

2026 MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AGENDA

APRIL 8-10 | Grapevine, Texas

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8			
TIME	SESSIONS	DETAILS	ROOMS
12:00PM - 5:00PM	Registration Open Sponsored by K2 Controls, Inc.		Vineyard Pre-Function
2:00PM - 5:00PM	Associate Section Managing Committee Meeting	<i>Invitation for Members of the SGA Councils</i>	Texoma 1
	Inclusion & Diversity Council Meeting		Texoma 2
	Gas Marketing & Supply Council Meeting		Texoma 3
3:00PM - 5:00PM	SGA Executive Council Meeting	<i>Invitation for Council Members Only</i>	Mesilla
5:00PM - 6:00PM	Welcome Cocktail Reception		Vineyard Pre-Function
6:00PM - 8:00PM	Board Dinner		
THURSDAY, APRIL 9			
7:00AM - 8:00AM	Breakfast		High Plains
7:00AM - 5:00PM	Registration/Information Desk Open Sponsored by K2 Controls, Inc.		Vineyard Pre-Function
8:00AM - 8:30AM	Opening Session: Welcome to Dallas, Texas, <i>Becky Palmer, President West Texas Division, Atmos</i> <i>Suzanne Ogle, SGA President & CEO</i> Ben Carlisle, CHMM, Manager, Environmental Compliance and Permitting, <i>Southern Star, & Conference Planning Committee Chair</i> Shawn Patterson, President & CEO, <i>Southern Star, SGA Board of Directors Chair</i>		High Plains
SESSION 1			
Transition to First Session			
8:40AM - 10:10AM	Harnessing AI in the Natural Gas Industry: Real-World Applications and Insights (Innovative Opportunities Section & Asset Management Section) Format: Panel & Audience Discussion Moderator: Kyle Moore Panelists: Abhijit Bhatwadekar, Tammy Summers, Brandon Croley		Escondido 1&2
8:40AM - 10:10AM	Power Innovation: Driving the Future of Energy (Corporate Services Section) Presenter: Gokhan Ekici		
10:00am - 12:00pm	SGA Board Meeting (Invitation Only)		Mesilla
10:10AM - 10:30 AM	Networking Break		High Plains Foyer
SESSION 2			
10:30AM - 12:00PM	Telematics Roundtable Discussion (Employee Safety Section) Format: Presentation & Audience Discussion Speaker: James Owens		Escondido 1&2
10:30AM - 12:00PM	Infrastructure updates: Pipeline expansions, storage capacity, and rate impacts (Gas Supply & Marketing Council) Format: Speaker & Audience Discussion Speaker: Zach Krause		
12:00pm - 1:30pm	Awards Ceremony Luncheon		High Plains
SESSION 3			
1:40PM - 3:10PM	AI in the Workplace: Strategic Transformation & Operational Excellence in Natural Gas (Leadership Section) Format: Presentation Speakers: James Joseph, Gokhan Ekici		Escondido 1&2
3:10PM - 3:30PM	Networking Break		High Plains Foyer
SESSION 4			

3:30PM - 4:30PM	<p style="text-align: center;">Keynote: Muriel Wilkens 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 Wilkens—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>	High Plains
4:30PM - 6:00PM	<p style="text-align: center;">Networking Reception Cocktails and Appetizers- Sponsored by nGenue Software, an SGA Advance Partner</p> <p style="text-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>	Yellow Rose Ballroom
FRIDAY, APRIL 10		
7:00AM - 8:00AM	Breakfast	High Plains
7:00AM - 9:15AM	Registration/Information Desk Open - Sponsored by K2 Controls, Inc.	Vineyard Pre-Function
8:00AM - 9:10AM	<p style="text-align: center;">Growth Starts with Us: A Playbook for the Next Five Years</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Customer Growth & Development Section) Speaker: Dave Roberts, Kyle Geiger, Carl Haga, Adam Long</p>	High Plains
9:10AM - 9:15AM	AM Break	High Plains Foyer
9:15AM - 10:45AM	<p style="text-align: center;">Interactive Capstone Roundtable</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Host: Shawn Patterson and Ty Samples Participants: Conference Attendees</p>	High Plains
10:45AM	Conference Dismissal	

2026 MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AGENDA

Speakers & Session Descriptions

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: 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. **Brandon Croley** – Director Information Technology, Williams
4. (Moderator) **Kyle Moore**, Operations Director and General Manager, Aspire Energy

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.

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

Presenters: Gokhan Ekici

- Power Generation Status in the US
- What is the expected end-game
- Data Centers, Natural Gas and LNG
- Why nothing gets built!

SESSION 2 10:30 - 12:00

Track A: 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.

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

Speaker: Zach Krause, East Daily

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

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.

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 & Kyle Geiger Manager, Market Development & Strategy, Southern Star & Carl Haga, Vice President, Commercial, Kinder Morgan & Adam Long, VP and COO Natural Gas at Duke Energy

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.