



C ommunity A ssistance and T echnical S ervices CONNECTION

PHMSA Pipeline Safety Program

MARCH 2006

Pipeline Safety Improvement Act Reauthorization

Notices and supplemental notices of proposed rules



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The process for reauthorization of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act will begin with a hearing before the House Subcommittee on Highways, Transit, and Pipelines on March 16, 2006. Possible topics for discussion include:

- Progress of pipeline safety
- Reliability and expansion of Pipeline Infrastructure
- Government authority to act in times of emergencies
- Pipeline repair permit streamlining
- Gas transmission 7 year re-inspection interval
- Gathering line regulations
- Distribution IMP deadlines
- Security efforts to support the Department of Homeland Security

Integrity Management: Program Modifications and Clarifications – Request for Comments. Docket No. PHMSA-04-18938

Summary: PHMSA proposes revisions to the current Pipeline Safety Regulations for pipeline Integrity Management in High Consequence Areas. Revisions are to:

- Allow more flexibility in reassessment intervals
- Require notifications for pressure reductions for repairs
- Allow other methods for calculating reduced operating pressure

Pipeline Safety: Design and Construction Standards to Reduce Internal Corrosion in Gas Transmission Pipelines. Docket No. PHMSA-2005-22642

Summary: Proposed rule requires an operator to take steps in design and construction to reduce the risk that liquids collecting within the pipeline could result in failures because of internal corrosion. Revisions apply to:

- New construction
- Replaced gas transmission pipeline

Gas Gathering Line Definition; Alternative Definition for Onshore Lines and proposed Safety Standards. Docket No. RSPA-1998-4868

Summary: Definitions under the proposed rule are slight modifications of the definitions contained in API RP 80, Guidelines for the Definition of Onshore Gas Gathering Lines which requires:

- Higher safety standards for high risk onshore gathering lines
- Relaxed standards on low risk onshore gathering lines

Link to <http://dms.dot.gov/search/searchFormSimple.cfm> and type in the docket number for more information.

Distribution Integrity Management Plans for 2006

Meeting scheduled to review MAOP for gas transmission lines

PHMSA Issues Advisory Bulletin on Excavation Activities

NTSB Makes Recommendations for SCADA operation

Public Awareness Rule Plans for 2006

In 2006, PHMSA plans to:

- Prepare a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to promulgate high-level, flexible Federal regulations supported by clear guidance.
- Recommend Federal legislation encouraging States to implement effective damage prevention programs. A separate State grant program is possible.
- Promote the nationwide 8-1-1 number for one-call systems through the Common Ground Alliance.
- Continue Research & Development efforts.

Refer to Docket Number 19854 for more information.

PHMSA will hold a public meeting to discuss raising the allowable operating pressure on certain natural gas transmission pipelines. Raising the maximum allowable operating pressures (MAOP) for natural gas pipelines would allow more gas to flow through these pipelines. Reconsideration applies to:

- Proposed Alaska Natural Gas pipeline
- New gas pipelines certified by FERC
- Pipelines constructed since 1980

Date: March 21, 2006

Location: Hyatt Regency Reston Hotel, 1800 Presidents Street, Reston, VA

See our web site (<http://ops.dot.gov>) under "What's New" for details. More information available on <http://dms.dot.gov> under Docket No. PHMSA-05-23447.

To: Owners and Operators of Natural Gas and Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Systems. This Advisory Bulletin is a reminder of the following:

- Excavation is a covered task.
- Review the adequacy of covered tasks involving line locating, one-call notifications and inspection of excavation activities.
- Each employee and operator must be qualified to perform that task.

Reference: ADB-06-01

The National Transportation Safety Board has completed a study of SCADA systems in the liquid pipeline industry. The study makes 5 recommendations for Operator actions to PHMSA:

1. Review and audit alarms.
 2. Train controllers with simulator or non-computerized simulations to recognize abnormal operating conditions.
 3. Follow API RP 1165 (when available) for graphics on SCADA screen.
 4. Change accident reporting to include controller fatigue.
 5. Install computer based leak detection on all lines (unless engineering analysis deems unnecessary).
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Beginning on or before July 2006, Operators should implement RP 1162-compliant public awareness programs and submit the written program to a Clearinghouse and State agency with jurisdiction, as will be directed in an upcoming Advisory Bulletin. Check out FAQ's at

http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/Public_Awareness_FAQs_01-20-2006.pdf