



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration**

Community **A**ssistance & **T**echnical **S**ervices

CONNECTION

Office of Pipeline Safety

JUNE 2007

National 811 Launch

On May 1, 2007, representatives from DOT, the Federal Communications Commission, the Common Ground Alliance, the Associated General Contractors of America, John Deere, and the Travelers Companies gathered on the National Mall in Washington, DC to launch 811 as the national number to call before you dig. DOT Secretary Mary Peters expressed her expectation that the availability of 811 would reduce excavation damages to pipelines. The event also served to introduce the new 811 Mascot, BUD (Before U Dig) who will help spread the 811 message of safety through guest appearances at industry trade shows, regional, and State events. For more information on 811, visit www.call811.com.

National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) Public Viewer

After extensive discussions with the Transportation Security Administration, PHMSA has launched the NPMS Public Viewer, which allows the user to view maps of liquid and gas transmission pipelines in any County. Only one County's pipelines may be viewed per session, but a user may re-launch the Public Viewer to see another County's pipelines. The maximum zoom capability is 1:24,000. The user can view information about the pipelines (including operator name, contact information, and commodity) and print maps. A manual is available on the website that contains detailed instructions for using the Public Viewer. Local government officials can add a pipeline data layer to their GIS systems to increase awareness and manage property development around pipelines. <http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov/>

OPS Enforcement Transparency

In April 2007, OPS began publicly communicating the results of its Enforcement Program through the Stakeholder Communications website. OPS has taken this action both in response to the recently enacted PIPES Act *and* because it is an integral component in PHMSA's data-driven, risk-focused, and transparent approach to improving pipeline safety. The website allows users to view pipeline safety enforcement actions at both national and operator-specific levels. PHMSA's efforts at transparency will require ongoing diligence to ensure that the data is complete and accurate. The website includes a "feedback" link for collecting and tracking suggested improvements to the data and the presentation. <http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/reports/enforce/Enforcement.html>

Data-Driven

OPS has begun collaborating with NAPSRS and the pipeline industry to identify data needed to sharpen PHMSA's risk-focused approach to pipeline safety. In April 2007, OPS and NAPSRS met with API, INGAA, and AGA & APGA to discuss changes to both incident and annual report forms. In some cases, a formal Rulemaking will be necessary before collecting additional data. In others, only an Information Collection notice will be needed. OPS has established two internal teams dealing with data. The Inspection Integration Team continues developing a plan for prioritizing inspections based on the risk associated with both the operator and the infrastructure. A Data Team is focusing on data quality and integration to facilitate the risk analysis inherent in the Inspection Integration effort.

JUNE 2007

Incident and Mileage Statistics

OPS began collecting gas and hazardous liquid pipeline incident data over 30 years ago. Although reporting criteria and report formats have changed over the years, OPS maintains the data reported by operators in the format specified at the time the report was filed. However, OPS has developed sub-sets of the operator-reported incident data to provide more meaningful trends in pipeline safety incidents. Serious Incidents include a fatality or injury requiring in-patient hospitalization. Significant Incidents include Serious Incidents, any incident resulting in more than \$50,000 in property damage measured in 1984 dollars, and liquid spills meeting certain thresholds. The cost of gas lost during a pipeline incident is converted to 1984 dollars using the Energy Information Administration, Natural Gas City Gate Prices. For all other property damage, we apply the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Government Printing Office inflation values. Serious and Significant Incidents are displayed on a national and State level on the Stakeholder Communications website. Pipeline mileage in each State, by type of pipeline operator, is also displayed.

<http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/reports/safety/PSI.html>

People's Pipeline Safety Conference

The Pipeline Safety Trust (PST) will host the People's Pipeline Safety Conference at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans on November 15 & 16, 2007. The theme of the conference will be **Increasing Pipeline Safety Through Shared Planning**. The PST hopes to provide some concrete examples and lively discussion that will lead to a better understanding of the needs and possible solutions outlined in the Transportation Research Board's 2004 report *Transmission Pipelines and Land Use: A Risk-Informed Approach*. If you have real life examples of why the issues in the TRB report are important and can speak about these issues in a way that will foster discussions, please contact Carl Weimer at carl@pstrust.org

Public Awareness Program Update

Pipeline operator public awareness programs continue to trickle into the Clearinghouse. 1,438 programs were submitted as of June 7, 2007. These programs cover the awareness efforts of 1,832 distinct pipeline operators. The Clearinghouse has completed reviews of 1,219 programs. The results of the Clearinghouse review are provided to State Partners and OPS CATS Managers, not to the pipeline operator. Many State and OPS CATS Managers are forwarding the review results to operators as a starting point in resolving deviations identified by the Clearinghouse. Operators are encouraged to update damage prevention messages to include the availability of 811 and NPMS messages to provide details about the capabilities of the Public Viewer.

Direct Sales Laterals and the PIPES Act of 2006

PIPES Act changes to the definition of intErstate and intrAstate gas pipelines may have an impact on the jurisdictional agency for direct sales laterals from intErstate transmission lines. Prior to PIPES, a direct sales lateral was never intErstate, since the definition specifically excluded it. Now, direct sales laterals are intErstate if they are subject to FERC under the Natural Gas Act. When the intErstate operator also operates the lateral under a FERC certificate, all of the pipelines are jurisdictional to OPS, rather than being split between the State (lateral) and OPS (main line).

JUNE 2007

Rulemakings

Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (SNPRM) – Rural Low-Stress Hazardous Liquid Pipelines

On May 18, 2007, PHMSA published a SNPRM that proposes to apply all hazardous liquid pipeline safety regulations to rural low-stress liquid pipelines. In a September 6, 2006 NPRM, PHMSA had proposed requiring rural low-stress pipelines to comply with a set of threat-focused regulations. Based on the requirements in the PIPES Act of 2006, these pipelines must comply with all regulations.

http://ops.dot.gov/new/New_2007/Low_Stress_Sup_Notice_05182007.pdf

Final Rule (FR) - Gas Transmission Internal Corrosion Design & Construction Standards

During design and construction of new or replaced gas transmission pipelines, operators must include the features specified in the FR to reduce the risk of internal corrosion and related pipeline failures by reducing the potential for the accumulation of liquids.

http://ops.dot.gov/new/New_2007/Design_Construction_Standards_Reduce_Internal_Corrosion.pdf