



The Natural News

Iowa Natural Gas Association

9001 Hickman Road, Suite 220, Des Moines, Iowa 50322
www.iowanaturalgasassociation.org

Summer, 2007

THE CSST SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN APPROVED

A nationwide class action has been filed on behalf of any and all persons and/or entities who own structures in the United States in which CSST manufactured by Titeflex, Ward, OmegaFlex or Parker Hannifin was installed as of September 5, 2006. Plaintiffs allege that CSST poses an unreasonable risk of fire due to lightning strikes. The Settling Defendants deny these allegations and assert that their CSST is safe if properly installed in accordance with local codes and the manufacturers' instructions. The Proposed Settlement is a compromise of disputed claims and does not mean the Settling Defendants are liable.

If you wish to claim the benefits of the Settlement, you must submit a fully executed Claim Form by September 5, 2007. You may complete and submit a Claim Form online or request that a Claim Form be mailed to you at <http://www.pddocs.com/csst/>.

For more information regarding the Settlement, on submitting a Claim Form, or opting out of the Settlement, please visit the Frequently Asked Questions at <http://www.pddocs.com/csst/>.

This settlement has been approved in the Clark County Circuit Court of Arkansas. The Defendants in the case, Titeflex Corporation, Ward Manufacturing, Inc., OmegaFlex, Inc. and Parker Hannifin Corp., are referred to throughout as "Settling Defendants." The persons who filed the lawsuit are called "Plaintiffs." The Effective Date of the Settlement is March 5, 2007.

The Settlement is final. As such, the Settlement Administrator anticipates mailing Payment Vouchers to eligible claimants beginning in early to mid April along with instructions on how to proceed. If you have filed a complete Claim, your Payment Voucher and detailed information regarding the remainder of the process will be sent. If your claim is incomplete, a letter requesting additional information will be sent. If the Settlement Administrator does not receive the required Claim information, you will not be able to receive any benefits from this Settlement.

REMINDER: If you have not filed a claim yet, claims may be filed until September 5, 2007.

If you have any questions, please contact the Settlement Administrator. Updates to this website are summarized on the Recent Updates page at <http://www.pddocs.com/csst/>.

NATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE

The National Fuel Gas Code provides criteria on most aspects of fuel-gas installations on consumer premises. Coverage includes gas piping materials, system design, installation and inspections; combustion air; equipment venting; and specific equipment installation criteria. The code is used by many local gas utilities and officials of federal, state, and local governments to judge the acceptability of fuel-gas installations. Many of the code's provisions are extracted into the International Fuel Gas Code and the Uniform Plumbing and Mechanical Codes. Appliance manufacturers as part of their certified installation instructions also reference the code.

The National Fuel Gas Code (NFPA – 54) has been adopted by the state of Iowa. As of January 1, 2003, the adopted and filed rules regarding flammable and combustible liquids – 661 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 51 became law in Iowa.

Copies of the 2006 NATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE (NFPA-54) are available from the Iowa Natural Gas Association office. For more information call 515-278-8700.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In case nobody has said it yet, **Welcome to Summer!!**

The heat across the state last week was a definite statement by Mother Nature that summer is here. We at INGA want to take this opportunity to remind everyone to be safe this summer. As kids and families are out and about taking advantage of the weather, please be extra careful when you are driving and ALWAYS wear your seatbelts.

As you review this edition, please note the discussions going on in Washington DC on the exploration for natural gas within the lower 48 states and off shore. We cannot afford to have the initial efforts from last year to open up these areas be rolled back, which is being discussed by some. The significant amount of gas and oil reserves that exist in these areas will not only greatly increase our supply of natural gas and bring prices back down, but will also increase US oil supplies and reduce or potentially eliminate our need for foreign oil. The discussions in congress are going on this month so please be aware of those and we will plan to keep you informed as much as we can.

As always, please feel free to provide me, the other board members, or staff with your thoughts, comments or concerns at any time, as we always appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Matt

Matt O'Reilly, INGA President

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BRINGING SAFETY HOME

*Improving employees' hazard awareness/
recognition skills on and off the job*

A COMMON GRIPE is that too many of us take our jobs home—literally and figuratively. We use our personal time to accomplish those things we feel we didn't accomplish during our workdays. Whether or not we realize it, we also take home many of the behaviors we learn in our jobs—and as it happens, safety engineers are counting on it. They want their employees to take their work home. Why? Because safety engineers want their employees to perform their jobs in a safe, responsible manner; and then they want those employees to take those learned safety principles and practices home to their families. This focus on off-the-job safety is something dealers communicate about Year-round, but now that warmer weather is here, a closer look at outdoor safety is at the top of many safety agendas.

We have a limited number of opportunities to address personal off-the-job safety, but we owe it to our employees to take every advantage of these opportunities. Companies can win by improving employees' hazard awareness/recognition skills beyond the traditional boundaries, thereby reducing employee injuries and fatalities, the majority of which occur outside the workplace."

Safety is an attitude. If safety gets instilled into someone for eight to 10 hours a day, it's not something that will just be forgotten for the other 14. It simply becomes second nature. It isn't easy to impose work-related practices into the personal time of employees, that "second nature" can mean not only a healthier and happier employee base, it can also mean a healthier bottom line. A company that has safer and healthier employees sees substantial savings in insurance claims and loss of labor. If safety becomes more of a mind-set than a statute, it benefits not only the company, but also its employees and their families.

MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

"The mission of the Iowa Natural Gas Association is to: Promote the use of natural gas to the fullest possible extent for the mutual interests of our members and public.

This mission can only be achieved with all of the member's assistance. First of all, we need your ideas of what the association can do to assist you in the promotion of Natural Gas. **The association provides a very good co-op advertising program that should be used by all members.**

As an association, we want to help you grow your business opportunities and to provide you with information or education that will assist in doing just that. Collectively, we can do a lot of things that can not be done individually with the size of the industry.

Secondly, to increase the strength of the organization we always need more members. We have member classifications for dealers, manufacturers, distributors, utilities, pipelines, brokers, manufacture representatives, engineering organizations, and other associates involved in serving the natural gas industry in the State of Iowa.

Ask those you do business with to become a part of this association. If we do not promote and asked for the support of our business partners, we will never provide the strength this association can provide.

The mission statement says; "...mutual interests of our members and public". We all have an interest in the natural gas industry. Let's build our membership.

MIDWEST ENERGY ASSOCIATION

The Midwest Energy Association moved their office location effective June 8, 2007. They are now located at 2119 Cliff Drive, Eagan, MN 55122-3327. Their phone number will be (651) 289-9600 and fax (651) 289-9601.

Midwest Energy Association is an association of electric and natural gas utilities in the Midwest. For more information, check their web site at <http://midwestenergy.org/>.

NATURAL GAS CONSUMERS WOULD SUFFER UNDER PROPOSED HOUSE RESOURCES BILL

Washington, D.C. – The energy legislation (H.R. 2337) agreed to today (June 13, 2007) by the House Committee on Natural Resources has serious flaws and fails to address the needs of American consumers who own homes, businesses and industries that rely on affordable, environmentally desirable and domestic natural gas, according to the American Gas Association (AGA), which represents America's natural gas utilities.

"HR 2337, if enacted into law, would result in a decrease in natural gas supply and an increase in natural gas prices to consumers," said David N. Parker, president and CEO of AGA. "For example, the legislation would repeal the section of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that established reasonable timetables for permitting natural gas wells, thereby making it more difficult to produce natural gas in the intermountain West," he said. "We will continue to oppose HR 2337 when it reaches the House floor."

Parker said, "The average natural gas household today uses 33 percent less natural gas than it did in 1980. American consumers have become extremely energy efficient. However energy efficiency by itself is not sufficient to meet soaring demand for natural gas with our increasing population and economic growth.

Parker also pointed out that offshore natural gas production currently

is banned on the East and West coasts and allowable only off a portion of the Gulf of Mexico. An enormous amount of natural gas (633 trillion cubic feet) is technically recoverable from the Outer Continental Shelf, according to the U.S. government data. This is enough to provide the United States natural gas needs by itself for more than 30 years, based on average 22 trillion cubic feet of annual consumption.

U.S. homes and businesses pay more for natural gas than nearly anyone in the world because rising demand is nearly outpacing production, AGA said. Wholesale (wellhead) natural gas prices have raised dramatically since 2000, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Natural gas is expected to play a major role in any climate change policies, making it even more important to increase access to natural gas supplies in order to meet growing demand for electricity generation. A recent study by the American Gas Foundation found that a failure to take aggressive action on increasing supplies in combination with energy efficiency could cost natural gas customers \$200 billion by 2020.

Parker, "Natural gas prices will moderate if and when supply is addressed in concert with demand."

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROMOTION ACT OF 2007

STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN GAS ASSOCIATION ON S. 1115, THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROMOTION ACT OF 2007 BEFORE THE UNITED STATES SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MAY 1, 2007

The American Gas Association represents 200 local energy utility companies that deliver natural gas to more than 64 million homes, businesses and industries throughout the United States. Natural gas meets one-fourth of the United States' energy needs and has historically been the fastest growing major energy source. Adequate supplies of competitively priced natural gas is of critical importance to AGA and its member companies. Similarly, ample supplies of reasonably priced natural gas are of critical importance to the more than sixty million customers that AGA members serve. AGA speaks here for those customers as well as its member companies.

America Should Use Its Cleanest Fuel In The Most Efficient Way Possible

Natural gas is the cleanest fossil fuel. When combusted it produces less carbon than any other fuel. Importantly, almost all of the natural gas consumed in America is produced in North America. Thus, from the perspective of both its environmental benefits and its contribution to America's energy security, natural gas is nearly the perfect fuel.

AGA believes that America should use its cleanest and most friendly fuel in the most efficient way possible.

AGA offers the following recommendations for improving S.1115:

Use Full Fuel-Cycle Analysis In Evaluating Efficiency. AGA believes that the federal government has for years overlooked one of the most productive energy efficiency steps that could be taken—to analyze energy efficiency issues on a "full fuelcycle" or "total-energy efficiency" basis. In short, America should change its focus from efficiency improvements solely at the point of energy use to look instead at the consumption of energy through the whole energy production and consumption cycle. Such an analysis would ensure that the maximum productive benefit is received from all of our energy resources. A simple example is the water heater. Rather than focusing simply upon the efficiency level of water heaters at the point of energy consumption, the federal government should also consider the fact that an electric water heater uses far more energy than a natural gas water heater. In the case of the electric water heater, large amounts of energy disappear (as much as 70%) in the production and transmission process. In contrast, a natural gas water heater makes productive use of 90% of the energy extracted from the ground. Such energy-efficiency analyses that seek to make the most productive use of all of America's energy resources hold the potential to improve energy efficiency greatly. Moreover, they would also produce improvements in carbon emissions.

Increased Energy Efficiency Can Bring Down The Cost of Natural Gas

The natural gas industry has been a national leader in energy efficiency. Today, the average American home uses about 25% less natural gas than it did a quarter century

ago. That reduction in per-capita natural gas use has been driven primarily by energy efficiency. Homeowners have conserved by adding storm windows, insulation, and weather stripping to their homes. Over the past twenty-five years gas appliances have become enormously more efficient. Moreover, new construction, although producing increasingly larger homes, has also produced increasingly energy-efficient homes. These trends have also been seen in both the commercial and industrial sectors of the industry. Information very recently compiled by AGA suggests that in fact natural gas consumers have increased their energy efficiency efforts since prices increased dramatically in 2000-2001. Over the past five years, homeowners have reduced their natural gas consumption more than the 1% per year that has been the trend over the last twenty-five years. It is uncertain at this point what the exact slope will be of this reduction curve in the years ahead.

Energy efficiency brings gas consumers benefits in terms of lowering their energy bills as well as lowering their carbon emissions. What consumers do not understand, however, is the impact energy efficiency can have upon natural gas prices. An MMBtu of natural gas that is not consumed is no different from a new MMBtu that is produced. Either adds to the gap between productive capacity and demand. Most commentators recognize that increasing natural gas supply or decreasing natural gas demand by only several percent can bring natural gas prices down by 10%, 20%, or more. Thus, the customer that becomes more energy efficient not only saves on its energy bill. It also plays a major role in bringing natural gas prices down for all.

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NFPA 54 2006 CODE MANUALS are available from the Iowa Natural Gas Association office for a cost of \$45.00 plus \$5.00 shipping and handling. Complete the following order form and send or fax to:

NFPA - 54 Manual ORDER FORM

Name *(please print)* _____

Company _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Please send me _____ copy(s) of the NFPA - 54 Manual(s) at **\$45.00 each**. Please add **\$5.00** to your order to cover shipping and handling.

Payment Method:

Check # _____ (Payable to INGA) or AmExp _____ M/C _____ Visa _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please note your credit card statement will reflect the charge from "Walter & Associates".

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