



Natural Gas Pipelines and the Public Utility Commission

SWEP

Making Environmental Connections Conference

May 1, 2018

Who is the PUC Pipeline Safety Division?

- 12 Inspectors
- 4 Supervisors
- Statewide coverage



Pipeline Safety

- Gas Safety is empowered to direct the pipeline operators to take necessary steps to correct safety violations
- Investigates all methods or practices of pipeline companies, including reports, records and other information.
- Inspect jurisdictional pipelines and components, company records both paper and electronic documents relevant to the enforcement of the rules and regulations



Pipeline Safety Responsibilities

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), DOT

Inspection and Enforcement of Interstate Pipelines
Some Transmission

PA Public Utility Commission – Pipeline Safety

Inspection and Enforcement of Intrastate Pipelines
Distribution
Gathering
Some Transmission



Codes and Regulations

CFR 49 Pipeline Safety Regulations

- Enforcement Procedures Part 190
- Natural Gas Parts 191-192
- Liquefied Natural Gas Part 193
- Oil Pipelines Response Plans Part 194
- Hazardous Liquids Part 195
- State Grants Part 198
- Drug Testing Part 199

PA ACT 127 Gas and Hazardous Liquids Pipeline Act



Types of Pipelines

Transmission – A pipeline other than a gathering line that (1) transports gas from a gathering line or storage facility to a distribution center, storage facility or large volume customer that is not downstream from a distribution center (2) operates at a hoop stress of 20% or more of SMYS or (3) transports gas within a storage field

Distribution – A pipeline other than a gathering or transmission line

Gathering – A pipeline that transports gas from a current production facility to a transmission line or main



Pipeline Class Locations

- Class 4 – where buildings with four or more stories are prevalent
- Class 3 – 46 or more buildings intended for human occupancy
- Class 2 – more than 10 but less than 46 building intended for human occupancy
- Class 1 – less than 10 buildings intended for human occupancy

PA Pipeline Miles

- 46,000 miles of natural gas distribution pipeline
- 7,000 miles of gathering lines
 - including Class 1 lines, which are not subject to safety inspections
- 9,600 miles of transmission lines
 - All transmission lines in the Commonwealth fall under PHMSA's or the PUC's jurisdiction, regardless of class

Inspection Types

- Corrosion
- Plastic Construction
- Steel Construction
- Leak Investigation
- Abandonment
- Integrity Management
- Pressure Regulation
- Operations and Maintenance
- Operator Qualifications
- Drug and Alcohol Testing
- One Call Marking
- Reportable Incident



Pipeline Safety

- Evidence of a possible violation results in a written Non-Compliance Letter
- Appropriate Company Officials are notified of the results of inspections and which pipeline regulations are allegedly being violated
- Company must answer with a written response to the PUC within 30 days of notification
- PUC and company may work together to reach an agreement on how to correct the Non-Compliance
- If an agreement cannot be reached, alleged violation can be referred to the PUC's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement for formal resolution by issuing a complaint, setting a penalty/resolution

Contact

Jessalynn Heydenreich, EIT
Gas Safety Inspector, PA PUC Pipeline Safety
(717)614-3625

