

September 16, 2022

Visit us online at [www.wpma.com](http://www.wpma.com)

WP-09-16-22

### 2023 EVENT DATES

Check out our Calendar of Events on the WPMA home page. Many of our member states have their 2023 event dates posted. If your state event is missing check back as we are updating the information as we have date confirmation.

For a current event list look no further than the bottom of this update or click [here](#) to access the WPMA home page.

### WHAT GOES INTO THE PRICE OF A GALLON OF GASOLINE?

Listen to this three (3) minute podcast where Planet Money investigates how exactly gas stations determine how much a gallon is going to cost us, and why those numbers are so volatile.

[Click Here for Podcast Link](#)

The following information provided by: **EMA**  
Energy Marketers of America



### EMA ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH GRANITE COMMUNICATIONS

The Energy Marketers of America (EMA) announced yesterday that it has signed a partnership agreement with Granite Telecommunications, a \$1.8 billion provider of communications service and technology solutions to multi-location businesses and government agencies, establishing Granite as the preferred communications provider for EMA members.

The partnership will provide a vehicle for energy marketers to reduce telecom costs, simplify billing and consolidate service and support onto a single platform.

With over two decades of experience serving customers in the energy industry, Granite has a proven track record of delivering savings and support to energy businesses of all types and sizes, from the regional provider to global super-major. Thanks to commercial wholesale agreements with the nation's largest telecom providers, Granite customers save anywhere from 25-40% on telecom and data spend. Granite customers also have access to Granite's dedicated 24/7/365 support team, which provides one point of contact for businesses' communications needs nationwide.

EMA President Rob Underwood said, "In these times of high inflation and increasingly uncertain economic conditions, every company is facing tough decisions on how best to contain costs and maintain a profitable future. With that backdrop, we are proud to announce our new partnership with Granite Telecommunications, the nation's largest wholesaler of voice, internet and wireless data solutions. For the last 20 years, Granite has been helping organizations to consolidate, simplify and optimize their telecommunications spend. We look forward to growing this new relationship and helping our membership to reduce spend on the telecom services required for operations."

"We are pleased to be selected as the preferred communications provider for Energy Marketers of America," said Granite CEO Rob Hale. "I look forward to helping EMA members streamline their telecom operations and find cost-effective tech solutions, supported by the best service team in the industry."

For more information about Granite, visit [www.granitenet.com](http://www.granitenet.com).

### TSA GRANTS RENEWAL EXEMPTION FOR TRUCK DRIVERS WITH HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ENDORSEMENT

Yesterday the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced it will temporarily exempt the TSA Security Threat Assessment (STA) requirement for Hazardous Material Endorsement (HME) holders whose endorsements expired or will expire before the end of calendar year.

The **HME Threat Assessment Program** conducts a threat assessment for any driver seeking to obtain, renew and transfer a hazardous materials endorsement on a state-issued commercial driver's license. TSA determined that it is in the public interest to grant a **temporary exemption for commercial truck drivers** renewing their HME. Those drivers have previously passed the threat assessment. Supply chain requirements have increased the demand for drivers with a valid HME, and increased HME enrollments have extended adjudication times for some drivers. This announcement supports motor carriers and the trucking industry who require qualified operators to transport hazardous materials. Also, this announcement eases the requirement that current HME holders renew their threat assessment before the expiration of their current HME.

“This exemption allows state licensing agencies to permit those with expiring, or recently expired hazardous material endorsements to remain fully authorized by TSA to transport hazardous materials during this time period,” said TSA Acting Administrator David Pekoske. “The commercial truck drivers impacted by this decision are subject to recurrent vetting during the exemption period, and their businesses will continue to provide safe and efficient transportation.”

Currently, there are 250,000 truck drivers with security threat assessments that have expired or are set to expire in 2022. About 22,500 truckers’ security threat assessments expire each month. For the duration of this exemption, states may extend the expiration date for a period of up to 180 days for all HME credentials that expire between July 1, 2022 and December 27, 2022.

TSA published a similar temporary exemption for HME renewals on April 8, 2020 to provide regulatory relief during the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure full capacity of authorized drivers were available to support an uninterrupted supply chain.

### **EMA SUBMITS COMMENTS ON EPA BULK PLANT VAPOR RECOVERY PROPOSED RULE**

***EMA Regulatory Counsel Contact: Mark S. Morgan, EMA Regulatory Counsel***

On Monday, the Energy Marketers of America (EMA) submitted comments regarding EPA’s proposed revisions to the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Gasoline Distribution facilities and the Standards of Performance for Bulk Gasoline Terminals. EPA’s proposed rule would require vapor balancing equipment both for delivering to a storage tank and loading a cargo tank at all gasoline bulk plants with a maximum design throughput of 4,000 gallons per day or more. The EPA argues the proposed rule would reduce emissions from loading operations at bulk plant facilities. Unfortunately, the EPA significantly underestimated the economic impact of the proposed rule on small business energy marketers and on the availability of gasoline in rural areas.

EMA conducted a recent survey of its members by operators representing over 650 bulk plants, a significant amount, which would be forced to close or stop selling gasoline if required to install vapor balancing equipment. EMA argued that EPA’s maximum daily design throughput is an inaccurate way of defining a compliance threshold and not representative of actual throughput. Lowering the threshold from 20,000 to 4,000 maximum daily design throughput would require most bulk plants to comply with the vapor balancing requirements regardless of their actual daily throughput. Many bulk plants have gasoline storage tanks with capacities greater than 10,000 gallons suggesting throughputs greater than 4,000 gallons per day but with actual daily throughputs of less than 4,000 gallons per day.

EMA will work with EPA to provide the information necessary to address the interests and concerns of small business gasoline bulk plant operators. [Click here](#) to read EMA’s comments.

### **MERCHANTS PAYMENTS COALITION URGES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT "CREDIT CARD COMPETITION ACT"**

This week, the Merchant Payments Coalition (MPC) sent a [letter](#) to Congress urging support for the Credit Card Competition Act. The letter, which included signatories from 230 state, regional and national industry groups including EMA and all EMA member associations, emphasized how the legislation would help fix a broken market that has allowed Wall Street megabanks and global card networks to block competition and unfairly profit at the expense of Main Street merchants and American families for far too long.

Led by Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Senator Roger Marshall (R-KS), the bipartisan “The Credit Card Competition Act,” (S.4674) would ensure retailer choice in payment routing by requiring at least two unaffiliated processors on credit cards, the same process that is used for debit card transactions. Swipe fees remain the second highest operating cost for convenience stores which costs the industry \$138 billion. EMA will continue to work with industry partners to urge passage of the legislation before years end.

### **INSIDE THE BELTWAY UPDATE**

The House and Senate were both in Washington this week for this first time since late July. Passing government funding before September 30 remains a legislative focus, however, a potential rail union strike dominated conversations in DC. On Thursday, President Biden and the National Carriers’ Conference Committee of the National Railway Labor Conference and their workers reached a deal to avert a strike. The agreement still must be ratified by the unions’ rank-and-file members, who will likely approve the deal between September 28 and mid-October.

In Congress, Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) continued efforts to attach his permitting reform proposal to a government funding Continuing Resolution (CR). Numerous Congressional Members, on both sides of the aisle, have pushed back on Senator Manchin’s efforts. Even so, permitting reform was a condition to secure Sen. Manchin’s support of the Inflation Reduction Act. Senate Majority Leader Schumer is expected to stand firm on his commitment to Manchin and attach permitting reform to the CR later this month.

Meanwhile, EPA Administrator Michael Regan said the EPA is working to enact a rule that would allow the year-round sale of E-15. EPA’s announcement comes after a successful legal challenge by oil refiners led to a court overturning an earlier Trump-era E15 rule. EMA has repeatedly warned both the EPA and the White House of the limitations involving the sale of E15 for the majority of retail gasoline stations across the nation. Those limitations include compatibility issues with existing UST system components, motorcycles, boats and small gasoline powered equipment and downstream supply chain disruptions. Supporters of year-round E-15 sales claim that it will provide curb high gas prices and reduces overall gasoline emissions. In a letter to the EPA, NATSO and SIGMA said, “[t]his common-sense step would provide much-needed price relief at the pump while enhancing America’s energy security and improving gasoline’s emissions characteristics. Allowing the year-round sale of E15 in all parts of the country would help enhance supply and lower prices for all American fuel consumers.” Administrator Regan said the EPA intends to finalize the rule before summer 2023.

### **EMA APPLAUDS FREIGHT RAIL AGREEMENT**

EMA welcomed yesterday's news that tentative agreements had been reached to prevent a national rail shutdown. A rail strike would have created significant challenges for our industry, our customers, and our nation's economy, and we are pleased that this crisis was averted. We urge all parties to continue to work toward a final resolution. For the full story, [see see U.S. rail strike averted, but labor deal faces tough union votes \(msn.com\)](#).

### **DHS, FBI AND NSA RECOMMENDATIONS TO PROTECT YOUR COMPANY FROM IRANIAN CYBER WARFARE**

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the FBI, the National Security Agency (NSA), and others, released a [joint Cybersecurity Advisory](#) (CSA) with details on protecting against cyber activity by "advanced persistent threat" (APT) actors affiliated with the Iranian Government's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

The U.S. agencies assess that critical infrastructure sectors and organizations in the U.S. are being actively targeted. After gaining access to a network, the APT actors likely determine a course of action based on their perceived value of the data, which could lead them to encrypting data for ransom and/or exfiltrating data.

In addition to enforcing multi-factor authentication, making offline backups of your data, securing remote desktop protocol (RDP), the agencies encourage organizations to immediately patch software affected by vulnerabilities that are identified in the advisory. All companies are encouraged to review the [joint Cybersecurity Advisory](#) for details on recommended mitigations.

### **WEEKEND READS:**

[New England Delegation Calls for President Biden to Lower Energy Costs by Releasing Oil from Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve](#)

[Oil prices could spike in winter, Yellen says](#)

[Explainer: The G7's price cap on Russian oil begins to take shape](#)

[Manchin's big energy deal draws pushback from many Dems](#)

[Retail electricity prices continue rapid rise; US homes could pay more than 15 cents/kWh next year: EIA](#)

[California's Green Dreams Mean Adding More EVs to a Ricketty Grid](#)

[Oregon adopts Calif fire tactic, shuts power amid high winds](#)

[Stellantis Engine Parts Workers Go on Strike Amid Shift to EVs](#)

### **ANNOUNCING OUR FALL MEETING SPEAKERS!**

EMA is pleased to announce the following speakers to address energy marketers attending EMA's Fall Meeting at the NACS Show.

- *The Motor Fuels Committee will feature Jeff Carpenter of Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program (HBIIIP).*
- *The Heating Fuels Committee will feature Michael Devine of National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA) and Jeff Carpenter of HBIIIP.*
- *The Convenience Store Committee will feature Jim Duke of Altria Group Distribution Company. The Board of Directors Meeting will feature Kyle May of Reynolds American Inc.*

Speaker information is available [here](#).

### **FEDERATED INSURANCE EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES NETWORK HR QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

Federated Insurance's HR Question of the Month focuses on employment-related practices liability issues.

This month's question is: Revisions to Company Policies? When we revise a company policy, can we just send the updated policy to our employees, or should we also have employees sign some type of acknowledgement form? If the latter, what do we do if an employee refuses to sign the acknowledgement form? Please click [here](#) to read the response.

For additional information or to discuss this in further detail, please contact your **Federated** regional representative or EMA's National Account Executive **Jon Medo** at 800.533.0472 for any additional information or risk management questions. Federated is a Partner in EMA's Board of Directors Council.

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## **ESTATE & BUSINESS PLANNING FOR OIL & GAS OWNERS**

### **How to Keep Your Royalty Interest in the Family**

Evans & Davis, a long time partner of Federated Insurance is hosting an estate and business planning webinar focused on how proper estate planning benefits mineral, royalty, and working interest owners. This webinar is scheduled for September 27 at 7:00 PM (CT). If you are not available at that time, no worries, go ahead and register and they will send you a recording afterward.

September 27, 2022  
7:00 PM CDT

[Register for Webinar on September 27th at 7 PM \(CT\)](#)

## **CYBER SECURITY WEBINAR**

### **Webinar #1 Cyber Ready**

Could you complete the security checklist and meet all the guidelines? Here's your chance to get some tips from the experts. Justine Avera of EPB&B Insurance, Peter Talmage, and Etay Maor of CATO Networks are teaming up in a FREE dynamic series of webinars to provide valuable information and help answer your questions.

*Webinar #1: Cyber Ready*

- What to do when a cyber-attack takes your business offline.
- How to protect yourself and your business from a cyber breach.
- Cyber security and data breach insurance can help you plan, respond, and financially protect your business.
- How cyber readiness business practices can help you grow your business.
- And More

September 29, 2022  
12 pm – 1 pm. PDT

[Click Here To Register](#)

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## **PLEASE NOTE UPCOMING DATES FOR WPMA EVENTS**

October 17, 2022 - HEMA Golf Tournament - Oahu Country Club - Honolulu, HI

December 8, 2022 - Washington Holiday Party - Topgolf - Renton, WA

**February 21-23, 2023 - WPMA Convention & EXPO - Mirage Hotel- Las Vegas, NV**

April 27-28, 2023 – Nevada Big Dogs – Red Rock Hotel/Sienna Golf Course – Las Vegas, NV

June 6-7, 2023 – MPMCSA Montana Convention – Fairmont Hot Springs – Fairmont, MT

June 19-21, 2023 – WIED Washington Convention – Suncadia Lodge, Cle Elum, WA

July 16-18, 2023 – OFA Oregon Conference – Sunriver Resort – Sunriver, OR

August 2-4, 2023 – IMP&CSA Idaho Convention – Sun Valley Resort – Sun Valley, ID



**Petro Pete: "Never trust atoms; they make up everything."**

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