

Amarillo Field Office Employee Travels to Brussels

Sam Burton, the Assistant Field Manager for Helium Operations at the BLM's Amarillo Field Office represented the BLM at the 2013 European Industrial Gases Association (EIGA) Symposium in Brussels, Belgium.

Founded in 1991, the EIGA is a safety and technically-oriented organization representing the vast majority of European and also non-European companies producing and distributing industrial, medical, and food gases.

The theme of the Symposium was, "Safety and the Environmental in the Gases Industry: a Century of Improvement." The EIGA invited Mr. Burton to the conference to provide an overview of the U.S. Federal Helium Program and to participate in panel discussions. He attended all of formal Symposium meetings and fielded questions about the helium reserves of the United States.

His presentation focused on the historical development and current decline of the strategic helium reserve in the Bush Dome. The presentation was of particular interest to the international industrial gases community due to the global shortage of helium.

The comments that Mr. Burton received from the attendees after the presentation indicated that the information was well received and the role of the BLM in the international helium market was better understood.

According to Mr. Burton, "It was an honor and a pleasure to represent the BLM at this important international Conference."



Caption: Amarillo Assistant Field Manager Sam Burton presenting at the EIGA Symposium.



Caption: The La Plaza Hotel in Brussels, Belgium hosted the symposium in the La Plaza Theatre. Language translation was provided in French, Spanish, and German, allowing attendees to hear the presentations in their own languages.



Caption: Dinner for the speakers was held at Autoworld, a classic automobile museum housing Belgian Royalty's transportation. The museum's collection holds everything from their 15th century horse drawn carriages through today's modern vehicles.