

**Docket No. SA-534**  
**Exhibit No. 8-D**

**NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD**

**Washington, D.C.**

Data Gathering and Other Initiatives to Improve Pipeline Safety  
Presentation by Christina Sames  
American Gas Association

(12 Pages)



# Data Gathering and Other Initiatives to Improve Pipeline Safety

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NTSB Hearing: March 2011*



# About AGA

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- Founded in 1918
- Represents 199 local energy companies that deliver natural gas throughout the U.S.
- There are nearly 70 million residential, commercial and industrial natural gas customers in the U.S.; 91% receive their gas from AGA members

# AGA Operations Best Practices Program

- Identifies procedures of top-performing companies and innovative work practices that may be used to continuously evaluate and improve participants' unique operating systems
- Three focus areas:
  - Benchmarking
  - Roundtables
  - Questionnaires



# Areas of Study

## Transmission

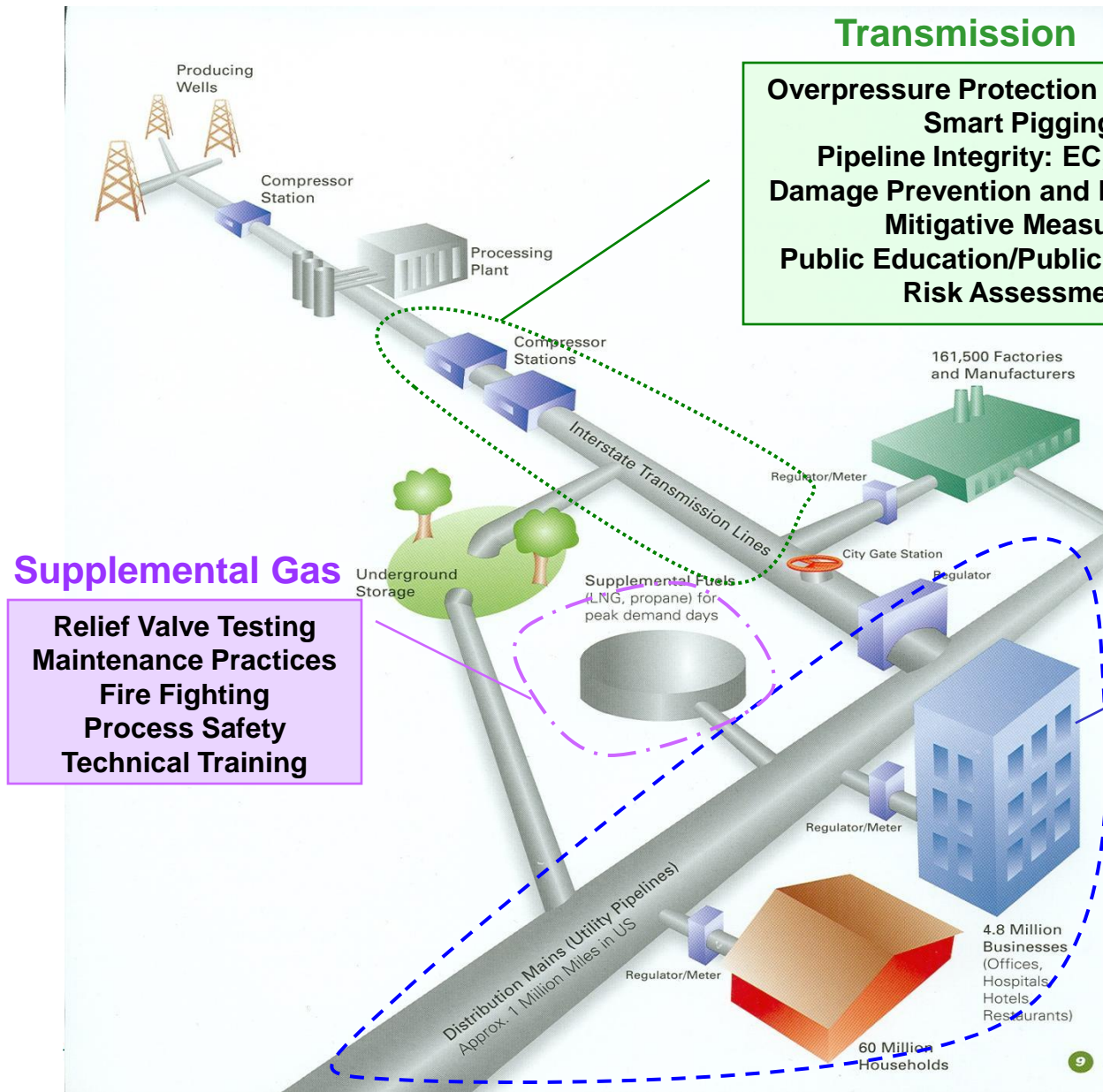
**Overpressure Protection and Devices**  
**Smart Pigging**  
**Pipeline Integrity: EC, IC, SCC**  
**Damage Prevention and Preventive & Mitigative Measures**  
**Public Education/Public Awareness**  
**Risk Assessment**

## Supplemental Gas

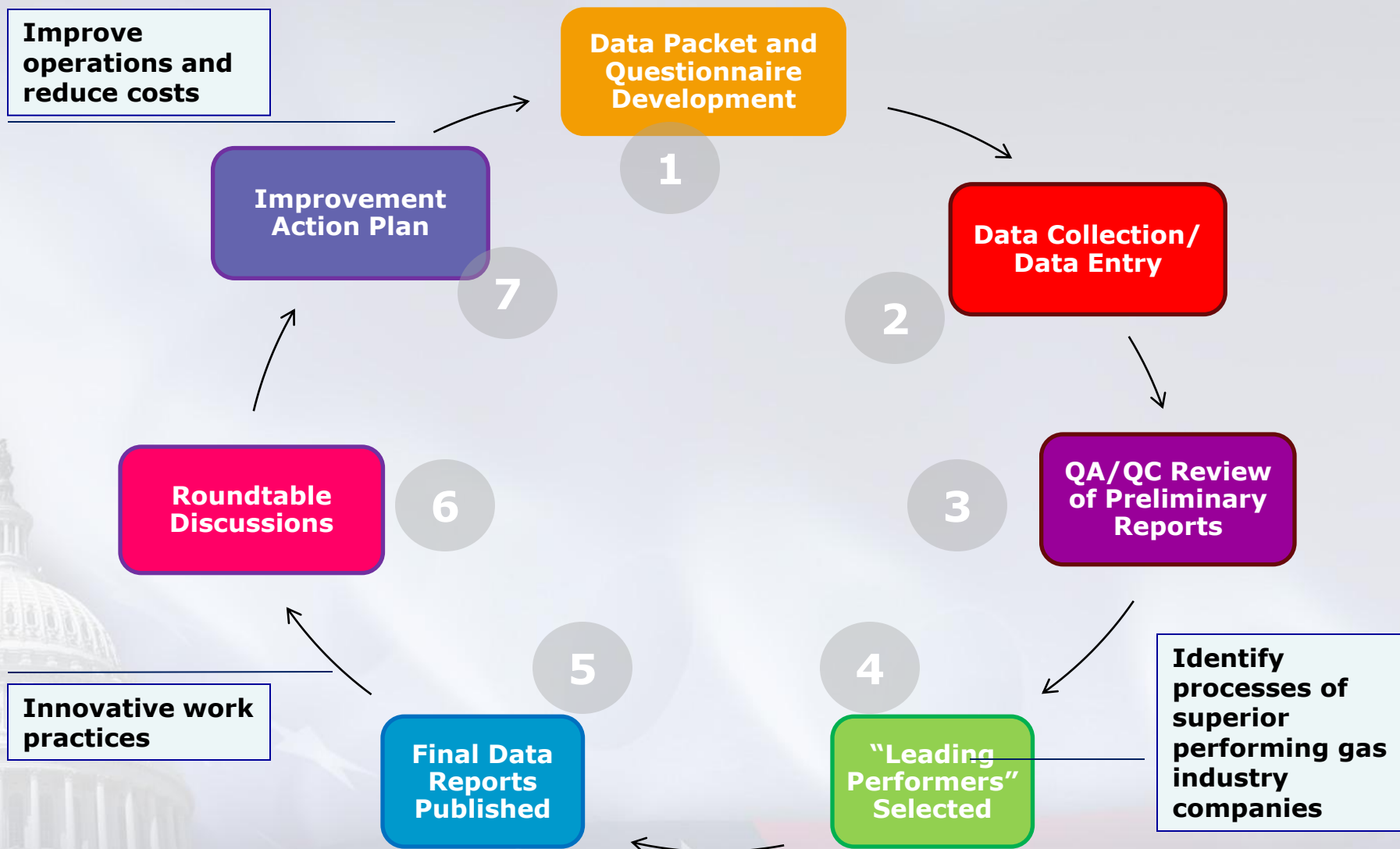
**Relief Valve Testing**  
**Maintenance Practices**  
**Fire Fighting**  
**Process Safety**  
**Technical Training**

## Distribution

**Damage Prevention**  
**External Corrosion Prevention**  
**Leak Management**  
**Main & Service Replacement**  
**System Regulation**  
**Emergency Response**



# Best Practices Benchmarking: A Continuous Process





# Best Practices Benchmarking

- Collect statistical and cost data for each benchmarked topic
- Determine company effectiveness and cost efficiency based on productivity and service level measures. Data is not normalized or audited
- Enables participating companies to perform internal data analysis to identify peer companies and potential top performers

# Best Practices Roundtables

- Top-performing companies explain their procedures and practices
- Special presentations by companies with unique practices
- Shared operational challenges are identified
- Participants share company practices to successfully address the shared challenges
- Industry peers discuss realistic benefits that can be achieved, and note elements that must be considered, when implementing each practice
- Participants vote on practices best suited to address challenges; top selected practices are deemed “best practices”



# Best Practices Questionnaires

- Collect information on processes and procedures specific to each topic
- Allows for the identification of trends in operational processes
- Provide companies with opportunity to share experiences regarding new technologies and methodologies

## **Other Ways to Improve Safety: Publications (sample)**

- **Gas Engineering and Operating Practices (GEOP):**
  - Transmission/Compressor Station Operations
  - Transmission, Automation and Telecommunications
  - Transmission, Gas Control
  - Distribution Mains and Services – Operating Considerations
  - Corrosion Control/System Protection
- **Gas Piping Technology Committee (GPTC):**
  - Review of Integrity Management for Natural Gas Transmission Pipelines
  - Guide for Gas Transmission and Distribution Piping Systems
- **A Guide to Controlling Natural Gas in Emergencies**
- **Improving Contractor Safety in the Natural Gas Industry**

## **Other Ways to Improve Safety: Publications (sample)**

- Gas Controller Training
- Gas Pipeline Controller Risk Analysis
- Alarm Management for Control Room Operations in the Natural Gas Industry
- Natural Gas Pipelines and Unmarked Sewer Lines: A Damage Prevention Partnership
- Directional Drilling Damage Prevention Guidelines
- Odorization Manual
- Purging Principles and Practice
- Distribution Pipe: Repair and Replacement Decision Manual

**<http://www.aga.org/Pubs>**

## Other Ways to Improve Safety:

Knowledge Sharing: In 2010

- 65 Topical Forums/2700 members
- 16 Technical Committees, including
  - Gas Control
  - Distribution/Transmission Engineering
  - Safety & Occupational Health
  - Utility/Customer Field Service
  - Operations Safety Regulatory Action
- 9 Publications plus other documents
- 80 “SOS” inquiries facilitated
- 90 Board Safety Priorities Completed

# Questions?

