

2026 MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AGENDA

APRIL 8-10 | Grapevine, Texas

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

TIME	SESSIONS	DETAILS
12:00PM - 5:00PM	Registration Open	
2:00PM - 5:00PM	Associate Section Managing Committee Meeting	<i>Invitation for Members of the SGA Councils</i>
	Inclusion & Diversity Council Meeting	
	Gas Marketing & Supply Council Meeting	
3:00PM - 5:00PM	SGA Executive Council Meeting	<i>Invitation for Council Members Only</i>
5:00PM - 6:00PM	Welcome Cocktail Reception	
6:00PM - 8:00PM	Board Dinner	

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

7:00AM - 5:00PM	Registration/Information Desk Open	
8:00AM - 8:30AM	<p>Opening Session: Welcome to Dallas, Texas, <i>Becky Palmer, President West Texas Division, Atmos</i> <i>Suzanne Ogle, SGA President & CEO</i> <i>Ben Carlisle, CHMM, Manager, Environmental Compliance and Permitting, Southern Star, & Conference Planning Committee Chair</i> <i>Shawn Patterson, President & CEO, Southern Star, SGA Board of Directors Chair</i></p>	

SESSION 1

Transition to First Session

8:40AM - 10:10AM	<p>AI in the Workplace: Strategic Transformation & Operational Excellence in Natural Gas (Leadership Section)</p> <p>Format: Presentation</p> <p>Speakers: James Joseph, Gokhan Ekici</p>	
8:340AM - 10:10AM	<p>Power Innovation: Driving the Future of Energy (Corporate Services Section)</p> <p>Presenters: Gregory Blandford</p>	
10:00am - 12:00pm	SGA Board Meeting	
10:10AM - 10:30 AM	Networking Break	

SESSION 2

10:30AM - 12:00PM	<p>Brindging the Inclusion Gap (Inclusion & Diversity Council)</p> <p>Format: Interactive Presentation</p> <p>Speaker: Dene Roseburr-Olotu</p>	
10:30AM - 12:00PM	<p>Infrastructure updates: Pipeline expansions, storage capacity, and rate impacts (Gas Supply & Marketing Council)</p> <p>Format: Speaker & Audience Discussion</p> <p>Speaker: East Daily</p>	
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Awards Ceremony Luncheon	

SESSION 3	
1:40PM - 3:10PM	<p align="center">Harnessing AI in the Natural Gas Industry: Real-World Applications and Insights</p> <p align="center">(Innovative Opportunities Section & Asset Management Section)</p> <p align="center">Format: Panel & Audience Discussion</p> <p align="center">Moderator: Christian Richards</p> <p align="center">Panelists: Abhijit Bhatwadekar, Tammy Summers</p>
3:10PM - 3:30PM	Networking Break
SESSION 4	
3:30PM - 4:30PM	<p align="center">Keynote: Muriel Wilkens</p> <p align="center">Leadership Unblocked</p> <p>Senior leaders don't get stuck because they lack capability—they get stuck because complexity, expectations, and pressure compound quietly over time.</p> <p>In this sharp, candid keynote, Muriel Wilkins—executive coach and host of Coaching Real Leaders—pulls back the curtain on the leadership moments that stall even the most accomplished executives. Drawing from real coaching conversations at the highest levels, she challenges leaders to confront the patterns they've normalized, the decisions they're avoiding, and the impact they may not see—but everyone else does.</p> <p>This session is for leaders who don't need motivation—they need clarity, better judgment under pressure, and the ability to move themselves and their organizations forward when it counts.</p>
4:30PM - 6:00PM	<p align="center">Networking Reception Cocktails and Appetizers- Sponsored by</p> <p align="center">nGenue Software, an SGA Advance Partner</p> <p align="center">Good drinks. Smart people. Real conversation.</p> <p>Join us for cocktails, appetizers, and relaxed networking before heading out to dinner. This is your chance to connect with fellow senior leaders, continue the conversation sparked throughout the day, and build relationships that matter—without an agenda, a microphone, or another slide in sight.</p>
FRIDAY, APRIL 10	
7:00AM - 9:15AM	Registration/Information Desk Open
8:00AM - 9:10AM	<p>Growth Starts with Us: A Playbook for the Next Five Years</p> <p>(Customer Growth & Development Section)</p> <p>Speaker: Dave Roberts</p> <p>Telematics Roundtable Discussion (Employee Safety Section)</p> <p>Format: Presentation & Audience Discussion</p> <p>Speaker: James Owens</p>
9:10AM - 9:15AM	
9:15AM - 10:45AM	<p>Interactive Capstone Roundtable</p> <p>Host: Shawn Patterson and Ty Samples</p> <p>Participants: Conference Attendees</p>
10:45AM	Conference Dismissal

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8 – 1-4pm

Executive Council Roundtable & Other Councils - [Invitation for Council Members Only](#)

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

SESSION 1 8:30 - 10:00

Track A: AI in the Workplace: Strategic Transformation & Operational Excellence in Natural Gas (Leadership Section)

Speakers: James Joseph, Gokhan Ekici

Description:

During this session we will review

- What AI really is
- How AI is reshaping Strategic and Operations Management and the Workforce Requirements
- How leaders can handle the workforce change needs resulting from AI
- What the future with more AI in our business processes will look like.

Track B: Power Innovation: Driving the Future of Energy (Corporate Services Section)

Presenters: Gregory Blandford,

Session Objectives:

- Explore cutting-edge technologies shaping the energy sector.
- Discuss collaboration between utilities, innovators, and regulators.
- Identify actionable strategies for grid modernization and decarbonization.
- Highlight why meeting future energy demand requires BOTH energy innovation (generation, storage, renewables) and power innovation (grid, digitalization, resiliency).

SESSION 2 10:30 - 12:00

Track A: Bridging the Inclusion Gap (Inclusion & Diversity Council)

Speaker: Dene Roseburr-Olotu , Director of Inclusion & Diversity, ONE Gas

In this session leaders will focus on the own core values and how it drives their leadership. From strategy non-negotiables to 1 on 1 check-ins, is what you're doing aligned to the outcomes you want? Join us as we explore and learn tips and tricks of the trade.

Track B: Infrastructure updates: Pipeline expansions, storage capacity, and rate impacts (Gas Supply & Marketing Council)

Speaker: East Daily

SESSION 3 1:30 - 3:00 SINGLE TRACK SESSION

Harnessing AI in the Natural Gas Industry: Real-World Applications and Insights (Innovative Opportunities Section & Asset Management Section)

1. *Tammy Summers- VP of IT, Boardwalk Pipelines*
2. *Abhijit Bhatwadekar VP and Chief Information Officer, Chesapeake Utilities*
3. (Moderator) *Christian Richards, Vice President, Enterprise Performance and Systems, TECO Peoples Gas*

Discover how AI is reshaping the natural gas industry. This dynamic session features a diverse panel of experts from leading energy companies and technology providers, sharing practical use cases that drive efficiency, safety, and innovation. Gain actionable insights and explore the future of AI-powered operations.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

SESSION 1 8:00 - 9:00

Track A: Growth Starts with Us: A Playbook for the Next Five Years (Customer Growth & Development Section)

Speaker: Dave Roberts, VP Commercial Services and Strategy, Southern Star

1. Infrastructure Expansion: Meeting Tomorrow's Demand
 - Both LDCs and pipelines must scale to support rising consumption and reliability expectations.
 - What does expansion look like across regions and systems?
 - How do we proactively manage permitting, stakeholder engagement, and execution risk?
2. Balancing Investment and Rate Impact
 - Significant capital will be deployed to modernize and grow our systems.
 - How do we ensure rate structures remain competitive while funding strategic growth?
 - What lessons can we draw from recent rate case strategies and contract renewals?
3. Low-Carbon Strategy: Repositioning for the Long Game
 - Momentum has slowed, but low-carbon initiatives remain a strategic directive.
 - What's real, what's noise, and how do we prioritize credible pathways?
 - How do we integrate ESG goals without compromising system reliability and sustain growth?
4. Technology Disruption and Opportunity
 - AI is reshaping every industry—ours included.
 - What emerging technologies (e.g., predictive analytics, automation, digital twins) could redefine operations, customer engagement, or asset management?
 - Where should we invest to stay ahead of the curve?
5. Natural Gas Messaging: Beyond the Bridge Fuel
 - The narrative around natural gas is evolving.
 - How do we position ourselves as a long-term solution in the energy transition?
 - What messaging strategies resonate with regulators, customers, and investors?

SESSION 2 8:00 - 9:00

Track B: Telematics Roundtable Discussion (Employee Safety Section)

Speaker: James Owens, Safety Manager, Atmos

Description: The section will be doing 30 minute telematics presentation followed by interactive roundtable discussion with the session attendees.

SESSION 2 9:15 - 10:45

Interactive Capstone Roundtable

Host: Shawn Patterson and Ty Samples