

Pipeline Safety: Updates to Pipeline and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Reporting Requirements**Advisory Committee Action: Information***Contact: Roger Little*

PHMSA issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on July 2, 2009 (74 FR 31675), proposing to update reporting requirements for natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline operators and LNG facility operators. This rulemaking proposes to:

- create a National Pipeline Operator Registry
- require electronic reporting wherever possible
- change the definition of a natural gas incident to include a volumetric reporting basis
- require LNG operators to file incident and annual reports
- create OMB approved forms for Safety Related Condition Reports and Offshore Pipeline Condition Reports
- require by-state reporting and new reporting of expanded information on SMYS and on breakout tanks for Hazardous Liquid Annual Reports
- merge the natural gas transmission operator biannual integrity management performance metric reporting onto the gas transmission operator annual report and expanded reporting of SMYS information on that report
- modify hazardous liquid operator telephonic notification of accidents to require operators to have and use a procedure to calculate and report a reasonable initial estimate of released product and to provide an additional telephonic report to the National Response Center if significant new information becomes available during the emergency response phase.

Background

The statutory authority under 49 U.S.C. 60101 et seq. authorizes this proposal; these Federal Pipeline Safety Laws grant broad authority to the Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration to regulate pipeline safety. The proposed data collection and filing requirement revisions are consistent with Section 15 of the PIPES Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-468, December 26, 2006), which requires PHMSA to review and modify the reporting criteria as appropriate to ensure the data accurately reflects trends overtime. The NPRM addresses certain NTSB recommendations, and certain aspects of the NPRM will improve data accuracy and efficiency of reporting.

Final Rule is expected around Spring 2010.