Spring Membership Meeting being held on March 22, 2010 in Charleston, WV.

WVPGA will be surveying members to determine the extent of training needed by employees of member companies. This will be used to set up training classes. Please take a moment to audit your training records so you can respond accurately to this survey.

## News Flash:

Dues Investment Invoices for 2010 have been sent out. Your prompt payment insures that you will continue to receive all the benefits of membership in the West Virginia Propane Gas Association.

Thank you for being a member!



## Use of Energy Guys Images to Continue In 2010

The Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) has reached an agreement with Dan Warner (Propane) and John Hemphill (Electricity) to use selected images of the Energy Guys next year in connection with safety, training, and research and development initiatives.

The usage rights for 2010 cover three existing images of Propane and one of both Propane and Electricity. The terms of the agreement include options to develop new safety materials in 2010.

The rights associated with other Energy Guys materials, including TV, print, and radio advertisements, are set to expire December 31, 2009. Those materials may not be used for any purpose after the end of the year.

To preview available products that feature the four allowable images for 2010, search for Energy Guys on the Propane Marketing and Resource Catalog, or the Propane MaRC, at [www.propanemarc.com](http://www.propanemarc.com) (registration required).

The allowable Energy Guys images for 2010 may not be used in generic consumer advertisements. That's because in August 2009 a Commerce Department analysis of propane prices triggered a restriction of PERC activities under the Propane Education and Research Act of 1996. Programs designed to educate consumers about the general benefits of propane are off-limits.

For details, get in touch with Kate Caskin, senior vice president and chief marketing officer of PERC, at 202-452-8975 or [kate.caskin@propanecouncil.org](mailto:kate.caskin@propanecouncil.org).

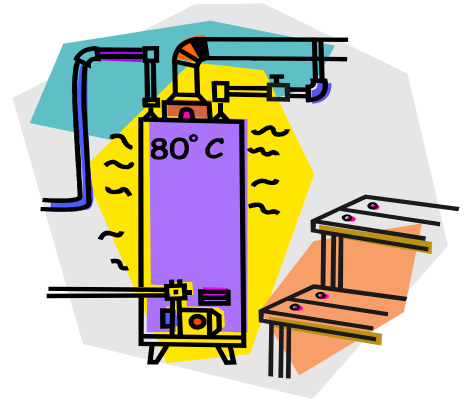
### **2010 PERC Council Budget Decreases Assessment**

The Propane Education & Research Council (PERC) on December 9 approved a budget for 2010 that reflects the Council's commitment to promoting the safe, efficient use of propane by bringing innovative products to all propane markets, including the residential, commercial, on-road, off-road, and agricultural sectors.

The budget lowers the assessment rate and reduces assessment revenues by \$6 million — the amount the Council had planned to spend on consumer education before a federal propane price analysis in August triggered a shutdown of the program.

## NEWS FROM NPGA

### DOE Proposes Increase in Energy Efficiency



*“Although DOE expects that the purchase price of the more-efficient heating products would be higher than the average prices of these products today, for most consumers, the agency states that energy efficiency gains would result in lower life cycle energy costs that would more than offset the higher purchase price.”*

In December, the Department of Energy (DOE) published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to increase the minimum energy efficiency requirements for water heaters, direct heating equipment, i.e. space heaters (such as wall furnaces and room heaters) and pool heaters.

The proposal would apply to equipment fueled by gas (including natural gas and propane), oil and electricity. The Energy Policy Conservation Act requires DOE to determine whether more stringent, amended standards for these products would be technologically feasible and economically justified, and would save a significant amount of energy.

DOE’s analyses suggest that consumers would realize benefits from the proposed standards. Although DOE expects that the purchase price of the more-efficient heating products would be higher than the average prices of these products today, for most consumers, the agency states that energy efficiency gains would result in lower life cycle energy costs that would more than offset the higher purchase price.

NPGA is reviewing the proposal to determine the impact on the propane-powered water heating market. When DOE proposed similar increases in the efficiency of residential gas furnaces a few years ago, one of our biggest concerns was the impact the changes would have on the replacement market.

Specifically, if the efficiency was raised too high, it would require unique venting requirements and likely persuade consumers to choose electricity over incurring significant costs to modify their existing venting configurations. Comments are due by February 2, 2010

Centennial Celebration



Proctor Renewals Due

Avoid Lawsuits

### **Propane Centennial Celebration Task Force – Call for Volunteers**

In preparation for the propane industry's 100th anniversary in 2012, an NPGA task force has been created to develop and implement events honoring this occasion.

The Propane Centennial Celebration Task Force is the official group in charge of incorporating the various ideas industry members have for the centennial into exciting programs, promotions, and other ventures.

As a newly-created task force, it is currently looking to increase its membership to ensure all segments of the industry have a chance to contribute to this historic event. Individuals interested in dedicating their time and skill sets to the task force, or curious to know more, should contact Peter Ferrell at [pferrell@npga.org](mailto:pferrell@npga.org).

The PCC Task Force is hosting an industry-wide design contest to create an official logo for the 2012 anniversary. This contest is open to all industry members over 18 years old with a chance to win a \$1,000 prize. Please visit NPGA's website for complete rules and to download an application form. Applicants have until **January 15, 2010** to submit their design.

### **NPGA CETP Proctor Renewal Period Scheduled**

The no-cost 2010 Proctor Renewal Period is scheduled to begin Friday, January 15, 2010 and will remain open through Monday, February 15th, 2010. Please mark your calendars accordingly!

All NPGA CETP Certification Proctors who have completed the online training process and received a Proctor ID and password must renew their registration every January to verify that they are still active in the industry and to renew their Security Commitment. NPGA also uses this renewal process to provide additional training on new or revised NPGA CETP Certification policies. As in the past and noted above, there is no fee for the renewal process.

Prior to the start of the renewal process on January 15th, we ask that all Proctors log on to their CASTLE Candidate

we ask that all Proctors log on to their CASTLE Candidate Home Page at <http://www.cetpcertification.org> to ensure that their demographic information is accurate for future reminders and notifications.

If you have any questions about the Proctor system, or the NPGA CETP Certification Program, please contact Jacqueline McCracken at [jmccracken@npga.org](mailto:jmccracken@npga.org).

### **NPGA Member Benefits Highlights** ***Avoid Lawsuits in 2010...and Beyond!***

You already know the many risks involved with today's challenging employment process. It's hard to find good people, even in this tough economy. Background screening can help you identify those persons who are not suited for your payroll.

But many businesses are now telling applicants, up front and in writing, what is expected of them and how they will be checked. A simple one-sheet document that's part of your job application can serve to deter unwanted applicants by letting them know their backgrounds will be checked.

LABORCHEX has a sample cover sheet you can customize and place on your letterhead. Just click here: [http://www.laborchex.com/html/npga\\_appcover.php](http://www.laborchex.com/html/npga_appcover.php)

LABORCHEX provides employment background screening services to NPGA members nationwide at discounted pricing. For more info: [ww.laborchex.com/npga](http://www.laborchex.com/npga) or contact Steven J. Austin 601-624-4321 [saustin@laborchex.com](mailto:saustin@laborchex.com).

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### **ARE YOU GETTING HOURS OF SERVICE WAIVERS INFO?**

Winter has come to West Virginia earlier than in past years. That means snow, sleet, freezing rain, and generally tough weather conditions to make deliveries.

When road conditions get tough and supply is tight, WVPGA works with state officials to obtain Hours of Service waivers when warranted.

This information is emailed out to everyone for whom the Association has a working email address.

Don't be left out. Make sure we have you on our list. Send your email to [wvpga@aol.com](mailto:wvpga@aol.com)



## Federal Trade Commission Extends Deadline for “Red Flag Rule”

At the request of Members of Congress, the Federal Trade Commission is delaying enforcement of the “Red Flags” Rule until June 1, 2010, for financial institutions and creditors subject to enforcement by the FTC.

The Rule was promulgated under the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act, in which Congress directed the Commission and other agencies to develop regulations requiring “creditors” and “financial institutions” to address the risk of identity theft. The resulting Red Flags Rule requires all such entities that have “covered accounts” to develop and implement written identity theft prevention programs to help identify, detect, and respond to patterns, practices, or specific activities – known as “red flags” – that could indicate identity theft.

The Commission previously delayed the enforcement of the Rule for entities under its jurisdiction until November 1, 2009. The Commission staff has continued to provide guidance to entities within its jurisdiction, both through materials posted on the dedicated Red Flags Rule Web site ([www.ftc.gov/redflagsrule](http://www.ftc.gov/redflagsrule)), and in speeches and participation in seminars, conferences and other training events to numerous groups.

The Commission also published a compliance guide for business, and created a template that enables low risk entities to create an identity theft program with an easy-to-use online form. FTC staff has published numerous general and industry-specific articles, released a video explaining the Rule, and continues to respond to inquiries from the public. To assist further with compliance, FTC staff has worked with a number of trade associations that have chosen to develop model policies or specialized guidance for their members.

The announcement that the Commission will delay enforcement of the Rule until June 1, 2010, does not affect the separate timeline of that proceeding and any possible appeals. Nor does it affect other federal agencies’ ongoing enforcement for financial institutions and creditors subject to their oversight.

### Contact Us

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