THE HISTORY OF THE

GAS PIPING TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

For the 45th Anniversary Meeting in Dearborn Michigan

July, 2015

Written by: Lowell Elder & John Frantz
Updated by Philip Sher

PREFACE

The Gas Piping Technology Committee has a long and vital history of service to the United States natural gas industry. The committee began in 1970 shortly after the Federal regulations for natural gas were adopted. The Part 192 regulations in large part began by adopting provisions in the existing ASME B31.8 code. Since the regulation was performance-based, guidance for natural gas transmission and distribution operators was needed.

The newly created Office of Pipeline Safety and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers agreed that ASME would form a group to write guidance material for each code section. Thus the ASME Gas Piping Standards Committee was established under the leadership of chair Lowell Elder. The initial Guide for Gas Transmission and Distribution Piping Systems (Guide) was published on December 15, 1970.

For the committee's 25th anniversary meeting in July 1995 Lowell Elder wrote the committee history. I have utilized that history as the starting point for this body of work. Discussions with current and former members of the committee were used to develop the background for this 40th anniversary updated history.

My thanks to all the dedicated people I have been associated with during my 30 years of membership who have given their time and expertise to the work of the Gas Piping Technology Committee.

John H. Frantz

May 2010

““If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” – Newton Standing on the shoulders of giants, I have updated the history to cover out last 5 years.

Philip Sher

June 2015

The Gas Piping Technology Committee exists primarily to write guidance for Part 191 and Part 192 of the Code of Federal Regulations governing safety standards for the transportation of natural gas. The formation of the committee is linked to the natural gas regulations. There were several events that led to the creation of the regulations that govern the natural gas industry.

I. EVENTS THAT LED TO THE FORMATION OF THE FEDERAL CODE

The First Trigger. In 1965, there was a large and spectacular pipeline failure near Natchitoches, Louisiana that produced several fatalities, considerable property damage, and intense media coverage. As a result, in President Lyndon Johnson's State Of The Union Address the year following the failure, he mentioned the need for gas pipeline safety regulations as one of his future objectives.

The Second Trigger. The State of the Union mention produced the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety (NGPLS) Act, which was given birth on August 12, 1968.

The Third Trigger. The NGPLS Act produced the Department Of Transportation (DOT), Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS). The Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act required the Secretary of Transportation to adopt interim rules within three months, which were to consist of the existing State standards where such standards existed, or the standards common to a majority of states where no state standard existed, and then to establish minimum federal standards within 24 months.

The safety standard for gas pipelines and mains in the majority of the states was the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Code for Pressure Piping Transmission and Distribution Piping Systems B31.8. Thus, ANSI B31.8 essentially became the interim minimum safety standard.

Between August 12, 1968 and August 12, 1970, the Office of Pipeline Safety developed safety standards that would be applicable to gas facilities, with the exception of rural gas gathering systems. As a result, Title 49, Part 192 of the Code of Federal Regulations, “Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipelines: Minimum Federal Standards” became effective November 12, 1970.

II. OPS DISCUSSIONS WITH ASME

Since the sponsoring organization of the ANSI B31.8 Committee was the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the Society initiated discussions with the DOT Office of Pipeline Safety in an effort to

establish the future role of the B31.8 Code Committee with respect to gas piping safety.

The first meeting between the officers of ASME and Messrs. Jennings and Caldwell of OPS was held on January 16, 1970 at Society headquarters in New York. The minutes of this first meeting makes for fascinating reading, since they contained rather lengthy statements of positions from both sides. There was also a realization on the part of the Society that they could no longer publish a standard to cover gas piping systems where Part 192 had jurisdiction. It forced the Society to do a lot of serious rethinking of their approach to writing codes and standards where federal regulations were also in place.

OPS Director Jennings also expressed his philosophy of pipeline regulations. The key points were: 1) regulations were to be written as performance requirements rather than detailed specifications to the maximum extent possible with the technical knowledge available; 2) regulations will not contain any recommended practices or cautionary notes; 3) if there is a need for OPS to publish advisory material, it would be published outside the Regulations (here was where the first glimmer of the "Guide" surfaced).

From this first meeting in January and a mountain of subsequent correspondence, several "Agreements" between the two agencies were developed. The first such agreement, and the one of most importance to us all, was that OPS would encourage the publication by ASME of the Federal Regulations in a document that would also incorporate the design rules, material references, and other recommended practices of ANSI B31.8, appropriately arranged and referenced to the Regulations. Thus, the concept of the boldfaced regulations followed by the appropriate "how to" information came into being.

The "Agreements" hammered out between the Society and OPS, ASME produced the Guide. It included Part 192 as the performance requirement, followed immediately, paragraph by paragraph and sentence by sentence, with all the pertinent details to help operators conform with the intent of 192. Our concern, right from the start, had been that, by publishing all of the relevant "how to" material, we could help OPS limit 192 language to performance requirements only and thus minimize the possibility of freezing the state-of-the-art in critical areas of design, corrosion, operations and maintenance.

There were many other items of "Agreement" between the two parties that suggested a continuing dialogue between OPS and ASME, the exchange of commentary on proposed OPS regulations and proposed "guide material," and a mutual invitation to participate in the development of such rules, regulations, and recommended practices.

Also, there was an understanding by ASME that they would have to thoroughly review and revise, if necessary, committee practices regarding documentation of, and public records of, the background material supporting Committee actions on proposals for document (Guide) changes that might ultimately impact upon the Federal Regulations. Simply put, if ASME wanted to submit a proposal to the Office of Pipeline Safety for consideration as part of 192, it would have to be thoroughly supported by supporting documentation.

III. FORMATION OF THE ASME GAS PIPING STANDARDS COMMITTEE

As a result of all of the meetings and correspondence described above, the Society immediately decided to form the ASME Gas Piping Standards Committee (GPSC). After an avalanche of phone calls and informal discussions, the formative meeting of the ASME Gas Piping Standards Committee was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the summer of 1970.

The then current chairman of ANSI B31.8, Lowell Elder, slid over to be the initial chair of the Gas Piping Standards Committee. The GPSC was organized and structured pretty much as the Committee exists now: main committee, subcommittees, task groups, many ad hoc groups.

GPSC worked furiously during the fall of 1970 in order to put together the first Guide as quickly as possible. It was agreed from the start that the Guide would have Part 192 regulations in boldfaced print and then followed up by whatever applicable material was available from B31.8. Also, we would add whatever new material could be generated in the short time frame available.

The Committee utilized the services of several hired experts to help do much of the actual writing, to identify areas where new material could be inserted quickly if approved in time, and also to identify areas that had no material available to support Part 192. This latter turned out to be a major chore – identifying those areas where we needed to add significant supporting material to help operators comply with the intent of Part 192.

The first ASME Guide for Gas Transmission and Distribution Piping Systems was published on December 15, 1970. It contained Part 192 code sections side-by-side with B31.8. This was a tremendous effort to accomplish in such a short amount of time.

The Guide was sold as a subscription service and all subscribers would receive additions and revisions to the federal regulations as well as new guide material.

III. **THE FIRST DECADE 1970-1979**

Lowell Elder's reign as GPSC Chairman lasted from the beginning to the end of the first decade of the committee's life.

The committee developed operating procedures for how it would conduct its internal business. Any new item of business that was to be conducted would be considered to be a Transaction. Each transaction would have a unique designation that began with the year in which it was adopted followed by a sequential number.

New transactions were proposed by the Executive section (composed of committee leadership) to the Main Body members for adoption. Based on their subject matter, transactions were assigned to a task group to be worked on. Early task groups included Corrosion, Design and Operations and Maintenance. Task groups generally assigned small "ad hoc" groups consisting of persons with specific expertise and interest to develop proposed guide material or other action to respond to the intent of a transaction.

Transaction material approved by a task group would be sent to three divisions (Distribution, Manufacturers and Transmission) for review. Once all three divisions approved the transaction material it went to the Main Body for letter ballot approval.

The first edition of the Guide, with GPSC guide material under the Part 192 code section, was the 1973 edition.

Based on edits to the Guide by ASME committee secretariat Philip Sher, an Editorial Task Group was formed. The original Editorial group was led by Ernie Warshafsky with members Clark Duncan, Leonard Orlando, Al Richardson and Sher, who was appointed secretary of the group. They spent many hours getting the 1976 edition of the Guide ready for publication.

A Liaison Task Group was established to make contact with appropriate OPS staff people about what was going on in gas piping that might bear on possible rule makings. This was also a tremendous help in finding out early on what areas of concern the OPS had in gas piping safety, so that the GPSC could help them prepare first drafts of proposed rule makings and/or develop supporting material. Liaison chairs over the years included Robert Dean, Albert Richardson and Joseph Caldwell.

In accordance with ASME policies the committee's Main Body personnel were balanced between distribution, manufacturer and transmission interest groups. The 40-person Main Body membership included committee officers, representatives from each division and general interest persons. All transaction guide material and correspondence to

outside agencies, such as petitions for rule change, required written letter ballot approval by the Main Body members.

Due to the volume of work that was needed to develop guide material for the Part 192 code sections, the committee met as a whole four times each year. In addition, work on transactions was conducted by the members between meetings. Since the membership included persons from across the country meeting locations were spread between eastern, mid-continent, and western cities each year.

Beginning with Joseph Caldwell in the 1973 edition, the Guide has included a letter of support for the committee's contributions to pipeline safety by the director of the Office of Pipeline Safety or the head of the current federal agency responsible for overseeing natural gas regulations.

As the decade of the 1970's ended so did the chairmanship of Lowell Elder. In his ten years as chair Lowell exhibited extraordinary leadership in establishing the GPSC committee and publishing the first Guide.

In the first three decades of the GPTC there were three committee chairs. From left to right John Frantz, Phil Lathrap, Lowell Elder

IV. **THE SECOND DECADE 1980-1989**

In 1980, Philip Lathrap took over the committee chairmanship. In the ten years that Phil was chair he would lead the committee through contentious times with ASME that culminated in a sponsorship change. Phil was known for telling a joke (often eliciting a groan from the audience) during the Main Body meetings.

Holding leadership positions in the early 1980's were Kenneth Behrens, Vice-Chair, Alan Bagner, Committee Secretary assigned by ASME, and Robert (Bob) Pierce, Recording Secretary. The three division chairs were John Fairly (Distribution), H.W. Palm (Manufacturers) and Andy Shoup (Transmission). Task group chairs were Lawrence (Larry) Bull (Corrosion), Steven Bergman (Design), Frank Schemm (Operations and Maintenance), Ivan DeBlieu (Plastic Pipe) and John Frantz (Prevention of Damage to Substructures).

Now that the Guide was established it was decided that the number of meetings could be reduced to three a year. The most visited meeting sites have been New Orleans, San Antonio and San Diego where the committee has met four times. Memorable hotels included The Peabody in Memphis, Tennessee with its twice daily duck parade in the lobby and the historic Menger, where Teddy Roosevelt stayed during training of the "Rough Riders". A meeting in Santa Fe in October 1984 featured a surprise three-inch snowfall.

A 1987 meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona was memorable for Charlie Farrell who traveled to the Pinnacle Peak Steakhouse and fell victim to their policy of no neckties. His severed necktie is probably still stapled to a rafter. GPTC members have also been treated to experience "off the beaten meeting path" cities such as Boise, Idaho (1996), Biloxi, Mississippi (2003) Corpus Christi, Texas (1988), Spokane, Washington (2007) and Vancouver, British Colombia (1992).

ASME, in the late 1970s, had become increasingly uncomfortable with the idea of having two “competing” committees and two “competing” publications, both covering essentially the same turf. Obviously, where Part 192 had jurisdiction, there was no direct competition between the GPSC Guide and the ASME B31.8 standard. Nevertheless, ASME was not terribly happy about this duality, since it went against their normal pattern of committee and document structure.

In order to alleviate the problem somewhat and recognizing that the GPSC was not a standard writing committee in the normal sense, the committee title was changed from the Gas Piping Standards Committee to the Gas Piping Technology Committee (GPTC). This occurred on September 20, 1982.

However, it did not end the internal conflict within ASME of having two committees providing ASME output on natural gas.

A January 1984 memo was issued by the ASME Board of Pressure Technology Codes and Standards established a policy that there would only be one official ASME position on material submitted to federal authorities on gas industry matters thus requiring the GPTC and B31.8

committees to verify that there were no conflicts. If there was no resolution the Board would decide.

In September 1987 the ASME Board adopted a recommendation to resolve ongoing differences in material developed by GPTC and B31.8 committees by combining the committees under the B31 main committee. The new combined committee would maintain B31.8, maintain the Guide and propose changes to Part 192 with the intent of making it consistent with the B31.8 code.

This action by ASME did not sit well with the GPTC members. In October 1987 the GPTC approved a motion to explore other sponsors for the committee and to begin discussions with ASME on obtaining copyright to the Guide. Bob Dean was appointed chairman of the task group on sponsorship transfer and Guide copyright. By the end of 1988 Bob obtained an agreement with ASME to sell the copyright to the Guide for $34,000.

Meanwhile negotiations were ongoing with the American Gas Association to take over sponsorship of the GPTC. To function with its technically-oriented objectives and its membership (especially regulatory) intact, the committee needed to maintain a level of independence similar to other standards committees sponsored by AGA. An agreement on sponsorship provisions was negotiated successfully with the AGA Managing Committee in the early fall of 1989.

At its October 1989 meeting in Washington, DC as a "committee of the whole" in which all members present could vote, the GPTC members accepted the conditions of sponsorship by AGA and approved the recommendation to ASME that the B31 committee disband the ASME Gas Piping Technology Committee and transfer arrangements for future meetings to the American Gas Association.

In the middle of the conflict with ASME the committee continued to provide useful guide material to help natural gas operators comply with the federal regulations. A good example of GPTC guide material is the classification of leaks. Performance-based regulation 192.703(c) states that "hazardous leaks must be repaired promptly". Providing operator guidelines for the detection, classification and control of gas leakage is the committee's Guide Material Appendix G-192-11.

As the decade ended, Phil Lathrap, in conjunction with his corporate retirement, decided to step down from his responsibilities as GPTC Chair. During his 1980's chairmanship, Phil Lathrap represented the committee's interests with ASME well in a difficult environment.

L to R: A. J. Del Buono, Jim DeVore, Glen Armstrong, Phil Sher, Frank Schemm John Frantz, Carl Hendrickson, Wes McGehee, John Zurcher, Dave Reisetter, Bob Dean

V. **THE THIRD DECADE 1990-1999**

As a new decade began so too did the GPTC's affiliation with a new sponsoring organization. It did so under new committee leadership.

On April 10, 1990 the copyright transfer for the Guide from ASME to AGA became effective. For the first time since its inception in 1970 the committee was no longer affiliated with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

As well as a new sponsoring organization, the new decade ushered in a change in the GPTC leadership. When the committee voted to transfer sponsorship to AGA they also voted to elect then Vice- Chair John Frantz to be the new committee chair. John instigated a popular "get-to-know-you" question that is still part of the initial main body meeting.

Wes McGehee, who had been chair of the Transmission Division, was elected committee first Vice-Chair beginning a long tenure in that position. John Zurcher took over as chair of Transmission followed later

by Richard (Rick) Flint and Ken Peters. Glen Armstrong started a 20-year run as Distribution Division chair replacing Jack Barth.

A. J. Del Buono became the Manufacturers Division chair. Manufacturers Division has equal standing with the Distribution and Transmission Divisions in GPTC. Developing guidance for regulations concerning components of the natural gas infrastructure has attracted technical experts to committee membership. Long time manufacturing-based members include Dennis Humes, Eugene Palermo, Robert Schmidt and Frank Volgstadt.

Philip Sher was elected second Vice-Chair and has continued in that role through the committee's 40th anniversary. Phil was assigned by ASME to the committee as it's secretariat in 1975 and became a committee member a year later. Phil spends countless hours between meetings updating and preparing the transaction package for the next meeting.

Ernie Wharshafsky chaired the Editorial Section. New task group chairs were Dave Reistetter (Damage Prevention), Carl Hendrickson (Design), Anthony (Tony) DiBrita (O&M) and Jim Devore (Plastics).

AGA, in the person of Larry Ingels, took over the Secretariat function from ASME and Alan Roby. The committee secretary position is a vital one in keeping the business of the committee organized and functioning. The secretary assures that the committee follows its procedures and maintains its ANSI accreditation. Letter ballots are sent to Main Body members, responses tallied and disseminated as needed for further review. The secretary also sends correspondence outside the committee, such as petitions for rule change to the appropriate government agency. Paul Cabot served two stints in this role first in the mid 1990's and again through the first decade of the new millennium. Other committee secretaries were Paul Gustillo and Roxanne Drayton.

There were changes in the leadership at the Office of Pipeline Safety as well. George Tenley became the new director in September 1990. George continued the excellent relationship between that Office and the Committee by writing a letter of support for the committee's efforts in writing guidance material to supplement the federal regulations.

In October 1991 the Research & Special Programs Administration (RSPA), which was the government agency overseeing natural gas regulations, sent out an alert notice on cast iron piping. In response, the committee developed a separate appendix, GMA 192-18, that consolidated all the guide material associated with cast iron pipe into one compendium that would be useful for operators of cast iron piping systems.

With the transfer of the committee affiliation from ASME to AGA it was important that the committee's basis as a technical committee be maintained and recognized. Consequently, the committee sought accreditation by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). On January 30, 1992 the Gas Piping Technology Committee was approved as an Accredited Standards Committee and designated GPTC Z380. In December of that year the 1990-91 edition of the Guide was approved as ANSI/GPTC Z380.1.

Jon Loker led a project to develop an historic reconstruction of the natural gas federal regulations that included the original version of Parts 191 and 192 and the amendments through 1993. This collection offered a readily accessible reference to persons researching code activity.

Loker continued a traditional of strong Editorial Section leadership by taking over the chair responsibilities from Bob Pierce. He remains in this role in 2010. The Editorial group is responsible for the professional presentation of the Guide by assuring guidance material is formatted correctly and it spends many hours doing its work.

In 1993, John Kottwitz, a GPTC member since 1979, took over as chair of the Damage Prevention & Emergency Response Task Group. John is one of a number of state regulators who have been GPTC members over the years including long time members Steven Blaney (New York) and Philip Sher (Connecticut). Having state and federal regulators on the committee is part of the committee's unique broad-based membership. Charles Batten, who began as a state regulator and later moved on to the National Transportation Safety Board, was a charter member of the committee and maintained his membership throughout his career and into his retirement.

In 1995, Richard Huriaux, newly appointed Director of Regulations for the Office of Pipeline Safety, became a GPTC member replacing Cesar DeLeon. The report from the Washington-based federal representative is a highlight of Main Body meetings. There have also been federal regulator members from the regional offices, such as Linda Daugherty and William Gute, and the Transportation Safety Institute with long time GPTC member Lane Miller.

The committee reached a milestone in 1995. It had been providing guidance to operators on compliance with the natural gas regulations for 25 years. Every five years the committee would gather in its formative city, Pittsburgh, for a special anniversary celebration meeting. However, for the quarter-century meeting it was decided to meet in Philadelphia. An anniversary committee was formed led by Bobby and Peggy Woodward. Festivities included a trolley tour of the city, a reception appearance by Benjamin Franklin, and a gala dinner at the city's famous Union League with a welcome by Mayor Edward Rendell. The main

speaker was former GPTC chair Lowell Elder who presented his history of the committee.

In 1999, new regulations were added to Part 192 prescribing requirements for operator qualification of individuals performing certain covered tasks on pipeline facilities. The addition of Subpart N and five new code sections created the need for a significant guidance effort on the part of the committee.

Through the remainder of the decade the Gas Piping Technology Committee members continued to debate and create guidance material and suggest regulation improvements.

VI. **THE FOURTH DECADE 2000-2009**

As the new millennium dawned the committee celebrated 30 years of service to the natural gas industry at its meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. The anniversary dinner was held in the renowned Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

One of the highlights of the meeting was viewing pictures of members taken during previous meetings especially at the receptions. A reception is held on an evening during each gathering of the committee and is a GPTC tradition. Members, and their guests, get to know each other better in a social setting after a long day of debating the best way to word operator guidance. Committee photographers Eugene Fawcett, Peggy Woodward and George Lomax have captured the personal interactions over the years.

The regulatory arena began heating up with the prospect of the creation of integrity management rules for transmission pipelines. Although regulations had not been promulgated yet, the committee decided to publish technical materials for the purpose of advancing pipeline safety. On November 18, 2001 an ANSI Technical Report was published titled "Review of Integrity Management for Natural Gas Transmission Pipelines". The report presented an approach for operators to manage the integrity of their steel transmission pipelines.

Regulations for pipeline integrity management were published at the end of 2003 and created a new Subpart O and 26 new code sections. This was a major new addition to the natural gas regulations and would result in the GPTC writing guidance material for the rest of the decade by a special task group led by Frank Bennett.

In 2004, becoming sensitive to concerns about publishing timely guidance for its customers, the committee launched an initiative to streamline the process of acting on transactions. Changes to the

scheduling of task group, division and Main Body meetings during the overall meeting allowed a transaction to be approved by a task group and be voted on by all three divisions and the Main Body all at the same meeting. The new meeting format enabled a GPTC meeting to be reduced in duration from three to two-and a half days and potentially saving a day of travel and lodging for members.

There were several other changes to reduce costs and improve the committee's efficiency. Addendum to the Guide were now sent to purchasers electronically rather than mailing a paper copy as the standard update method. The Guide was made available by computer disc. The Executive Section adopted a "sunset rule" for all transactions that were still active five years after they were first approved. Editorial Section began the practice of meeting after the closing Main Body meeting to prepare transactions with guide material for letter ballot sooner. Also, the ANSI public notice process was made concurrent with the Main Body letter ballot process.

With the completion of the transmission pipeline integrity regulations the focus in Washington shifted to similar regulations for distribution pipelines. In a December 2004 public meeting the Inspector General of the United States, Kenneth Mead, challenged the Pipeline Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA) and the natural gas industry to create distribution pipeline integrity requirements. This resulted in PHMSA creating what became known as the Phase One investigation.

To remain relevant within the industry the GPTC needed to be involved in the distribution integrity process. Communications with PHMSA Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety Stacey Gerard resulted in a GPTC presentation at the December 2004 public meeting and a seat on the Phase One task team.

The Phase One report issued in December 2005 determined that the distribution integrity regulation should be a high-level flexible rule in conjunction with implementation guidance. Since the GPTC had been providing guidance to performance-based regulations since the Part 192 regulations were created the committee seemed to be well positioned to provide the distribution integrity guidance and desired to do so. Efforts were put forth to attempt to accomplish this objective.

On March 3, 2006, GPTC Chair John Frantz received a letter co-signed by Stacey Gerard and National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR) National Chair Don Martin requesting the GPTC to develop distribution integrity management guidance. The letter further requested the GPTC to develop guidance in parallel with the regulation process and have the guidance available for public review in conjunction with the proposed rulemaking notice in the fall of 2006. While developing guidance for an unpublished regulation was

unprecedented and there was a very short timeline for delivery, the committee was pleased to offer its expertise and strive to meet the request.

Representatives of the gas industry, (AGA and American Public Gas Association) and the regulators (PHMSA, NAPSR and National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners) were added to GPTC members to form the distribution integrity guidance task group. The 25-person task group was called the "DI Guidance TG".

Beginning with a conference call on March 15, 2006 and continuing with several face-to-face meetings the team wrestled with developing operator guidance for distribution integrity planning. The group was led by GPTC Distribution Division Chair Glen Armstrong who masterfully managed to channel the diversity of opinions. Using the "seven elements" identified in the Phase One report as its basic structure the joint task group completed the guidance document in October 2006 meeting the request of Gerard and Martin.

Newly elected GPTC chair Marti Marek receiving congratulations from outgoing chair John Frantz

After almost 17 years as the chair John Frantz ended his leadership of the GPTC at the July 2006 meeting in Annapolis, Maryland. It was at

this meeting that the fourth chair of the committee, Marti Marek, was elected. James Heintz was elected committee Vice-Chair. He was followed in 2009 by Leticia (Letty) Quezada who also led annual orientation meetings for new members.

In 2008, the committee moved away from using paper for the transmitting the meeting Transaction Package. The package was now made available to members to download on their computers. Also, in the committee meetings a projector was set up and members were encouraged to bring draft guidance on devices capable for use with computer projection equipment. Paul Cabot, AGA Secretariat for the committee estimated that the committee meetings went from paper-based to 95 percent electronic in less than two years.

The Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Task Group, led by long time chair John Chin, had developed an unmanageable workload of transactions. The solution was to split the committee into two groups: O&M/Operator Qualification, chaired by Will Carey, and later Jerome Themig and Integrity Management Program (IMP)/Corrosion, chaired by Chin.

As the committee reaches the end of its fourth decade it can proudly look back over forty years of providing guidance to natural gas operators on the Part 191 and 192 regulations. There have been many persons along the way who have been dedicated to the objectives of the committee. While there have only been four committee chairs in the forty years that the committee has existed, amazingly there is one person who remains a member of the committee who was there at its birth, Amerigo (A.J) Del Buono.

Undoubtedly the future will hold new challenges for the committee. However, with dedicated members like A.J. Del Buono the Gas Piping Technology Committee will prove to be equal to those challenges and continue to prosper.

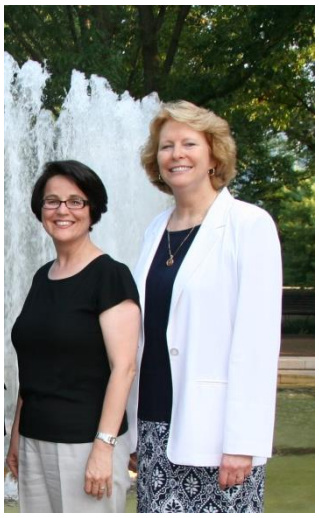
VII. **THE NEXT FIVE YEARS 2010-2014**

After celebrating the 40th Anniversary in St. Louis in July 2010, the Committee continued in its on-going work to promote public safety through its highly-valued Guide. A major step in meeting its goal was the issuance of the Distribution Integrity Management Program (DIMP) appendix.

Effort to continue to exploit technology to assist the Committee to be more efficient came with the activation of the Committee web sharing system. Phase 1 allows a significant amount of the work of the Committee to occur on-line in real time. Phase 2 is currently under development which will extend these efficiencies to virtually all of the Committee activities.

On May 10, 2013, Marti Marek, Gas Piping Technology Committee Chairperson suddenly passed away. Marti was well respected and well-loved and she is greatly missed.

In November 2013, Letty Quesada was elected on the 5th Gas Piping Technology Committee Chairperson.



Current GPTC chair Letty Quesada with former GPTC chair Marti Marek

With the 2015 Edition, the Committee changed the name of the Guide to *Guide for Gas Transmission, Distribution, and Gathering Piping Systems*.

The future still holds new challenges for the Committee. With its dedicated members, the Gas Piping Technology Committee will continue to prove to be equal to those challenges and continue to prosper.