

**Excess Flow Valves - Larger Applications****Advisory Committee Action: Information****Contact: Mike Israni**

Excess flow valves (EFVs) provide a means to reduce risks of explosions, by shutting off unplanned excessive gas flows, primarily from excavation damage to service lines that occur between the gas main and the building. Gas distribution pipeline operators are currently required (by the PIPES Act of 2006, PHMSA proposed safety requirements, and related advisory bulletins), to install EFVs in new and replacement service lines supplying single family residences where operating conditions permit, generally at pressures exceeding 10 psig.

In response to NTSB recommendation P-01-2, PHMSA is contemplating future rulemaking to expand the requirement for installation of EFVs to cover all types of distribution customers (not just single family residences). PHMSA invited a group of stakeholders, including representatives from NTSB, Fire Chiefs' and State Fire Marshals' Associations, to share their understanding, knowledge, experience, and capability with respect to the installation, operation, and maintenance of EFVs in service lines supplying commercial, industrial, and multi-residential natural gas users. The first stakeholder meeting was held on June 23<sup>rd</sup> in Arlington, VA. PHMSA received valuable input and insights from the stakeholders present at the meeting.

**Background:** In its safety recommendation P-01-2, the NTSB recommended that PHMSA require "that EFVs be installed in all new and renewed gas service lines, regardless of a customer's classification, when operating conditions are compatible with readily available valves." PHMSA has previously addressed this recommendation for single family residences in its safety regulations contained in 49 CFR 192.381, *EFV Performance Standards*, and 49 CFR 192.383, *EFV Availability – Customer Notification*. PHMSA is addressing the requirements contained in the PIPES Act of 2006 via an advisory bulletin (published in the Federal Register June 5<sup>th</sup> 2008), and the DIMP NPRM (published in the Federal Register June 25<sup>th</sup> 2008).

The findings from stakeholders group will provide an information base from which PHMSA will draw and develop the path forward to address the issue of applying EFVs in applications more demanding and problematic than the single family residence.