News Stories Stemming From MGA Propane Meeting in Madison June 4-5

 $\textbf{FeedStuffs}: \underline{\text{http://feedstuffs.com/story-midwestern-states-attend-propane-working-group-meeting-45-113709}$

June 11, 2014

Midwestern states attend propane working group meeting

Team leaders from many Midwestern states recently attended the Midwestern Governors Association's (MGA) Propane Supply Chain Working Group Meeting focused on strengthening the propane supply chain.

The two-day meeting shared best practices and lessons learned, as well as discussed the Cochin pipeline reversal and other propane transportation issues. Stakeholders also met with experts from the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Energy Information Administration, among others. Governor Scott Walker, governor of Wisconsin and chair of MGA, gave the opening remarks in which he stressed the importance of improving the propane supply chain.

"The recent shortage demonstrates how important it is to address and review all factors affecting our propane supply. We can always do more to improve our awareness, preparedness, and readiness levels, which is exactly what the MGA working group is focused on," Governor Walker said. "The propane working group has already made strides in reviewing this past season, identifying potential action, taking next steps, and developing partnerships within the industry to mitigate potential problems in the upcoming season.

"I'm very grateful to my fellow Governors for engaging in this important topic and working together to find solutions to lessen the negative impacts a propane shortage has on our residents."

In March, Governor Walker was selected by a bipartisan group of Midwestern Governors to serve as Chair of the MGA. Governor Walker chose "Strengthening the Propane Supply

Chain" as his Chair's Initiative and primary focus. In addition to this and in-person meetings planned for the future, the working group holds conference calls twice a month to enhance regional cooperation.

"The propane shortage was felt by residents and businesses all throughout the Midwest this past winter, which is why I selected strengthening our propane supply chain as my MGA Chair's Initiative," said

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, current Chair of the MGA. "This meeting served as a great step forward to learn about what worked, how communications can be improved and how states can help the industry with enhancing consumer awareness and industry preparedness."

Wisconsin State Farmer: http://www.wisfarmer.com/news/headlines/walker-convenes-regional-group-to-tackle-propane-supply-issues-b99288510z1-262581981.html

June 10, 2014

Walker convenes regional group to tackle propane supply issues

As summer weather begins to hit its stride in the Midwest, heating bills are far from most people's minds. But some officials are looking at strategies that will help avoid the propane shortages – and high prices -- seen across the region last winter.

Gov. Scott Walker, who now chairs the Midwestern Governors Association, convened a working sub-committee of that group in Madison to focus on the propane supply last week.

As chair of the MGA, Walker gave the opening remarks June 4 as he convened the propane working group.

"The recent shortage demonstrates how important it is to address and review all factors affecting our propane supply. We can always do more to improve our awareness, preparedness, and readiness levels, which is exactly what the MGA working group is focused on," Walker said.

Wisconsin has approximately 250,000 residents who use propane as their main source of heat for their home or business.

In his opening remarks, Walker recognized CHS, the nation's leading farmer-owned energy and grain cooperative, for signing a long-term agreement to build a propane terminal in northwest Wisconsin in conjunction with Federation Cooperative in Black River Falls.

Federation Cooperative will manage and operate the propane terminal at Hixton.

That cooperative agreement is part of an estimated \$24 million investment previously announced by CHS to expand propane service in the region.

One of the reasons the Minneapolis-based farmer cooperative plans to beef up its propane infrastructure is the reversal of the Cochin pipeline.

That pipeline, operated by Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, will be reversed from a southerly flow to a northerly flow, to move light condensate to existing terminals in Alberta, Canada.

Previously the pipeline was available to bring products, including propane, to the Midwest and a terminal in Kankakee County, IL. (The Cochin pipeline continues to a connection in Windsor, Ontario in Canada.)

The pipeline does not traverse Wisconsin, but crosses the northeast corner of Iowa on its way into Illinois. It crosses through North Dakota, Minnesota and several Canadian provinces.

According to a Kinder Morgan website, the reversal of the Cochin pipeline could take place as early as July 1.

New LP terminal

Served by a rail line, the new propane terminal in northwest Wisconsin is expected to be completed this fall and will have 360,000 gallons of storage tanks. The new terminal will have the ability to offload six railcars every four-and-a-half hours and two truck-loading bays capable of loading six trucks per hour.

"Given the severe winter that we experienced, and the reversal of the Cochin pipeline, this new CHS propane terminal is a great and welcome addition to Wisconsin's propane infrastructure," Walker said.

"We appreciate CHS making such a significant investment in Wisconsin, as it will better help us ensure the health and safety of Wisconsinites with a more steady propane supply."

Team leaders from Midwestern states traveled to Madison for the two-day working group meeting to share best practices and lessons learned, as well as discuss the Cochin pipeline reversal and other propane transportation issues.

They also heard from propane marketers, industry leaders, and the National Propane Gas Association, and met with experts from the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

The MGA is a nonprofit, bipartisan organization that brings together the governors of Midwestern states to work cooperatively on issues of importance to the region. Current members of the MGA are Gov. Pat Quinn (IL), Gov. Mike Pence (IN), Gov. Terry Branstad (IA), Gov. Sam Brownback (KS), Gov. Rick Snyder (MI), Gov. Mark Dayton (MN), Gov. Jay Nixon (MO), Gov. John Kasich (OH) and Walker.

Making strides

"The propane working group has already made strides in reviewing this past season, identifying potential action, taking next steps, and developing partnerships within the industry to mitigate potential problems in the upcoming season," Walker said.

"I'm very grateful to my fellow governors for engaging in this important topic and working together to find solutions to lessen the negative impacts a propane shortage has on our residents."

Back in March, Governor Walker was selected by the bipartisan group of Midwestern governors to serve as chair of their association.

As he told a group of farm reporters recently in a roundtable discussion in his office, Walker chose strengthening the propane supply chain as his "chair's initiative" and primary focus.

Since he chose that primary focus in March, teams from each of the nine Midwestern states have participated in numerous conference calls, each discussing a different propane subject. The meeting in Madison last week brings members of that working group together to continue those discussions and planning in person.

During the meeting Walker said he had sent a letter to President Obama and the Department of Health and Human Services last week asking for one-time flexibility with Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds.

Program advance

Walker's request would allow Wisconsin to spend up to \$8 million of state money between July 1 and October 1 on LIHEAP and then pay itself back when funds are appropriated for the new fiscal year.

Another alternative suggested by Walker would be locating \$8 million at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that will be carried over into fiscal year 2015 to temporarily offset this money and grant Wisconsin a LIHEAP advance.

Walker said that doing so, and allowing Wisconsin to start to service LIHEAP propane tanks before October 1, would enable the state to potentially purchase 15 percent more propane, resulting in as much as \$1 million in savings.

Those savings could then be used in various ways to help LIHEAP recipients and/or provide greater price certainty and ensure more propane is physically in Wisconsin before the higher-demand winter months set in.

According to the Campaign for Home Energy Assistance, LIHEAP provided assistance to 214,531 Wisconsin households in 2013, down slightly from a year earlier.

The average Wisconsin household benefit was \$336 in 2013.

Wisconsin's allocation under LIHEAP for 2013 was \$98.4 million and the allocation for 2014 is \$103.1 million.

More information on state and county allocations under the program is available at www.liheap.org. Public inquiries can also be directed to 866-432-8947.

Agri-View: http://www.agriview.com/news/regional/gov-walker-kicks-off-midwestern-governors-association-propane-meeting/article 3dee0b85-2613-591d-9e76-cf3b070eae35.html

June 10, 2014

Gov. Walker kicks off Midwestern Governors Association propane meeting

Governor Scott Walker, chair of the Midwestern Governors Association (MGA), gave the opening remarks at an MGA working group meeting focused on strengthening the propane supply chain.

Team leaders from many Midwestern states traveled to Madison for the 2-day meeting to share best practices and lessons learned, as well as discuss the Cochin pipeline reversal and other propane transportation issues, hear from propane marketers, industry leaders and the National Propane Gas Association, and meet with experts from the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Energy Information Administration, among others.

"The recent shortage demonstrates how important it is to address and review all factors affecting our propane supply. We can always do more to improve our awareness, preparedness and readiness levels, which is exactly what the MGA working group is focused on," Gov. Walker said. "The propane working group has already made strides in reviewing this past season, identifying potential action, taking next steps and developing partnerships within the industry to mitigate potential problems in the upcoming season. I'm very grateful to my fellow Governors for engaging in this important topic and working together to find solutions to lessen the negative impacts a propane shortage has on our residents."

In March, Gov. Walker was selected by a bipartisan group of Midwestern Governors to serve as Chair of the MGA. Gov. Walker chose "Strengthening the Propane Supply Chain" as his chair's initiative and primary focus.

Since March, teams from each of the nine Midwestern states have participated in numerous conference calls, each discussing a different propane subject. This meeting brings members of the working group together to continue those discussions and planning in-person.

In his opening remarks, Gov. Walker also recognized CHS, an energy, grains and foods company and the nation's leading farmer-owned cooperative, for signing a long-term agreement with Federation Cooperative, in Black River Falls, to build a propane terminal at Hixton that will be managed and operated by Federation Cooperative.

The agreement is part of an estimated \$24 million investment previously announced by CHS to expand propane service in the region affected by the Cochin reversal project.

Served by the CN railroad, the new terminal is expected to be completed this fall and will have 360,000 gallons of storage tanks with the ability to offload six railcars every four and a half hours and two truck loading bays capable of loading six trucks per hour.

"Given the severe winter that we experienced, and the reversal of the Cochin pipeline, this new CHS propane terminal is a great and welcomed addition to Wisconsin's propane infrastructure," Gov. Walker said. "We appreciate CHS making such a significant investment in Wisconsin, as it will better help us ensure the health and safety of Wisconsinites with a more steady propane supply."

Gov. Walker also shared that he sent a letter to President Barack Obama and Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. He requested for one-time flexibility with Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds, such as allowing Wisconsin to spend up to \$8 million of state money between July 1 and Oct. 1 on LIHEAP and then paying itself back when funds are appropriated for the new fiscal year. Another option was locating \$8 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that will be carried into fiscal year 2015 to temporarily offset this money and grant Wisconsin a LIHEAP advance.

By doing so, and allowing Wisconsin to start to service LIHEAP propane tanks before Oct. 1, the state could be enabled to potentially purchase 15 percent more propane, resulting in as much as \$1 million in savings.

Those savings could then be used in various ways to help LIHEAP recipients or provide greater price certainty and better ensure more propane is physically in Wisconsin before the higher-demand winter months set in.

The State of Wisconsin has approximately 250,000 residents who use propane as their main source of heat for their home or business.

Farm Futures: http://farmfutures.com/story-state-governments-suppliers-convene-plans-avoid-future-propane-shortages-0-113494

June 6, 2014

State Governments, Suppliers Convene on Plans to Avoid Future Propane Shortages

Midwestern Governors Association hosts working group meeting with state agencies and propane suppliers following 2013 winter shortages

At the Midwestern Governors Association meeting this week in Madison, Wis., policy advisors, state agencies and propane stakeholders gathered to discuss options for preventing future propane supply issues like the shortages farmers faced last winter.

The Propane Supply Chain Working Group meeting addressed broad challenges posed to the propane system and next steps the Midwestern region can take to ease any future propane supply and demand issues.

Last winter, demand for propane reached record highs as a wet fall in 2013 pushed farmers to dry more grain and perpetually cold temperatures had consumers keeping furnaces fueled.

Adding to troubles was maintenance of the Cochin pipeline, a main propane supply artery from Canada to the Midwest. According to the Energy Information Administration, rail transportation disruptions, both due to weather and other factors, also curtailed deliveries between Mont Belvieu and Conway, two major supply hubs.



Midwestern Governors

Association hosts working group meeting with state agencies and propane suppliers following 2013 winter shortages. (CHS photo)

Related: Fuel Industry, Lawmakers Want Answers on Propane Issues

The shortages caused concern for farmers, many of whom relied on the fuel to heat barns, and sparked a national conversation as prices began to skyrocket.

Hearing those and many other propane frustrations from last year, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, MGA chairman, opted to select propane security and strengthening the propane supply chain as part his 2014 MGA Chair Agenda.

"The propane shortage was felt by residents and businesses all throughout the Midwest this past winter, which is why I selected strengthening our propane supply chain as my MGA Chair's Initiative," he explained.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss future supply line maintenance and lessons learned from the 2013 supply issues.

One of those concerns is the planned reversal of the Cochin pipeline, sending propane supplies into Canada from the U.S., rather than the other way around, as it is currently used.

But coinciding with the MGA meeting, national cooperative CHS this week said it plans to construct a propane terminal at Hixton, Wis., managed and operated by Federation Cooperative, that will hopefully help offset the supply issues the reversal may bring, says Jeff Polivka, general manager and CEO of Federation Cooperative.

"With the reversal of the Cochin pipeline, our propane supply will be compromised," Polivka said in a statement. "We are excited to work with CHS on this venture to ensure a steady propane supply for our customers."

The project is part of a previously announced \$24 million investment to expand propane service in the region because of the reversal.

Related: Cold Weather Strains Midwestern Propane Supplies

Given the severe winter that we experienced, this new CHS propane terminal is a great and welcomed addition to Wisconsin's propane infrastructure," Gov. Walker commented.

Served by the CN railroad, the new terminal is expected to be completed by fall of 2014. It will have 360,000 gallons of storage tanks with the ability to offload six railcars every 4.5 hours and two truck loading bays capable of loading six trucks per hour.

Back at the MGA meeting, Gov. Walker also announced plans to convene a propane supply chain working group comprised of state government agencies and those in the industry to better enhance consumer awareness and industry preparedness of supply issues.

"This meeting served as a great step forward to learn about what worked, how communications can be improved and how states can help the industry with enhancing consumer awareness and industry preparedness," Walker said.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: http://www.jsonline.com/business/propane-distribution-terminal-planned-for-western-wisconsin-b99284498z1-261857091.html

Wisconsin Ag Connection http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-state.php?Id=668
June 6, 2014

Walker Establishes Midwestern Governors' Propane Group

The weather may be warmer these days, but the thoughts of last winter's record cold temperatures are frozen in Governor Scott Walker's mind. As chair of the Midwestern Governors Association, Walker gave the opening remarks this week at a working group meeting in Madison focused on strengthening the propane supply chain in the region.

"The recent shortage demonstrates how important it is to address and review all factors affecting our propane supply," Walker said. "We can always do more to improve our awareness, preparedness, and readiness levels, which is exactly what the MGA working group is focused on. The propane working group has already made strides in reviewing this past season, identifying potential action, taking next steps, and developing partnerships within the industry to mitigate potential problems in the upcoming season."

Team leaders from many Midwestern states were in Wisconsin for the two-day meeting to share best practices and lessons learned, as well as discuss the Cochin pipeline reversal and other propane transportation issues. They also heard from propane marketers, industry leaders, and the National Propane Gas Association.

In March, Governor Walker was selected by a bipartisan group of Midwestern Governors to serve as chair of the group. He chose 'Strengthening the Propane Supply Chain' as his initiative and primary focus.

Meanwhile, the governor also sent a letter to President Barack Obama and Health Secretary Kathleen Sebelius last week asking for one-time flexibility with Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program funds, such as allowing Wisconsin to spend up to \$8 million of state money between July and October on LIHEAP and then paying itself back when funds are appropriated for the new fiscal year. He says by doing so, the state could be enabled to potentially purchase 15 percent more propane, resulting in as much as \$1 million in savings.

Wisconsin has approximately 250,000 residents who use propane as their main source of heat for their home or business.

WHBL: http://whbl.com/news/articles/2014/jun/05/walker-wants-heating-assistance-dollars-released-earlier/

June 5, 2014

Walker wants heating assistance dollars released earlier

Wisconsin's low-income heating assistance program could save up to a million dollars, if the state could get part of the program's federal funding earlier. That's what Governor Scott Walker recently told President Obama and the federal human service agency. Walker says an earlier funding allotment would let the state buy up to 15-percent more propane fuel at cheaper prices during the summer.

He says it's one way to prevent a repeat of the propane shortage, and its skyrocketing prices, from last winter. Walker has asked the federal government to provide \$8-million of the state's heating funds before the next federal fiscal year begins October 1.

Yesterday a working group from the Midwestern Governors Association met in Madison to discuss ways to ward off the type of propane shortage that affected a quarter-million Wisconsinites last winter. Walker praised this week's announcement that the Federation Co-operative and C-H-S will open a new propane terminal this fall near Hixton in Jackson County. The governor calls it a "great and welcome addition to Wisconsin's propane infrastructure."

River Towns: http://www.rivertowns.net/content/educators-more-likely-change-jobs-act-10-aid-plan-could-help-prevent-another-propane

June 5, 2014

Federal aid could help prevent a repeat of winter's propane shortage

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Walker has asked the federal government to provide \$8 million of the state's heating funds before the next federal fiscal year begins Oct. 1st.

On Wednesday, a working group from the Midwestern Governors Association met in Madison to discuss ways to ward off the type of propane shortage that affected some 250,000 Wisconsinites last winter. Walker praised this week's announcement that the Federated Co-op and CHS will open a new propane terminal this fall near Hixton in Jackson County.

The governor calls it a "great and welcome addition to Wisconsin's propane infrastructure."

North Platte Bulletin:

http://www.northplattebulletin.com/index.asp?show=news&action=readStory&storyID=280 17&pageID=24

June 5, 2014

Governors, stakeholders discuss propane supply chain

The Midwestern Governors Association met in Madison this week to discuss current and future condition of the propane supply chain, in view of the propane shortages of winter.

The meeting brought governors' policy advisors, state agencies and other interested stakeholders from Midwestern states to discuss the challenges as well as next steps to ease future propane supply and demand issues.

The meeting examined the propane supply chain and its ability to meet product demands, which includes drying grain and heating homes and businesses through the Midwest. States discussed steps taken this past winter; lessons learned and best practices. The potential impact of the upcoming reversal of the Cochin pipeline was discussed. The pipeline is a significant propane supplier to the region. Propane storage was also discussed.

"The propane shortage was felt by residents and businesses all throughout the Midwest this past winter, which is why I selected strengthening our propane supply chain as my MGA Chair's Initiative," said

Given the propane supply challenges the Midwest experienced over the past year, as well as an unusually wet fall and cold winter, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker focused his MGA chair's agenda on strengthening the propane supply chain.

The MGA has convened a propane supply chain working group comprised of state government agencies and those in the industry to better enhance consumer awareness and industry preparedness. In addition to this and future in-person meetings, the working group engages in twice-monthly conference calls to enhance regional cooperation.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: http://www.jsonline.com/business/propane-distribution-terminal-planned-for-western-wisconsin-b99284498z1-261857091.html

June 4, 2014

Propane distribution terminal planned for western Wisconsin

Responding to a loss of key source of propane for the upper Midwest, two partners announced plans Wednesday to build a propane terminal in Hixton, along I-94 northwest of Black River Falls.

St. Paul-based CHS and Federation Cooperative of Black River Falls announced the new terminal, expected to open by this fall.

The plan was announced after the upper Midwest was hit hard by <u>propane shortages</u> and record prices during an extremely <u>frigid winter</u>. Among the reasons for the shortage: an outage of the Cochin pipeline that has long been a path to bring propane into Minnesota and nearby states from Canada. Kinder Morgan is working to stop importing propane by <u>reversing the flow of Cochin</u> to use it for exports of petroleum products to Canada instead.

"With the reversal of the Cochin pipeline, our propane supply will be compromised. We are excited to work with CHS on this venture to ensure a steady propane supply for our customers," said Jeff Polivka, Federation Cooperative general manager and CEO.

"This agreement is part of an estimated \$24 million investment previously announced by CHS to expand propane service in the region affected by the Cochin reversal project," said Drew Combs, CHS vice president of propane, in a statement. "These investments will also help position our customers for future growth."

The new propane terminal in Hixton will be served by rail and will be capable of loading six trucks per hour.

Propane shortages — and record prices for the fuel — prompted Gov. Scott Walker to choose "strengthening the propane supply chain" as the central initiative during his time <u>chairing the Midwest Governors Association.</u>

"Given the severe winter that we experienced, this new CHS propane terminal is a great and welcomed addition to Wisconsin's propane infrastructure," said Walker in a statement. "We appreciate CHS making such a significant investment in Wisconsin as it will better help us ensure the health and safety of Wisconsinites and our neighbors in Minnesota and Iowa."

Propane is used for heating by 250,000 customers in Wisconsin. Prices this winter were 60% higher than last winter, with weekly average prices soaring in January to nearly \$5 a gallon, the state Energy Office says. Though prices have fallen further since the end of winter, the average price of propane still remains higher than a year ago. As of May, the average price in Wisconsin was \$1.77 a gallon, or 19% higher than May 2013.

A working group of the Midwestern Governors Association was meeting in Madison Wednesday to discuss the propane supply challenges.

Walker announced that he sent a letter last week to President Barack Obama and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius asking for flexibility in Wisconsin's use of low-income heating assistance funds. The state is seeking an \$8 million advance on funds it's slated to receive when the federal fiscal year starts Oct. 1.

This move could enable Wisconsin to purchase propane more quickly and begin filling propane tanks for low-income residents before October. Doing so could help the state take advantage of summertime lows in propane prices.

The state estimates it could buy 15% more propane, resulting in savings of up to \$1 million, if its proposal is approved.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: http://www.jsonline.com/blogs/business/261854991.html

June 4, 2014

Propane pipeline reversal prompts plan to build western Wisconsin terminal

Responding to a loss of key source of propane for the upper Midwest, two partners announced plans Wednesday to build a propane terminal in Hixton, along Interstate 94 northwest of Black River Falls.

St. Paul-based CHS and Federation Cooperative of Black River Falls announced the new terminal, expected to open by this fall.

The plan was announced after the upper Midwest was hit hard by <u>propane shortages</u> and record prices during an extremely <u>frigid winter</u>. Among the reasons for the shortage: an outage of the Cochin pipeline that has long been a path to bring propane into Minnesota and nearby states from Canada. Kinder Morgan is working to stop importing propane by <u>reversing the flow of Cochin</u> to use it for exports of petroleum products to Canada instead.

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790-WAYY http://www.wayy790.com/local-news/2014/06/04/propane-terminal-to-be-built-in-jackson-co

Propane Terminal to be Built in Jackson Co.

A propane terminal will be built in west central Wisconsin, to make up for the loss of a major pipeline that sent Canadian fuel into the Upper Midwest.

C-H-S of Saint Paul and the Federation Co-operative of Black River Falls said the new terminal would be located along Interstate-94 at Hixton in Jackson County. C-H-S vice president Drew Combs said it's part of a 24-million dollar investment to expand propane service in the region affected by the reversal of the Cochin pipeline. An outage in that line was partially blamed for this winter's propane shortage, which drove up prices for a quarter-million Wisconsinites who heat their homes with the fuel. The line's owner, Kinder Morgan, is reversing the pipeline's flow to send domestic propane to Canada instead of the other way around. Officials say the new Hixton terminal is due to open this fall. Meanwhile, a committee of the Midwest Governors Association was meeting in Madison today to discuss ways to avoid a repeat of the propane shortage. Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker said he asked the White House last week for more flexibility in the use of funds for low-income heating assistance. The state is asking for eight-million dollars in advance on funds Wisconsin is due to get in the next fiscal year starting in October. The goal is to take advantage of lower wholesale propane prices in the summer.

Pierce County Herald: http://www.piercecountyherald.com/content/wisconsin-news-round-propane-terminal-be-built-hixton

June 4, 2014

WISCONSIN NEWS ROUND-UP: Propane terminal to be built in Hixton

A propane terminal will be built in west-central Wisconsin, to make up for the loss of a major pipeline that sent Canadian fuel into the Upper Midwest. (additional information in article requires subscription)