Regulatory Detente

"détente noun \dā-ˈtänt\: the relaxation of strained relations or tensions (as between nations); also: a policy promoting this (Merriam Webster)"

It is a foregone conclusion that unconventional energy development has been politicized. Not just in our great country, but also on the international stage. Right or wrong, the future role of shale oil and gas must now be viewed through a political prism.

Political problems require political solutions. Without such, our disagreements grow into problems which lead to broader conflicts.

Let’s not go there.

We need an unconventional solution to our unconventional energy debate.

It is time to consider "Regulatory Detente".

Detente as modern political concept comes from the decades old Cold War era. It bore fruit as a Kissinger - Nixon policy that now, in hindsight, was one of the key factors that began the march to the end of the Cold War. It was intended to ease tensions and lead us away from brinksmanship by recognizing we have a common geopolitical denominator that is as basic as it is important: Survival.

The oil and gas industry is immersed in a regulatory "cold war." In this "war" the combatants are politicians and regulators; weapons are statutes and rules. The prizes are cheap energy and clean water, but the victims are science, fact and due process.

If we are to turn current antagonism into a golden age of economic prosperity with abundant energy, environmental protection, and a prosperous future, we need to recognize fundamental facts.

1. Energy needs water.
2. Water needs energy.
3. We the people need both.

These are the common denominators to build our future on and avoid mutually assured destruction through competing over-regulation or under-regulation. The concept of federal vs. state, energy vs. water, blue vs. red, are counter-productive, too. It is time to move beyond them.

I am an optimist. Ahead I see a Golden Age to rival the Age of Enlightenment. It will have the best of the Industrial Revolution, without the pollution.

We can do this. But it will take "regulatory détente."

~ John J. Tintera, TWRA President

Proposition 6: Up For a Vote in November

Texans have the opportunity this November to vote on Proposition 6, which would provide a $2 billion revolving loan to seed the beginning of water infrastructure development in accordance with the State Water Plan. Please educate yourself on this important initiative and make sure you vote on November 5.
Water, Water, Everywhere

Literally. The Texas Water Recycling Association is traveling the globe, or at least many of the 50 states, sharing expertise about how to accomplish what Texas is doing with water recycling.

The message of protecting the environment and extending very limited water supplies while allowing businesses to continue to operate is resoundingly well received.

In late September, Board Chair Brent Halldorson, President John Tintera and General Counsel Ben Sebree each had the opportunity to address the Atlantic Council in Washington, D.C., on topics as far-ranging as “Produced Water: Boiling Down the Issues” and “Fossil Fuel Produced Water: Asset or Waste?” These presentations are posted on the TWRA website if you would like to see them.

Additionally, TWRA President John Tintera was invited to address conferences on Global Water Intelligence in Houston, the Alaska Pipeline Convention and the Alaskan Congress - regions with seemingly sufficient water resources but interested in recycling and its economic and ecological benefits.

Most recently, Tintera spoke with the New Mexico Cabinet Secretary on Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Development regarding New Mexico’s Recoverable Water Initiative. They are looking to Texas for guidance on implementing recycling legislation and regulations based on success here.

This week, Board Chair Brent Halldorson and TWRA President John Tintera will be speaking at the Energy, Air + Water: A Comprehensive Study of the Issues of Today conference, presented by the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers and South Texas Wildcatters in San Antonio. You are welcome to attend and hear TWRA leadership speak about water recycling technologies and effective water and energy regulation efforts in Texas. Visit texasalliance.org for registration details.

If you recommend a conference that will help expand the reach and message of TWRA, please let us know at info@txwra.org.

Meet the New Texas Water Development Board

As a result of legislation passed during the 83rd session, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is a freshly revamped agency with three full-time Directors and a new Executive Administrator. The TWRA works closely with TWDB in our recycling and reuse efforts and we welcome the new administration. We look forward to continuing our work together to ensure all Texans have the water resources they need.

Be sure to visit the Texas Water Recycling Association web site for information on recent news, conference presentations and other speaking engagements by TWRA leadership.
Strength in Numbers: Thanks to our Members

All associations gain strength through a robust and active membership base, and TWRA is no exception. Join TWRA today to help us develop positive, sustainable solutions to Texas’ water challenges. We welcome all industries and technologies to discuss and implement strategies to minimize freshwater consumption necessary for industries to safely prosper yet remain environmentally friendly.

Welcome to our recent members: CH2M Hill; Environmental Defense Fund; Purifics ES; Purestream Technology; MIOX; Kobelco Eco-Solutions; Armada Water Assets; Halliburton; Pure Tap Water Systems; Select Energy Systems; Swire Oilfield Services; Marathon Oil; Permian Basin Petroleum Association and Texas A&M University Petroleum Engineering.

Just a few of the other benefits of membership in TWRA include:

- Timely news and updates through our communications program, including the e-newsletter and other resources to enhance collective outreach efforts.
- Listing in and access to TWRA’s online directory of other leading industry professionals.
- Professional recognition through commitment to TWRA’s Code of Ethics and best practices.

Membership in TWRA consists of two primary levels: Full and Affiliate.

- Full membership – for water recyclers – encourages your voting participation on committees along with Board eligibility, including the Executive committee. Full dues are $5,000 per year.
- Affiliate membership – for users of water recycling and other interested parties – allows committee participation. Voting Affiliate dues are $4,000 and Non-voting Affiliate dues are $2,500.

We are exploring membership options for Municipal, Educational and Research institutions. If you are interested in working with TWRA in one of those capacities, please let us know.

Your membership enables access, collaboration, and representation: access to policy makers and water recycling industry leaders; opportunities to discuss best practices in the recycling and conservation of water; and legislative and regulatory representation supporting industry efforts to recycle and conserve water. Join TWRA today.

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Keep up with TWRA happenings.

Connect with us on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter!

Facebook.com/TexasWaterRecyclingAssociation

LinkedIn.com/company/texas-water-recycling-association

Twitter.com/TXWRA

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Membership Meeting Notice – Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for our next membership meeting, to be held telephonically the afternoon of Thursday, October 24.

Members will be invited to call in and get updates on interim activities, current initiatives and recent developments.

Arrangements will be finalized in the coming days so watch your email for call-in details.