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Pipeline Conference Seeks To Clear Up Uncertain Oil And Gas Picture

HOUSTON, TX, Jan. 9 – With confusion reigning throughout the oil and gas business, a wide-range of experts will discuss the rapidly changing energy market at *Pipeline & Gas Journal's* 11th Annual Pipeline Opportunities Conference March 24 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Houston's Galleria district. The event is co-sponsored by the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA) and the INGAA Foundation.

"After years of booming growth in oil and gas, the industry may have become a victim of its own success," said conference chairman, Jeff Share, editor of *Pipeline & Gas Journal (P&GJ)* and conference founder.

"Oil prices are in free fall, natural gas prices aren't what producers would like, and we have an administration in Washington that continues to be at odds with the industry, though quick to take credit for the industry's successes," Share said, adding that the continued controversy over the proposed Keystone Pipeline is a prime example of how politics and misleading information have muddled the nation's energy picture.

The timely conference will provide up-to-date information on developments that directly and indirectly affect the pipeline business, including prospects for new construction projects, integrity management of existing pipelines, methane emissions, LNG exports, the potential effects of a long-term, low-price environment, and the ramifications of the Keystone Pipeline issue on future infrastructure.

The keynote speaker is Adam Sieminski, head of the federal Energy Information Administration, which is considered to be the best source of detailed energy information. His talk will focus on the latest oil and gas projections as the shale boom continues and the national/international factors that will be driving the industry over the coming months, including the outlook for LNG and crude oil exports.

Starting off the conference is a panel from Southern Methodist University's renowned Maguire Energy Institute with Bruce Bullock, director of the Institute; Bernard Weinstein, associate director of the Institute; Joe Dancy, adjunct professor of energy and environmental law, and Mike Davis, clinical

professor of strategy and business economics who specializes in global economic issues. The panelists will detail economic challenges and other factors that can make or break energy companies.

In addition to new construction, management and maintenance of the nation's immense but aging pipeline infrastructure has become one of the industry's most important and expensive problems, particularly for the regulated local gas distribution companies. Spearheading the effort on behalf of the LDCs is the American Gas Association, which is presenting a panel focused on what the association and its members are doing to make their systems safer, more efficient and cleaner. Lori Traweek, AGA's senior vice president and chief operating officer, will moderate the panel that includes Cheryl Campbell, vice president of Engineering and Operations for Xcel Energy and AGA's Operating Section chairperson; Tal Centers, vice president of System Integrity and Operations for CenterPoint Energy, and Jorge Cardenas, vice president of Asset Management and Centralized Services for Public Service Electric & Gas of New Jersey.

One of the brightest opportunities on the horizon for North American pipeline companies is Mexico, which is rapidly denationalizing its oil and gas industry and has already attracted a growing number of U.S.-based operators. Mayer Brown LLP represents many companies either doing business or looking to work in Mexico and members of the law firm will explain those opportunities and challenges for construction contractors, engineers and service companies.

BENITEK Energy, a leading consulting company in North America, will provide a detailed outlook for natural gas and oil pipeline projects in various regions of the country, particularly in the shale basins. This will mark BENITEK's fourth year at the conference.

Don Santa, president and CEO of INGAA and the INGAA Foundation, will give the inside track of developments in Washington, D.C. with an update on new and proposed regulations that could expedite or impede future projects.

Cliff Johnson, president of the Pipeline Research Council International, will explain some of the latest technologies and tools being developed in an effort to improve pipeline safety and efficiency.

The Pipeline Opportunities Conference and *Pipeline & Gas Journal* are produced and managed by Oildom Publishing Company of Texas. For conference information including the agenda and sponsorship details, visit pipelineopportunities.com or contact Jeff Share at jshare@oildom.com or Karen Francis at kfrancis@oildom.com.