

**“Pipeline Safety: Applying Safety Regulation to All Rural Onshore Hazardous Liquid Low-Stress Lines” (75 FR 35366; published 6-22-10)****Advisory Committee Action: Vote***Contact: Mike Israni*Objective:

To extend the scope of the hazardous liquid pipeline safety regulations in Part 195 to include all rural low-stress pipelines of any diameter located more than one-half mile from a USA and those less than 8 5/8 inches in diameter located within one-half mile of a USA.

Background:

Historically, low-stress (i.e., less than 20% SMYS) pipelines were subject to pipeline safety regulations only if they were in non-rural areas, in commercial waterways, or transported highly volatile liquids (HVL). Rural low-stress pipelines carrying non-HVL hazardous liquids were not subject to regulation.

The Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement and Safety Act (PIPES Act) of 2006 required PHMSA to make low-stress pipelines subject to the same standards as other hazardous liquid pipelines.

PHMSA published a final rule on June 3, 2008, extending safety requirements of Part 195 to rural hazardous liquid pipelines 8 5/8 inches or more in diameter and within one-half mile of an unusually sensitive area (USA). PHMSA elected to apply safety regulations to these rural low-stress pipelines first, since an NPRM had already been published before the PIPES Act was enacted to extend some safety regulations to these pipelines.

Status:

PHMSA published this proposed on June 22, 2010, to extend Part 195 safety regulations to the remaining rural low-stress pipelines. PHMSA received five comment letters from the following:

- Independent Petroleum Association of America
- American Petroleum Institute and Association of Oil Pipelines (joint comment letter)
- National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)
- One pipeline consultant
- One private individual

PHMSA has analyzed the public comments and is preparing a final rule to extend Part 195 safety regulations to the remaining rural low-stress pipelines in accordance with the statutory mandate.