

# 2026 Spring Gas Conference & Expo

March 23-25, 2026, Columbia, SC

Time:	Sessions	Track
Sunday, March 22, 2026		
3:00pm - 7:00pm	Exhibitor Move-in	
3:00pm - 5:00pm	Registration Opens (breakfast and lunch on your own)	
Monday, March 23, 2026		
8:00am - 11:00am	Exhibitor Move-in	
10:00am	Registration Opens (breakfast on your own)	
11:30am - 1:00pm	Exhibit Hall Lunch - Meet the Exhibitors and Kick Off Conference	
1:00pm - 2:30pm	Inspecting Installation of Pipelines During Construction	Track B: Field Ops & Measurement
	Distribution System and Integrity Management Overview	Track A: Engineering & Risk Management
	Horizontal Directional Drilling	Track A: Engineering & Risk Management
	2026 Regulatory Updates	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
	Mutual Aid Roundtable	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
	Verification and Calibration	Track B: Field Ops & Measurement
	Introduction to the Natural Gas Industry	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
2:30pm - 3:00pm	Refreshment Break	30 min in exhibit hall
3:00pm - 4:00pm	Keynote: General Session - Gary Hines	
4:00pm - 5:00pm	3 15 minute Tech Demos and Exhibit Hall Open	
5:00-6:30pm	Exhibit Hall Reception	
Tuesday, March 24, 2026		
7:30am - 5:30pm	Registration	
7:30am-8:30am	Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall	
8:30am - 10:00am	4 Proven Steps to Elevate Your Field Operations Performance and Culture	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
	Hot Tapping & Line Intervention Fundamentals – How To Choose The Correct Fittings for Your Pipeline	Track A: Engineering & Risk Management
	Basics of Electronic Measurement	Track B: Field Ops & Measurement
	Direct Use of Natural Gas vs. Electrification	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
	Panel or Roundtable – Building and Managing Vendor and Consultant Relationships	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
	Cathodic Protection: Part 1	Track A: Engineering & Risk Management
	Beyond Meter Set - Residential	Track B: Field Ops & Measurement
10:00am - 10:30am	Refreshment Break	30-min
10:30am - 12:00pm	Installation Practices of Measurement Equipment	Track A: Engineering & Risk Management
	Part 1: Station Design (District Stations)	Track A: Engineering & Risk Management
	Peer to Leader - Part 1	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
	Storm Response within Gas Utilities	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
	Cathodic Protection: Part 2	Track A: Engineering & Risk Management
	Tapping & Stopping Mueller- First Course	Track B: Field Ops & Measurement
	Inside Leak Investigation & Detection	Track B: Field Ops & Measurement

12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch with Exhibitors	
1:00pm-2:30pm	Part 2: Station Design (Gate Stations)	Track A: Engineering & Risk Management
	Hiring Practices for Building High-Performing Teams	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
	Cross Bore w/ Camera Demo	Track B: Field Ops & Measurement
	Peer to Leader - Part 2	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
	Transmission Pipeline Design	Track A: Engineering & Risk Management
	Outside Leak Investigation & Detection	Track B: Field Ops & Measurement
	Cybersecurity & Cloud Based Solutions - What's my risk?	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
	2:30pm - 3:00pm	Refreshment Break in exhibit hall
3:00pm - 4:00pm	Gas Chromatography	Track A: Engineering & Risk Management
	Transmission System Overview & Operational Aspect of Transmission Pipeline	Track A: Engineering & Risk Management
	Pickling New Pipelines & Odorization	Track B: Field Ops & Measurement
	The Future of the Workplace: Attract, Engage & Retain Talent	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
	Growth Is Coming: Growth Opportunities for the Natural Gas Industry	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
	LNG Peaking Lessons Learned	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
	Right of Way Operational Maintenance	Track B: Field Ops & Measurement
4:00pm - 5:00pm	Tech Demos and Exhibit Hall Hours	
5:00pm - 6:30pm	Reception & Cornhole with Exhibitors	
Wednesday, March 25, 2026		
7:30am - 12:00pm	Registration	
7:30am - 8:30am	Breakfast with Exhibitors	
8:30am - 10:00am	Pigging Fundamentals and the Advancement of In-Line Inspection Technology	Track A: Engineering & Risk Management
	Locating 101 part 1	Track B: Field Ops & Measurement
	Gas Quality Measurement	Track B: Field Ops & Measurement
	Leading a Multi-Generational Workforce	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
	Safety Hot Topics- Panel	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
	Peer to Leader - Part 3	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
	System Planning Solutions and System Mapping	Track A: Engineering & Risk Management
10:00am - 10:30am	Refreshment Break	15-min
10:30am-12:00pm	The New Mix: Navigating the Convergence of Traditional and Emerging Gases in U.S. Energy Markets	
	Tracking & Traceability	Track A: Engineering & Risk Management
	Locating 101 part 2	Track B: Field Ops & Measurement
	AI and Predictive Analytics for Natural Gas Operations	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
	Measurement Meters - Startup and Troubleshooting - Positive Displacement Meters	Track B: Field Ops & Measurement
	Advanced Leak Survey Technology	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch	
1:30pm - 7:30pm	Exhibitors move out	
1:00pm-2:30pm	Regulator Relief Selection and Sizing	Track A: Engineering & Risk Management
	Tapping and Stopping Mueller Second Course	Track B: Field Ops & Measurement
	Measurement Meters - Startup and Troubleshooting - Inferential Meters	Track B: Field Ops & Measurement
	M3: The Monetization, Measurement and Management of Fugitive Emissions and the Future	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
	AI and Predictive Analytics for Natural Gas Forecasting	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
	Transmission Line Leakage - A Lesson Learned on How to Find Leaks Before They Find You	Track A: Engineering & Risk Management

	Overview of Hydrogen and Hydrogen Blending	TBD based on new topic
2:30pm-2:45pm	Refreshment Break	
2:45pm - 4:15pm	Cross Compression	Track A: Engineering & Risk Management
	Emergency Response and Incident Investigation	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
	Odorization Measurement	Track A: Engineering & Risk Management
	NiSource on Building a Measurement-based Emissions Inventory for Internal ESG Reporting	Track C: Leadership & Innovation
	Measurement Fundamentals Overview	Track B: Field Ops & Measurement
	Valve Maintenance and Troubleshooting	Track B: Field Ops & Measurement
	Residential Smart Metering	Track B: Field Ops & Measurement
4:15pm - 5:00pm		

Sessions	Proposed Description	Track
<b>Hiring Practices for Building High-Performing Teams</b>	This session focuses on effective strategies for attracting, evaluating, and hiring top talent in the natural gas industry. Attendees will learn how to design structured interviews, identify competencies that predict performance, and avoid common pitfalls in the selection process. The discussion will include sourcing approaches, assessment techniques, and practical tips for distinguishing between good candidates and truly high-performing employees. Real-world examples will demonstrate how	Leadership
<b>Mutual Aid Roundtable</b>	This session brings together leaders from operating companies to explore the process of providing and receiving mutual aid during challenging operational events. Panelists will share experiences from both perspectives, highlighting coordination strategies, resource management, and communication practices that make mutual aid effective. Attendees will gain practical insights into planning, executing, and improving mutual aid programs under complex conditions. Lessons learned from real-world examples will emphasize how mutual aid strengthens industry resilience and enhances emergency response capabilities.	Leadership
<b>Panel or Roundtable – Building and Managing Vendor and Consultant Relationships</b>	This panel brings together leaders from natural gas companies to share practical insights on creating and maintaining effective relationships with vendors and consultants. Panelists will highlight real-world experiences in partner selection, expectation-setting, and aligning on project goals and performance metrics. The discussion will explore challenges encountered in day-to-day collaboration, as well as strategies for contract management, communication, and continuous improvement.	Leadership
<b>Compliance Audits Are Coming - Are you prepared? Panel</b>	This session provides guidance on preparing for audits, with a focus on commission audits and their specific requirements. Attendees will learn best practices for organizing documentation, ensuring compliance, and identifying potential gaps before an audit begins. The session will also cover key considerations for general audits, including recordkeeping, reporting, and operational consistency. Practical examples will highlight strategies to streamline the audit process, reduce findings, and maintain regulatory compliance.	
<b>Proposed session: 2026 Regulatory Updates</b>	This session helps natural gas professionals stay informed about recent and upcoming regulatory changes and their implications for operations. Attendees will review key updates, compliance requirements, and emerging trends that could impact day-to-day field and office activities. The discussion will include strategies for communicating changes across teams, integrating new requirements into standard practices, and maintaining ongoing compliance. Practical examples and lessons learned will demonstrate how staying proactive can reduce risk, improve operational efficiency, and ensure regulatory alignment.	
<b>AI and Predictive Analytics for Natural Gas Operations</b>	This session explores how predictive analytics and AI can be applied directly in the field to enhance pipeline and facility operations. Attendees will learn how these technologies can help anticipate equipment failures, optimize maintenance schedules, and improve real-time monitoring of system performance. The discussion will include examples of predictive models identifying anomalies, reducing downtime, and supporting safer, more efficient operations. Practical guidance will demonstrate how operators can integrate these tools into daily field workflows to drive measurable improvements in reliability and operational efficiency.	Leadership
<b>AI and Predictive Analytics for Natural Gas Forecasting</b>	Training, customer interface, compliance,	Leadership

<b>Growth Is Coming: Growth Opportunities for the Natural Gas Industry</b>	<p>This session explores the exciting growth opportunities emerging across the natural gas industry and what they mean for companies and operators. Attendees will hear about market trends, regional and global demand projections, and areas showing strong potential for expansion. The discussion will highlight how infrastructure development, technological innovation, and evolving customer needs are shaping new opportunities. Practical insights will help attendees identify ways to position their operations for growth, make informed investment decisions, and capitalize on the industry's evolving landscape.</p>	Leadership
<b>Tech Demos</b>		N/A
<b>4 Proven Steps to Elevate Your Field Operations Performance and Culture</b>	<p>This interactive session helps you define your culture, look for areas to improve, and create a roadmap for improving your team's performance and retention. Gain understanding on how your people and culture can lead to enhanced long-term efficiencies and leave with the know-how to create your own practical plan to implement proven strategies within your own organization. Key competencies for this course include, challenges facing market leaders today and, in the future, practical solutions to improve inspector and field operation performance, a discussion on three performance case study's approaches and their results, cultural alignment and enhancement, and high performance – creating a people-first culture. Learning Objectives: Learn how to recognize and assess your organizational culture. Learn to recognize and recruit high-performance field leaders capable of driving your culture, performance, efficiency, and retention of your workforce.</p>	Leadership
<b>Advanced Leak Survey Technology</b>	<p>The presentation will share the experiences of Duke Energy during their 4+ year pilot project using satellite imagery to detect methane on their system. The presenter will discuss the benefits of using advanced methane leak detection technologies such as satellite imagery to drive toward their Net Zero Methane goals. Duke Energy views advanced leak detection as a 'system of things' and recognizes that no single tool is a silver bullet. Other pilot projects with continuous monitoring devices will also be discussed. Successes, surprises and lessons learned from the pilot projects will be shared. Participants will also learn about Duke Energy's scaling plans and the regulatory path forward as they navigate in an environmental climate with increased scrutiny around the natural gas industry.</p>	Leadership
<b>An Operators Roundtable - Rin 1 &amp; Rin 2 Impact (TIMP)</b>	<p>Possible General TIMP session description to replace last year: This session provides a detailed overview of TIMPs and their importance in ensuring pipeline safety and reliability. Attendees will examine how risk assessment, data analysis, and inspection planning form the foundation of an effective program. The discussion will include integration of in-line inspection results, direct assessments, and preventative maintenance activities. Practical considerations for program implementation and continuous improvement will also be addressed.</p>	

<b>Cybersecurity &amp; Cloud Based Solutions - What's my risk?</b>	This class equips natural gas professionals with essential knowledge about cybersecurity threats and cloud-based solutions in the energy sector. Participants will explore potential risks, common vulnerabilities, and best practices for protecting critical infrastructure. The session covers key topics such as data protection, threat detection, and response strategies tailored for natural gas operations.	Leadership
<b>Direct Use of Natural Gas vs. Electrification</b>	Electricity is essential in today's world, and most people understand why. But natural gas is also essential, and unfortunately many people don't understand why. This class takes a look at what "electrification" really means and explains three paths to making it happen. Then the participants learn specifics of why natural gas is essential and what the future of natural gas looks like. Bill summarizes why there are multiple reasons to be optimistic about our future.	Leadership
<b>Leading a Multi- Generational Workforce</b>	This 90-minute class equips natural gas professionals with the tools to lead diverse, multi-generational teams effectively while fostering an inclusive culture. Participants will explore how generational differences impact communication, collaboration, and workplace expectations. Through real-world examples and interactive discussions, attendees will gain practical strategies for leveraging diverse perspectives, addressing biases, and building inclusive team dynamics that drive innovation and operational success.	Leadership
<b>Emergency Response and Incident Investigation</b>	Working within the utility industry, most of you are already very familiar with emergency response. How to establish a scene, who to contact, reporting metrics, and the associated risks. In today's presentation, we will look at how human behavior impacts emergency response, the effects of trauma, and preparing your workforce to manage stress related event response.	Leadership
<b>Gaining Community Support for Natural Gas</b>	While natural gas use continues to grow, and individual citizens love their natural gas appliances, there are many community organizations which are focused on limiting or eliminating the use of natural gas. How do we turn those negative feelings around? Bill provides practical examples of how to do this in the areas of Safety, Domestic Availability, Efficiency, Support for Renewables, and GHG Emissions.	Leadership
<b>Introduction to the Natural Gas Industry</b>	An introduction to the natural gas industry covering wellhead to burner tip. Class is designed to increase participant understanding of the entire value chain and how they work together.	Leadership
<b>LNG Peaking Lessons Learned</b>	This 90-minute session offers natural gas professionals valuable insights from real-world LNG peaking operations. Attendees will explore lessons learned in areas such as supply planning, peak demand management, operational challenges, and safety best practices. The session will include case studies highlighting successes, obstacles, and solutions encountered during LNG peaking events.	Leadership

<b>M3: The Monetization, Measurement and Management of Fugitive Emissions and the Future</b>	<p>Fugitive emissions monitoring began decades ago for refineries and gas processing plants that had thousands of connectors, valves, pressure relief devices, open-ended lines, and pumps that were possible sources of fugitive emissions. The monitoring was performed using Method 21, a time-consuming and costly process. The oil and gas industry saw a major shift in 2012 with the adoption of NSPS OOOO that brought requirements for reducing VOC emissions to the upstream and midstream segments of oil and gas. Then in 2015, NSPS OOOOa introduced fugitive emissions monitoring (LDAR) to the upstream and midstream segments. In addition to multiple states that have implemented their own version of fugitive emissions monitoring over the past several years, there are the currently proposed NSPS OOOOb, EG OOOOc and Appendix K that will further impact the fugitive emissions monitoring requirements nationwide for new and existing sources. There is further a relationship with the Inflation Reduction Act and Greenhouse Gas reporting that impacts a fugitive emissions strategy and the industries future</p>	Leadership
<b>NiSource on Building a Measurement-based Emissions Inventory for Internal ESG Reporting</b>	<p>This session explores the steps required to build a robust, measurement-based emissions inventory to support ESG reporting. Participants will learn how to identify relevant data sources, integrate measurement tools, and develop accurate accounting methods. The session will cover alignment with internal reporting needs as well as external frameworks and standards. Case examples will illustrate how measurement-based inventories improve transparency and operational credibility.</p>	Leadership
<b>Overview of Hydrogen and Hydrogen Blending</b>	<p>Explore the transformative potential of hydrogen in the energy sector with our session, "Hydrogen: Demonstration into Operations." This talk will delve into three critical areas:</p> <p>Hydrogen Basics and General Principles: Gain a solid understanding of hydrogen's properties and its role in decarbonization.</p> <p>Hydrogen Blending Demonstration Projects: Learn how to ideate, develop, and safely execute hydrogen blending projects, including key considerations and best practices.</p> <p>Translating Demonstration Learnings to System Deployment: Discover how to effectively apply insights from demonstration projects to broader system deployments, ensuring safety and reliability for utility customers.</p> <p>Designed for utility professionals, this session aims to advance knowledge and implementation of hydrogen technologies.</p>	TBD based on new topic
<b>Peer to Leader</b>	<p>A workshop designed to help individuals transitioning from a peer-level role to a leadership position within the natural gas industry, focusing on developing essential leadership skills like team dynamics, communication strategies, conflict resolution, and performance management, to effectively lead a team and navigate the challenges of a supervisory role.</p>	Leadership
<b>Peer to Leader - Part 2</b>	<p>A workshop designed to help individuals transitioning from a peer-level role to a leadership position within the natural gas industry, focusing on developing essential leadership skills like team dynamics, communication strategies, conflict resolution, and performance management, to effectively lead a team and navigate the challenges of a supervisory role.</p>	Leadership

<b>Peer to Leader - Part 3</b>	A workshop designed to help individuals transitioning from a peer-level role to a leadership position within the natural gas industry, focusing on developing essential leadership skills like team dynamics, communication strategies, conflict resolution, and performance management, to effectively lead a team and navigate the challenges of a supervisory role.	Leadership
<b>Safety Hot Topics- Panel</b>	This panel discussion brings together industry experts to explore current safety challenges and emerging trends in natural gas operations. Participants will gain valuable insights into topics such as incident prevention, regulatory updates, safety culture enhancement, and new technologies for risk management. Panelists will share real-world experiences and best practices, providing practical takeaways for enhancing safety performance.	Leadership
<b>Storm Response within Gas Utilities</b>	<p><b>Last Year:</b> This session's content includes best practices and lessons learned during storm response with a specific focus on the impact to the Carolinas during Hurricane Helene.</p> <p><b>Updated proposal:</b> This session shares best practices and lessons learned from storm and hurricane response within gas utilities. Attendees will review planning, coordination, and field execution strategies that improve resiliency during severe weather events. Case studies will highlight how utilities balance safety, customer needs, and system restoration under challenging conditions.</p>	Leadership
<b>The Future of the Workplace: Attract, Engage &amp; Retain Talent</b>	The presentation will focus around Workforce Development, key strategies for recruiting, engaging, and retaining talent, with a focus on labor force participation across different generations both at a national and local level. I'll be covering the importance of leveraging innovative recruitment techniques to attract a diverse and skilled workforce, including Baby Boomers, Generation X, Millennials, and Generation Z, while also considering the factors leading to lower participation rates among some groups. Engaging employees through continuous professional development, mentorship programs, and a positive workplace culture was highlighted as essential for maintaining high levels of job satisfaction and productivity across all generations. Retention strategies focused on competitive compensation, career advancement opportunities, and fostering a supportive and inclusive environment to reduce turnover rates, particularly in light of the varying needs and expectations of different generational cohorts.	Leadership
<b>Unconscious Bias – Improving Team Dynamics</b>	In this class we will explore how the unconscious is a powerful mechanism that can dictate behavior and shape interactions. Left unchecked, they can move or act in an unconscious manner. This may cause unintended harm to others. This class will cultivate the skills needed to advance the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion.	Leadership



<p><b>The New Mix: Navigating the Convergence of Traditional and Emerging Gases in U.S. Energy Markets</b></p>	<p>As global energy markets evolve, the integration of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>), renewable natural gas (RNG), and biogas is reshaping the traditional natural gas landscape. These emerging fuels are not only diversifying supply portfolios but also driving innovation in infrastructure, policy, and commercial models. Internationally, regions are accelerating adoption to meet decarbonization goals, creating ripple effects across supply chains and investment strategies.</p> <p>For the U.S. market, this shift presents both opportunities and challenges. The growing export demand for LNG, coupled with domestic interest in low-carbon fuels like RNG and hydrogen, is prompting a reevaluation of pipeline hydraulics, storage, and distribution systems. This presentation will explore how the convergence of these energy sources is influencing U.S. market dynamics, regulatory frameworks, and long-term planning—highlighting the strategic role of North American operators in a rapidly transforming global energy ecosystem.</p>	
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