

09-23-2009
Matthew Butler



Ed Steele was presented with the Ohio Gas Association (OGA) Founders Distinguished Service Award at the Ohio Gas Association's 38th Annual Meeting on Sept. 17. The OGA is a natural gas trade organization which represents a total of thirty distribution operators, nine inter- and intra-state transmission companies, eight natural gas commodity marketers and more than one hundred affiliate members. The OGA was founded in 1971 and maintains its headquarters in Columbus, Ohio. The work of the OGA is performed through its President, Executive Committee, Board of Trustees and select committees. These committees meet on a regular basis and function as an information exchange vehicle for technical support and to promote customer satisfaction, public awareness and safety. Two primary functions of the OGA are to monitor and report on regulatory and legislative activities. The companies of the OGA serve over 3.6 million natural gas customers in Ohio.

The Ohio Gas Association created the award through board action, specifically to honor Ed for his enormous contribution to the pipeline safety industry. He worked in the gas pipeline safety section at the PUCO for 23 years, serving as chief for 18 of those years. Normally, the OGA honors people who work for a natural gas company but because Ed does not, they decided that an award should be established to honor distinguished service relative to the safety of natural gas at the national and state level.

The association's president, Roy Rushing had great things to say about Ed. He said that Ed was highly respected and very visible on the national scene and took the time to take the Ohio gas pipeline safety program to a new level. He went on to say that Ed was a "roll up your sleeves person who wasn't aware of the incredible resource he was to the entire industry." Industry people stated that Ed was tough but fair and always willing to listen and give consideration to all sides.

Ed was very surprised by the recognition, he stated, "I am honored to be recognized by the Ohio Gas Association. The OGA is a strong technically based organization that promotes pipeline safety, and I am humbled to receive this award. It means a lot to me, coming from a group of people that I regulated and worked with on a daily basis for over 23 years."

The industry will extremely miss Ed, but they are hopeful that they can continue to interact with him in his new position of Supervisor of Geology and GIS in the Energy and Environment Department.

Congratulations Ed!

