

The Natural News

Iowa Natural Gas Association

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DON'T COMPROMISE SAFETY!

Use the Latest Fuel Gas Rules

With revisions based on more than 100 proposals from the field, the 2006 edition of NFPA 54: National fuel gas code provides a more effective means of ensuring fuel gas safety on consumers' premises. Fully up-to-date with current techniques and products, this edition includes clarified text ...grouped "piping," "equipment," and "venting" chapters...and other changes that boost efficiency and eliminate confusion.

Here's how improvements affect you on the job:

- New data helps you properly size longer installations. Cozens of piping sizing tables have been extended with information for all piping up to 2000 feet.
- A first time requirements addresses support of rooftop piping to protect against wind damage
- A new venting requirement resolves questions on vents in unheated garages and other areas.
- Other revisions make the Code consistent with the 2005 NEC, the 2003 Uniform Plumbing Code and other documents.

Minimize hazards with the field's best practices

NFPA 54 reflects the experience of many individuals and organizations. To help you apply today's protocols for fuel gas Safety:

- More than 800 diagrams and graphics clarify concepts
- Annexes provide "how-to" advice about sizing and capacities of gas piping, and sizing of venting systems serving appliances. You'll also find suggested method of checking for leakage as well as suggested emergency procedures for gas leaks.

"217 – 203 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS VOTE IS A WAKE-UP CALL TO CONGRESS – CONSUMERS DEMAND ACTION BY CONGRESS TO END 24 YEAR BLANKET OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF MORATORIUM"

"The vote of 217 to 203 is a wake up call to Congress. Consumers from every walk of life are looking to Congress to accept responsibility and be accountable to the American Public to deal quickly with the natural gas crises," said Paul N. Cicio, President of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA).

Consumers are counting on the government to do its part to remove barriers to increase supply of natural gas. We have known reserves about 420 TCF of natural gas in our offshore areas and the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard has essentially never been explored. We only consume about 22 TCF per year. Experience in the Gulf of Mexico says the more we explore...the more we find. The point is- our nation's energy security needs requires that Congress put an environmentally responsible framework in place that provides access to the Outer Continental Shelf.

The US natural gas crisis is now in its sixth year and there is no end in sight. Despite record well completions, natural gas production has fallen for 19.6 TCF in year 2001 to 18.2 TCF in year 2005. We are experiencing and acceleration of production decline from existing fields that average only 18% from 1990 – 1995, and are now estimated at 32%.

Unfortunately, the US is balancing its natural gas demand on the back of manufacturing jobs! High natural gas prices have been a major factor in loss of 3.0 million high paying manufacturing jobs. In fact, demand destruction has reduced manufacturing consumption of natural gas by 1.5 TCF for year 2000 to 2005

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ready or not, summer is here. And when the nice weather arrives a lot of homeowners look at moving to a new home or doing a major remodeling project, which usually involves the appliances in the home. And today, due to numerous regulations everyone has become very familiar with the yellow "Energy Guide" labels on major appliances that show approximately how much energy a given appliance will use in a year. Unfortunately, as consumers look at these "Energy Guides" while they are deciding on appliances for their projects they are only getting part of the picture. What is not mentioned or discussed with these labels is the efficiency of the fuel. This is commonly referred to as, "Total Energy Efficiency". The items that are taken into account in Total Energy Efficiency are:

- Extraction of Fuel Source
- Conversion of the fuel to energy
- Transmission of the energy
- Distribution of the energy
- Consumption at the appliance.

The yellow "Energy Guide" labels and appliance ratings only take into account the last item: consumption at the appliance. However, the most significant inefficiencies can occur in the other 4 items. Electricity, as an example, loses a significant amount of energy in its production in the form of heat. And then add to that the losses that occur in the transmission and distribution of electricity through resistance and the Total Energy Efficiency drops significantly.

Natural Gas on the other hand, shows no significant loss in the manufacturing process and the conversion of natural gas into heat, which occurs at the appliance, (not the power plant). Hence, natural Gas has a much greater Total Energy Efficiency rating and consumers should be aware of the difference as well. According to the American Gas Association, natural gas has a total energy efficiency rating of approximately 90% vs. 27%-30% for electricity. For more information on this subject, you can go to the AGA web site, (<http://www.aga.org/>), and read about the complete Total Energy Efficiency Study.

As always, please pass along any comments or suggestions on to the Iowa Natural Gas Association on how we can be more helpful to you and have a fun and safe summer.

Matt O'Reilly

Matt O'Reilly
INGA President

FIRST "NATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE" SEMINAR HELD IN NEWTON.

The first NFPA – 54 2006 Seminar on the National Fuel Gas Code was held in Newton at the Aquila Service Center on May 11, 2006. The Seminar was led by Ron Anderson, HVAC instructor at Des Moines Area Community College. We had equipment dealer representatives from Huxley, Waukee, Marshalltown, Oskaloosa, Newton and Waterloo attending.

The seminar provided an opportunity to learn more about the Code and also to have questions answered about the code. There was a lot of material to cover in the few hours of the seminar. The main objective was to have the people attending to become more familiar with the code and to be able to know where to find the information in the code manual.

Each participant received a seminar participant's workbook which had copies of all the power point slides and the reference to the specific information and where to find it in the code manual. They also received a copy of the NATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE manual published in 2006.

Future dates and locations for seminars will be announced. These seminars are brought to you by Iowa Natural Gas Association with sponsorship from Alliant Energy, Aquila, and MidAmerican Energy.

NEWS FROM AMERICAN GAS ASSOCIATION (AGA)

Pipeline Safety Reauthorization:

American Gas Association (AGA) continues to work to secure passage of a pipeline safety reauthorization bill this year. Recently, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) released its draft proposal for pipeline safety reauthorization legislation. Both the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction have reviewed the proposal, however, it appears committee members will draft their own version of reauthorization legislation. AGA also is working with committee members to ensure pipeline safety reauthorization legislation includes language to strengthen excavation damage programs.

House Committee Approves Over \$2 Billion in LIHEAP Funding:

The House Appropriations Committee passed the FY07 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies spending bill which funds the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at \$2.111 billion (\$1.9 billion base, \$181 million emergency). This is essentially the same level of LIHEAP funding the committee approved at this stage in the process last year.

President Nominates New FERC Commissioner:

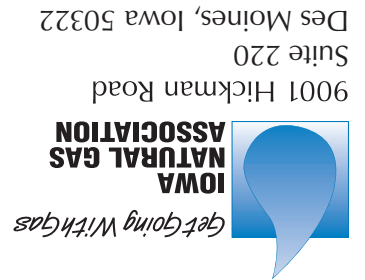
President Bush intends to nominate Arizona Corporation Commissioner Marc Spitzer to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Spitzer previously served as an Arizona state Senator.

NATURAL GAS, THE FUEL OF CHOICE

NATURAL GAS is used in over 60 million homes. In addition, natural gas is used in 78 percent of restaurants, 73 percent of lodging facilities, 51 percent of hospitals, 59 percent of offices, and 58 percent of retail buildings.

NATURAL GAS is vital to America's manufacturers, not only to power their operations, but also as an essential feedstock for many of the products we use daily -- clothing, carpets, sports equipment, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, computers, and auto parts. It is also a primary feedstock for chemicals, plastics and fertilizers.

NATURAL GAS FUELS OUR ECONOMY - Natural gas is a clean burning domestic energy source that powers our economy. It cools and warms our homes and businesses, is used to generate electricity, and helps maintain our quality of life.



CLEAN CITIES ALTERNATIVE FUEL PRICE REPORT FEBRUARY 2006

SUMMARY OF CURRENT REPORT INFORMATION

Overall nationwide average prices for conventional and alternative fuels are shown in Table 1. As this table illustrates, all of the alternative fuels (with the exception of biodiesel) are lower in price than conventional fuels on a per-gallon basis. **CNG (compressed natural gas) is about 24 cents less than gasoline on an energy-equivalent basis**, while E85 and propane are both about 25 cents less per gallon than gasoline. Biodiesel prices for low-level blends are slightly lower than regular

diesel by about 10 cents, and B20 blends are about 8 cents more per gallon than regular diesel. B99/B100 blends (essentially pure biodiesel) have a cost of about 67 cents per gallon more than regular diesel.

Relative to the last report from September 2005, the average prices for all of the fuels included in this price report have dropped in price, by as much as 50 cents. It should be noted that the price drop could be attributed both to an actual drop in price and to a slightly differing sample of prices (both location and quantity).

Table 1. Overall Average Fuel Prices

Nationwide Average Price for Fuel This Report	Nationwide Average Price for Fuel Last Report	Change in Price This Report vs. Last Report	Units of Measurement	
Gasoline	\$2.23	\$2.77	(\$0.54)	per gallon
Diesel	\$2.56	\$2.81	(\$0.25)	per gallon
CNG	\$1.99	\$2.12	(\$0.13)	per GGE
Ethanol (E85)	\$1.98	\$2.41	(\$0.43)	per gallon
Propane	\$1.98	\$2.56	(\$0.58)	per gallon
Biodiesel (B20)	\$2.64	\$2.91	(\$0.27)	per gallon
Biodiesel (B2-B5)	\$2.46	\$2.81	(\$0.35)	per gallon
Biodiesel (B99-B100)	\$3.23	\$3.40	(\$0.17)	per gallon

If you know of a company that you feel would benefit by being a member of the Iowa Natural Gas Association, please encourage them to call 515-278-8700 or email us for further information at info@iowanaturalgasassociation.org.