



Statement of Justification

Understanding the Benefits of Networking
and Substantiating the “Time Away”

Introduction

The Appalachian STEPS Network (ASN) is comprised of quality, health, safety, security, and environmental (QHSSE) professionals who work in or support the oil and gas industry. Our membership of over 100 professionals includes representatives from both operators and contractors as well as support groups such as consultants, lawyers/attorneys, workers’ compensation risk managers, WVONGA, IOGAWV, OSHA, NIOSH, WVU, and WV DEP. Our network encompasses the geographic region of West Virginia but also welcomes participation from those in Ohio and Pennsylvania. The goal of this organization is to promote QHSSE improvement of oil and gas work in the region and to foster a work environment that relies upon open communication and trust. ASN will ensure participants work together to share information on laws and standards, convene in forums, discussions, or stakeholder meetings on issues to help forge innovative solutions and encourage worker participation by interacting directly with front-line employees and supervisors.

Our Presenters and Topics

Each meeting includes several informative presentations on timely, relevant, and controversial topics that spark discussion and the sharing of best practices among participants.

- OSHA and WV DEP Updates
- NIOSH and WVU Research and Publication Releases
- DOT/DOH Concerns
- Newest Products and Product Education
- Best Practice Sharing on Programs and Policies
- Industry Trends
- Lessons Learned from Incidents
- Quality Assurance, Industrial Hygiene, Ergonomics, Safety, Security, Environmental, Law, Workers’ Compensation, Education, Certification, Continuous Improvement, Risk Mitigation

Relations

ASN builds relations with governmental and industry groups who can benefit from a mutual affiliation. We have a current Alliance with WV OSHA which, among other items, includes an agreement to reach out and touch a certain number of industry workers with our QHSSE information, and we partner with WVONGA, IOGAWV, and WVU to facilitate free training and education opportunities.

Commitment

Our meetings are bi-monthly, or every other month, on the third Thursday of each odd-numbered month, from 10am to 2pm in northcentral WV – six meetings per year. We feel that this frequency properly balances the need for networking and education versus time away from busy schedules.