



American
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Preliminary Program

2026 API Storage Tank Conference & Expo

October 21-22, 2026 | Hyatt Regency Austin, Austin, Texas | www.api.org/storagetank

**As of August 13, 2026 | Agenda subject to change*

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

7:00 am – 8:00 am

Registration, Continental Breakfast, & Exhibit Viewing

8:00 am – 8:15 am

Welcome: Opening Remarks and Safety Moment

2026 Conference Co-Chairs:
Dave Cushman, West Virginia Paint, LLC
Earl Crochet, Crochet Midstream Consulting

8:15 am – 9:00 am

Keynote Session: TBD

Speaker: TBD

Keynote Description Here

9:00 am – 9:20 am

Morning Refreshment Break & Exhibit Viewing

9:20 am – 10:30 am

SESSION 1A: Cascading Failure

Moderator: Peter Williams, Concord Tank Corp.

Speaker: Adam Henson, US Chemical Safety Board

Join the U.S. Chemical Safety Board for a discussion on cascading failure. This session will use two case studies based on incidents involving aboveground storage tanks to illustrate the concept of cascading failure. The focus of the discussion will be lessons learned from these incidents geared towards preventing future incidents.

SESSION 1B: Managing the Unknown: A Risk-Based Approach to Unexpected Tank Floor Corrosion

Moderator: Rafael Rengifo, Becht

Speaker: Ahmed Al-Issa, Transmountain

Discover how routine maintenance activities for newly constructed tanks at a tank terminal uncovered unexpected, severe floor corrosion—raising concerns across an entire tank fleet. This session walks through the initial findings, innovative inspection approaches, and a risk-based strategy used to assess and mitigate systemic threats. Learn how operators can adapt integrity programs, optimize outage planning, and manage uncertainty when confronting unforeseen degradation.



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10:30 am – 10:50 am

Morning Refreshment Break & Exhibit Viewing

10:50 am – 12:00 pm

SESSION 2A: Ask the Experts

Moderators: Dave Cushman & Earl Crochet

Speakers: Our Audience is the Brain Trust

Got burning questions or wild what-ifs? Our panel of experts is ready to dish out answers, bust myths, and maybe even settle a friendly debate or two – bring it on!

SESSION 2B: EPA Regulatory Updates

Moderator: Dane Asuigui, API

Speaker: Christie Torres Rosa, US EPA

Presentation to give reorganization details and regulatory updates from EPA. Updates to be included are EPA reorganization, new SPCC and FRP lead, and the CWA Hazardous Substance FRP Rule. SPCC and FRP inspection targets/priorities and future activities, actions, or products planned for the SPCC and FRP regulated communities.



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12:00 pm – 12:40 pm

Lunch

12:40 pm – 1:10 pm

Exhibit Viewing

1:10 pm – 1:55 pm

SESSION 3A: Robotic Internal Shell Inspection of Insulated

Atmospheric Storage Tanks

Moderator: Rama Challa PhD, PE, Advanced Tank

Speaker: Dr. Mark Stone, Square Robot

Traditional inspection of insulated atmospheric storage tanks requires costly insulation removal, scaffolding, and extended outages. Square Robot's SR-3 robotic platform performs internal, onstream shell inspections using Phased Array Ultrasonic Testing (PAUT) — eliminating the need to take tanks out of service. This presentation details the technology development, navigation challenges overcome, and results from a real-world deployment on a 90-foot tall Thermal Energy Storage tank at a Dominion Energy power plant facility.

SESSION 3B: Considerations For Utilizing Non-Fluorinated

Concentrates in systems designed for AFFF

Moderator: Jerry Kolek, Consolidated Fabrication &

Constructors, Inc.

Speaker: James Morgan, Williams Fire & Hazard Control

Understanding the required changes in system design requirements, proportioning equipment, discharge devices and our tactics; between AFFF's and how non-fluorinated foam concentrates differ in comparison.

1:55 pm – 2:15 pm

Afternoon Refreshment Break & Exhibit Viewing

Session 4A: Tank Reliability Centered Maintenance: Working within Regulations to Focus on "Bad Actors"

2:15 pm – 3:25 pm

Moderator: Earl Crochet, The Tank Whisperer, CMC

Speaker: Rafael Rengifo, Becht

Tank Reliability Centered Maintenance: Working within Regulations to Focus on "Bad Actors" A session that discusses how compliant tank integrity programs can shift from calendar-based to risk- and reliability-based inspection intervals

SESSION 4B: Measuring the Right Metric: Emissions Performance Versus Mechanical Integrity in Floating Roof Seal

Moderator: Todd McClellan, Colonial Pipeline

Speaker: Kimberly Hayes, Valkim Technologies

Has there been an incident or event in your career that caused you to look at safety differently? An experience that forced a reset in how you approach safety each day? This presentation will examine two major industry disasters from history and several personal safety incidents that were life-altering. Underlying causes will be discussed, and risk mitigation measures will be identified, with a focus on combating normalization of deviance and complacency.



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3:25 pm – 3:45 pm

Afternoon Refreshment Break

3:45 pm – 5:00 pm

SESSION 5A: Former EPA Program Perspectives on SPCC and FRP Compliance Monitoring (Inspections)

Moderator: Joe Mentzer, Steel Tank Institute

Speaker: Mark Howard, Ounce of Prevention Consulting

The presentation will provide attendees with real world examples of common issues noted during EPAs' SPCC and FRP compliance monitoring and GIUEs. This presentation will provide an overview of these common SPCC and FRP deficiencies from the former EPA SPCC program manager's perspective.

SESSION 5B: Ultrasonic Mode Imaging - A Nonintrusive AST Assessment and Management

Tool

Moderator: Wesley Oatman, Dunham Engineering

Speaker: Dr. Steve Ziola, Antech Systems, Inc.



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How much out of service time can be saved if bottom plate corrosion could be identified and located before an AST is taken out of service? Ultrasonic Mode Imaging is that NDT tool. When it's time to survey bottom plating, questionable areas have been located and follow on NDT is focused, further reducing out of service time. UMI, a tool that can help owners/operators better manage ASTs'

SESSION 5C: What is your Showstopper?

Moderator: Kathy Hawks, Colonial Pipeline

Speaker: Todd McClellan, Colonial Pipeline

5:00 pm – 5:05 pm

Has there been an incident or event in your career that caused you to look at safety differently? An experience that forced a reset in how you approach safety each day? This presentation will examine two major industry disasters from history and several personal safety incidents that were life-altering. Underlying causes will be discussed, and risk mitigation measures will be identified, with a focus on combating normalization of deviance and complacency.

5:05pm – 6:00 pm

Wrap Up of Day One

2026 Conference Co-Chairs:

Dave Cushman, WV Paint

Earl Crochet, Crochet Midstream Consulting

Welcome Reception, Exhibit Viewing, & Networking – Presented by our Platinum Sponsors



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Thursday, October 22, 2024

8:00 am – 8:15 am

Opening Remarks and Safety Moment

8:15 am – 9:00 am

Session K2: EPA Perspective on SPCC and FRP Compliance Monitoring

Moderator: Joe Mentzer

Speaker: Christie Torres Rosa, Ted Welden, US EPA

EPA's Oil Pollution Prevention Regulations (40 CFR Part 112) require certain facilities to prepare and implement Spill Prevention Control & Countermeasure (SPCC) Plans to prevent discharges of oil to waters of the United States. These regulations also require certain facilities to prepare and submit to EPA Facility Response Plans (FRP) to respond to worst-case discharges of oil. In support of each regulation, EPA Regional offices (10 EPA Regions) conduct SPCC and FRP compliance monitoring and FRP government initiated unannounced exercises (GIUEs). Common issues noted during EPA's SPCC and FRP compliance monitoring and GIUEs can involve plan preparation deficiencies and/or implementation deficiencies with required procedures and/or facility structures. This presentation will provide an overview of common SPCC and FRP deficiencies from an EPA perspective.

9:00 am – 9:20 am

Morning Refreshment Break & Exhibit Viewing

9:20 am – 10:30 am

SESSION 1A: Integrity Assessment of Atmospheric Storage Tanks for Temporary Industrial

Effluent Service

Moderator: Mark Kachelmyer

Speaker: Ramon Ariza Gamero, Ecopetrol

During a major refinery turnaround, temporary storage capacity was required to receive process decontamination effluents under uncertain chemical conditions. This presentation describes a risk-based integrity assessment used to determine tank suitability, evaluate coating performance, identify degradation threats, and establish operational controls. The case study is used to develop a broader framework for managing atmospheric storage tank integrity when assets are temporarily repurposed to support business continuity and critical operational objectives.

SESSION 1B: EPA's Roles and Responsibilities during an Oil Spill

Moderator: Mark Howard, US EPA

Speaker: Christie Torres Rosa, Ted Welden, US EPA

Each year, thousands of emergencies involving oil spills or the release (or threatened release) of hazardous substances are reported in the United States. Emergencies range from small scale spills to large incidents requiring prompt action and/or evacuation of nearby populations. EPA's emergency response program responds to oil spills, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear incidents and large-scale national emergencies, including homeland security incidents. EPA's On Scene Coordinators provide support when requested or when state and local first responder capabilities have been exceeded. Through coordinating and implementing a wide range of activities, EPA OSCs conduct removal actions to protect human health and the environment. This is done by either funding response actions directly or overseeing and enforcing actions conducted by potentially responsible parties. This presentation will dive into the roles and responsibilities of OSCs during an emergency response.

10:30 am – 10:50 am

Morning Refreshment Break & Exhibit Viewing



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10:50 am – 12:00 pm

SESSION 2A: A Tank on Borrowed Time: Risk, Repairing the Unrepairable, and Results

Moderator: Andy Wong, PEMY Consulting

Speaker: Joseph Attia, VTEK Consultants

VTEK was engaged to engineer repairs for a 1950's, 150ft diameter 12C unconventional design tank that experienced floor leaks, roof structural damage, settlement due to soil failures and shell deformations. Advanced engineering techniques were employed for several repair aspects. The project was further complicated by previous non-code complaint repairs completed in the late 1990's which required new ways of safely completing lifts and repairs and component repairs and/or replacements.

SESSION 2B: Improved Tank Construction

Efficiency Using High Strength Stainless Steel

Coil

Moderator: Larry Foster, Marathon Petroleum

Speaker: John Grocki, Advantage Resources

Consulting

This presentation will demonstrate how fabrication from high strength stainless steel coil can streamline tank construction compared to using conventional methods. The presentation will compare data for two new stainless-steel grades with standard stainless materials for corrosion and mechanical properties and fabrication characteristics. Examples of the cost-saving potential, based on API 650 design requirements, are also provided

12:00 pm – 12:40 pm

Lunch

12:40 pm – 1:10 pm

Exhibit Viewing

1:10 pm – 1:55 pm

SESSION 3A: Corrosion Cracking of Horton Spheres- Refinery Case Study

Moderator: Dave Cushman, West Virginia Tank

Speaker: Sukumar Rakan Dasari, Yanby Aramco Sinopec Refining

Horton spheres are critical assets in refinery operations, particularly for LPG and lighter hydrocarbon pressurized storage. Several aging spheres fabricated from high-strength steels have experienced Sulfide Stress Cracking (SSC) despite operating in environments with relatively low levels of H_2S (<50 ppm) and moisture. These incidents highlight the susceptibility of high-strength materials to environmental cracking and the associated integrity risks.

SESSION 3B: Operating Integrity for Volatile Crude Storage Under Elevated TVP Condition.

Moderator: Jerry Kolek, Consolidated Fabricators

Speaker: Riazuddin Amir Qureshi, ADNOC

Modern upstream operations can expose atmospheric crude storage tanks to elevated TVP and dissolved-gas carryover, challenging assumptions embedded in design, inspection, and operating procedures. This case-study presentation explains how abnormal vapor evolution and floating-roof crude splashing were controlled through Operating Integrity: defined Safe Operating Envelopes, transfer-risk screening, alarm response, Management of Change, and operator competency. It translates lessons into practical controls aligned with API tank-safety expectations.



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1:55 pm – 2:15 pm

Afternoon Refreshment Break & Exhibit Viewing

2:15 pm – 3:25 pm

SESSION 4A: Advances in UHP Waterblast and Robotics-Improvements in Production, Safety and Environmental Impact

Moderator: Mike Brockway, Consultant

Speaker: Jeff Borgran, Shape Waterblast Group

In the last 5 years, tremendous advancements have been made with the methods of depainting prior to recoating large storage tanks. With that has come increased challenges as it relates to turn around times, safety and environmental impacts of processes used. This presentation outlines those advancements and gives real world success stories of their use.

SESSION 4B: Firewater Storage Tanks: Critical Differences

Between NFPA and API Requirements

Moderator: Mark Jordan, CB&I

Speaker: Wesley Oatman, Dunham Engineering

Aboveground firewater storage tanks are commonly installed at API-regulated facilities but are frequently managed using API 653-based inspection philosophies. This presentation explains how NFPA 22 and NFPA 25 requirements differ from API standards and why applying product-storage inspection practices to firewater tanks increases risk, cost, and downtime. Attendees will gain practical insight into compliant design, inspection intervals, corrosion mitigation strategies, and maintenance planning for NFPA-regulated fire protection tanks.

3:25 pm – 3:45 pm

Afternoon Refreshment Break & Final Exhibit Viewing

3:45 pm – 4:55 pm

SESSION 5A: Tank Lining Internals inspection with High Voltage Spark Testing – Plenty of Room Left to Play

Moderator: David Kopala, West Virginia Paint

Speaker: Surojit Mukherjee, International Paint

Tank internals inspection utilizing high voltage testing as per NACE SP0188 or ASTM D5162 is one of the most effective quality control methods for lining inspection. The current standards significantly increase testing volts requirements from the previously established decades old norms. While everyone agrees that for long-term service life and reliability of lined tanks, this is a necessary evil still many prefer to go the old way with lower voltages. This work studies dielectric strength and breakthrough voltages of various lining technologies - Epoxies, Vinyl esters followed up with subsequent immersion in liquids at elevated temperatures. Final assessments are done by EIS and PATTI Adhesion testing to provide recommendations to industry.

SESSION 5B: Interaction Between Vapor Corrosion Inhibitors and Cathodic Protection for Aboveground Storage Tanks

Moderator: Amy Baxter, Enbridge

Speaker: Pavan Shukla, Battelle Savannah River Alliance

Several tank operators are using Vapor Corrosion Inhibitors (VCIs), either standalone or with cathodic protection (CP), to mitigate soil-side corrosion in storage tanks. Field data and laboratory experiments showed that VCIs do not affect CP rectifier current output and are effective in reducing corrosion, performing similarly to CP systems. Laboratory results indicated that VCIs increase polarization resistance, improving CP current distribution. Achieving the -850 mV criterion requires more current than meeting the 100-mV polarization shift criterion.

SESSION 5C: AI in Midstream & Liquid Storage Terminals: From Optimization to Autonomy

Moderator: David Nadel, Consultant



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Speaker: Chris Commander, North Side Energy Services

This presentation explores how artificial intelligence is transforming the midstream and liquid storage terminal industry through operational optimization, predictive maintenance, safety improvements, and smarter project execution. Attendees will learn practical applications of AI across terminal operations, capital projects, maintenance, and construction, along with real-world implementation challenges, emerging technologies, and strategies for improving reliability, efficiency, and decision-making throughout the asset lifecycle.

4:55 pm – 5:00 pm

Closing Remarks

2026 Conference Co-Chairs:

Dave Cushman, West Virginia Paint LLC

Earl Crochet, Crochet Midstream Consulting

Rama Challa, Advanced Tank

Neville Stokes, Bechtel

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Closing Reception and Networking - Presented by our Platinum Sponsors