



The Distribution Public Awareness Council (DPAC) is a consortium of natural gas utility companies that addresses the unique challenges specific to natural gas distribution public awareness activities.

Unlike other natural gas industry organizations that aim to support the entire natural gas industry or which provide programs targeting operators in specific geographic regions, DPAC members are interested in working collaboratively to address the similar challenges and decisions they face when implementing or executing public awareness activities as they specifically relate to distribution companies.

DPAC strives to provide a unique forum for a collective voice on matters of concern to distribution operator members with a view toward sharing information to allow ongoing improvement of each company's Public Awareness programs and influencing consistent interpretations from regulating entities.

DPAC Goals:

- Share best practices
- Conduct peer reviews and benchmarking
- Develop consensus standards
- Influence industry standards managed by other organizations

Key Points:

- Member-driven and member-run volunteer organization
- Monthly conference call with agenda items including:
 - Best practices spotlight
 - RP 1162 and other industry updates
 - Audit and evaluation updates
- Sustaining member of Pipeline Association for Public Awareness (PAPA)
- Annual face-to-face meeting

Past Initiatives:

- Developed “Detect. Dash. Dial.” infographics for members to further provide consistent safety messaging for distribution companies.
- Developed standardized evaluation questions for all public awareness audiences to benchmark and share key performance metrics to measure the effectiveness of public awareness program outreach.
- Member companies’ benchmarking report of Affected Public effectiveness evaluations.
- Gained membership to API RP1162 review board to provide distribution company perspective on Public Awareness.
- Influenced industry standards for “near miss” events managed by the American Petroleum Institute.
- Provided guidance for the 2013 Gas Distribution DIRT report content and analysis.
- Represented AGA on the RP1162 v. 3 rewrite to provide distribution company input.
- Member companies’ benchmarking report of Excavator effective evaluations.
- Survey of Excavators who did not call 811 prior to digging.
- Support CGA efforts to promote 811 awareness during national events.

Possible Future Initiatives:

- Develop consensus-based definitions and standards for the natural gas distribution industry.
- Participate in the development and review of industry standards managed by other industry groups.

Membership & Costs:

- DPAC is open to all gas utility distribution operators in the United States, ensuring that members are consistently interacting with their peers who run similar programs or oversee similar activities.
- Dues are determined on an annual basis and used for shared administrative costs and fees for approved joint projects.
 - Charter members: Operators with more than 700,000 customers or that operate gas distribution systems in three or more states - \$5,000
 - Affiliate members: Operators with fewer than 700,000 customers or that operate gas distribution systems in fewer than three states - \$1,000

Current Members:

Black Hills Energy • CenterPoint Energy • Colorado Springs Utilities • Eversource Energy • NiSource/Columbia Gas/NIPSCO • ONE Gas • Pacific Gas & Electric Co. • Puget Sound Energy • Rhode Island Energy • San Diego Gas & Electric/Southern California Gas Co. • Southern California Edison/Catalina • Southwest Gas • Summit Utilities • Xcel Energy

For more information contact DPAC via email at DPAC@pipelineawareness.info.