

U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

2023 Gas State Program Evaluation

for

NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Document Legend PART:

- O -- Representative, Dates and Title Information
- A -- Progress Report and Program Documentation Review
- B -- Program Inspection Procedures
- C -- State Qualifications
- D -- Program Performance
- E -- Field Inspections
- F -- Damage prevention and Annual report analysis



2023 Gas State Program Evaluation -- CY 2023 Gas

State Agency: New Jersey Rating:

Agency Status: 60105(a): Yes 60106(a): No Interstate Agent: No

Date of Visit: 06/04/2024 - 06/06/2024

Agency Representative: Mr. Juan Urena, Chief NJBPU

PHMSA Representative: Mr. David Lykken, State Liaison, PHMSA State Programs

Commission Chairman to whom follow up letter is to be sent:

Name/Title:

Agency:

Ms. Christine Guhl-Sadovy, President
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

Address: 44 S. Clinton Avenue City/State/Zip: Trenton, NJ 08625

INSTRUCTIONS:

Complete this evaluation in accordance with the Evaluator Guidance for conducting state pipeline safety program evaluations. The evaluation should generally reflect state program performance during CY 2023 (not the status of performance at the time of the evaluation). A deficiency in any one part of a multiple-part question should be scored as "Needs Improvement." Determine the answer to the question then select the appropriate point value. If a state receives less than the maximum points, include a brief explanation in the appropriate notes/comments section. If a question is not applicable to a state, select NA. Please ensure all responses are COMPLETE and ACCURATE, and they OBJECTIVELY reflect the state's program performance for the question being evaluated. Increasing emphasis is being placed on how the state pipeline safety programs conduct and execute their pipeline safety responsibilities (their performance). This evaluation, together with selected factors reported in the state's annual progress report attachments, provide the basis for determining the state's pipeline safety grant allocation.

Scoring Summary

PARTS		Possible Points	Points Scored
A	Progress Report and Program Documentation Review	0	0
В	Program Inspection Procedures	15	15
C	State Qualifications	10	10
D	Program Performance	50	50
E	Field Inspections	15	15
F	Damage prevention and Annual report analysis	10	10
TOTAL	\mathbf{S}	100	100
State Rating			100.0



PART A - Progress Report and Program Documentation Review

Points(MAX) Score

Were the following Progress Report Items accurate? (*items not scored on progress Info Only Info Only report)

Info Only = No Points

- a. Stats On Operators Data Progress Report Attachment 1
- b. State Inspection Activity Data Progress Report Attachment 2
- c. List of Operators Data Progress Report Attachment 3*
- d. Incidents/Accidents Data Progress Report Attachment 4*
- e. Stats of Compliance Actions Data Progress Report Attachment 5*
- f. List of Records Kept Data Progress Report Attachment 6 *
- g. Staff and TQ Training Data Progress Report Attachment 7
- h. Compliance with Federal Regulations Data Progress Report Attachment 8
- i. Performance and Damage Prevention Question Data Progress Report

Attachment 10*

Evaluator Notes:

PR Scoring=50 pts. No issues or concerns identified. Suggested that the program note under the Attachment 5 notes that they count both state and federal incidents under this attachment.

Total points scored for this section: 0 Total possible points for this section: 0



Yes = 5 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-4

OO Inspections

c.

d.

e. f.

Awareness Effectiveness Inspections

for each of the following inspection types: Chapter 5.1

Damage Prevention Inspections

Construction Inspections (annual efforts)

On-Site Operator Training

Do written procedures address pre-inspection, inspection and post inspection activities

Standard Inspections, which include Drug/Alcohol, CRM and Public

TIMP and DIMP Inspections (reviewing largest operator(s) plans annually)

Mechanism to receive, record, and respond to operator reports of incidents,

If onsite investigation was not made, do procedures require on-call staff to obtain sufficient information to determine the facts to support the decision not to go

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including after-hours reports



Evaluator Notes:

No concerns. Yes to a and b.

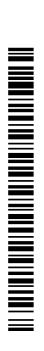
Info Only Info Only

5 General Comments: Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

No point deductions under Part B.

Total points scored for this section: 15 Total possible points for this section: 15



5

5

General Comments: Info Only Info Only

Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

3

No point deductions or concerns under Part C.

Total points scored for this section: 10 Total possible points for this section: 10



Did state inspect all types of operators and inspection units in accordance with time intervals established in written procedures? Chapter 5.1

5 5

Yes = 5 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-4

- a. Standard (General Code Compliance)
- b. Public Awareness Effectiveness Reviews
- c. Drug and Alcohol
- d. Control Room Management
- e. Part 193 LNG Inspections
- f. Construction (did state achieve 20% of total inspection person-days?)
- g. OQ (see Question 3 for additional requirements)
- h. IMP/DIMP (see Question 4 for additional requirements)

Evaluator Notes:

Yes to items a thru h. In CY2023, the program got caught up on those outstanding inspections which had previously exceeded the five-year interval in prior years. No issues or concerns noted.

Did inspection form(s) cover all applicable code requirements addressed on Federal Inspection form(s)? Did State complete all applicable portions of inspection forms? Chapter 5.1. Do inspection records indicate that adequate reviews of procedures, records and field activities, including notes and the appropriate level of inspection person-days for each inspection, were performed?

10 10

Yes = 10 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-9

- a. Standard (General Code Compliance)
- b. Public Awareness Effectiveness Reviews
- c. Drug and Alcohol
- d. Control Room Management
- e. Part 193 LNG Inspections
- f. Construction
- g. OQ (see Question 3 for additional requirements)
- h. IMP/DIMP (see Question 4 for additional requirements)

Evaluator Notes:

Yes to items a thru h. Improved from the prior year. No issues identified.

3 Is state verifying monitoring (Protocol 9/Form15) of operators OQ programs? This should include verification of any plan updates and that persons performing covered tasks (including contractors) are properly qualified and requalified at intervals established in the operator's plan. 49 CFR 192 Part N

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Yes = $\frac{1}{2}$ No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

Evaluator Notes:

Yes. No issues identified.

4 Is state verifying operator's integrity management Programs (IMP and DIMP)? This should include a review of plans, along with monitoring progress. In addition, the review should take in to account program review and updates of operator's plan(s). 49 CFR 192 Subparts O and P

2

Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

- a. Are the implementation plans of the state's large/largest operators(s) being reviewed annually to ensure they are completing full cycle of the IMP process?
- b. Are states verifying with operators any plastic pipe and components that have shown a record of defects/leaks and mitigating those through DIMP plan?
- c. Are the states verifying operators are including low pressure distribution systems in their threat analysis?

Evaluator Notes:

Yes to a thru c. No issues or concerns.



5 Did the state review the following (these items are NTSB recommendations to PHMSA that have been deemed acceptable response based on PHMSA reviewing these items during the evaluation process): Chapter 5.1

Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

- Operator procedures for determining if exposed cast iron pipe was examined for evidence of graphitization and if necessary remedial action was taken;
- Operator procedures for surveillance of cast iron pipelines, including appropriate action resulting from tracking circumferential cracking failures, study of leakage history, or other unusual operating maintenance condition? (Note: See GPTC Appendix G-18 for guidance);
- Operator emergency response procedures for leaks caused by excavation damage near buildings and determine whether the procedures adequately address the possibility of multiple leaks and underground migration of gas into nearby buildings Refer to 4/12/01 letter from PHMSA in response to NTSB recommendation P-00-20 and P-00-21:
- Operator records of previous accidents and failures including reported thirdparty damage and leak response to ensure appropriate operator response as required by 192.617:
- Directional drilling/boring procedures of each pipeline operator or its contractor to determine if they include actions to protect their facilities from the dangers posed by drilling and other trench less technologies;
- Operator procedures for considering low pressure distribution systems in threat
- Operator compliance with state and federal regulations for regulators located inside buildings?

Evaluator Notes:

Yes to items a thru g. Items clearly marked on NJBPU inspection forms.

6 Did the State verify Operators took appropriate action regarding advisory bulletins issued since the last evaluation? (Advisory Bulletins Current Year)

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Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Evaluator Notes:

No advisory bulletins were issued by PHMSA in CY2023.

7 (Compliance Activities) Did the state follow compliance procedures (from discovery to resolution) and adequately document all probable violations, including what resolution or further course of action is needed to gain compliance? Chapter 5.1

Yes = 10 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-9

- Were compliance actions sent to company officer or manager/board member if municipal/government system?
- b. Were probable violations documented properly?
- Resolve probable violations c.
- d. Routinely review progress of probable violations
- e. Did state issue compliance actions for all probable violations discovered?
- f. Can state demonstrate fining authority for pipeline safety violations?
- Does Program Manager review, approve and monitor all compliance actions? (note: Program Manager or Senior Official should sign any NOPV or related enforcement action)
- Did state compliance actions give reasonable due process to all parties? h. Including "show cause" hearing, if necessary.
- Within 30 days, conduct a post-inspection briefing with the owner or operator outlining any concerns
- Within 90 days, to the extent practicable, provide the owner or operator with written preliminary findings of the inspection. (Incident investigations do not need to meet 30/90-day requirement)

Evaluator Notes:

Yes to items a thru j. The NJ BPU issued 1 civil penalty in CY2023 in the amount of \$10,500.

	Yes = $10 \text{ No} = 0 \text{ Needs Improvement} = 1-9$			
	a. Does state have adequate mechanism to receive and respond to operator reports			
	of incidents, including after-hours reports?			
	b. Did state keep adequate records of Incident/Accident notifications received?			
	c. If onsite investigation was not made, did the state obtain sufficient information			
	from the operator and/or by means to determine the facts to support the decision not			
	to go on site? d. Were onsite observations documented?			
	e. Were contributing factors documented? f. Were recommendations to prevent recurrences, where appropriate.			
	f. Were recommendations to prevent recurrences, where appropriate, documented?			
	g. Did state initiate compliance action for any violations found during any			
	incident/accident investigation?			
	h. Did state assist Region Office or Accident Investigation Division (AID) by			
	taking appropriate follow-up actions related to the operator incident reports to ensure			
	accuracy and final report has been received by PHMSA?			
.	i. Does state share any lessons learned from incidents/accidents?			
Evaluato				
Тур	ically, yes to items a thru i. No federal reportable incidents in CY2023.			
9	Did state respond to Chairman's letter on previous evaluation within 60 days and correct or address any noted deficiencies? (If necessary) Chapter 8.1	1	1	
	Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5			
Evaluato	or Notes:			
Yes.	. No concerns noted.			
10	Did State conduct or participate in pipeline safety training session or seminar in Past 3	Info Only In	fo Only	
	Years? Chapter 8.5 Info Only = No Points		,	
Evaluato	or Notes:			
Last	in CY2022. Next scheduled for 2025.			
11	Has state confirmed transmission operators have submitted information into NPMS	Info Only In	fo Only	
11	database along with changes made after original submission? Info Only = No Points	into Omy in	io omy	
Evaluato				
	. NYBPU Form GS-3.			
10				
12	Does the state have a mechanism for communicating with stakeholders - other than state pipeline safety seminar? (This should include making enforcement cases available to public).	1	1	
	Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5			
Evaluato	or Notes:			
Yes.	. The NJBPU website contains Pipeline Safety information found under the Reliability & Sect	urity page.		
13	Did state execute appropriate follow-up actions to Safety Related Condition (SRC)	1	1	
	Reports? Chapter 6.7 Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5	-	-	
Evaluato				
No r	new SRCR's in CY2023. Last back in 4/2019.			
1.4		1	1	
14	Was the State responsive to:	1	1	

(Incident Investigations) Were all federally reportable incidents investigated, thoroughly

documented, with conclusions and recommendations?

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8

Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

- a. Surveys or information requests from NAPSR or PHMSA; and
- b. PHMSA Work Management system tasks?

Evaluator Notes:

The program responded to 8 of 11 NAPSR survey's in CY2023. No WMS tasks assigned in 2023.

15 If the State has issued any waivers/special permits for any operator, has the state verified conditions of those waivers/special permits are being met? This should include having the operator amend procedures where appropriate.

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Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Evaluator Notes:

None issued in CY2023. No active waivers currently.

Were pipeline program files well-organized and accessible?

Info Only = No Points

Info Only Info Only

Evaluator Notes:

Yes.

Discussion with State on accuracy of inspection day information submitted into State Inspection Day Calculation Tool (SICT). Has the state updated SICT data?

Yes = 3 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-2

3

3

Evaluator Notes

The program has updated the SICT information in 2024. Actual DT&C days much higher than past estimates. Encouraged future estimates to come in closer to actuals for better accuracy.

Discussion on State Program Performance Metrics found on Stakeholder Communication Info Only Info Only site.\ http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/states.htm?nocache=4805
Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

Discussed with program. No concerns identified.

Did the state encourage and promote operator implementation of Pipeline Safety
Management Systems (PSMS), or API RP 1173? This holistic approach to improving
pipeline safety includes the identification, prevention and remediation of safety hazards.

Info Only = No Points

Info Only Info Only

- a. https://pipelinesms.org/
 - b. Reference AGA recommendation to members May 20, 2019

Evaluator Notes:

Yes. All four LDC's have adopted elements of RP 1173.

20 General Comments:

Info Only Info Only

Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

No point deductions or concerns noted under Part D.

Total points scored for this section: 50 Total possible points for this section: 50



1

Operator, Inspector, Location, Date and PHMSA Representative (enter specifics into the Info Only Info Only

From your observation did the inspector have adequate knowledge of the pipeline safety program and regulations? (Evaluator will document reasons if unacceptable)

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Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

Evaluator Notes:

Yes. No concerns noted.

5 Did the inspector conduct an exit interview, including identifying probable violations? (If inspection is not totally completed the interview should be based on areas covered during time of field evaluation)

Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Evaluator Notes:

Yes. Communicated issues to operator.

6 Was inspection performed in a safe, positive, and constructive manner? Info Only = No Points

Info Only Info Only

No unsafe acts should be performed during inspection by the state inspector

What did the inspector observe in the field? (Narrative description of field observations and how inspector performed)

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- c. Best Practices to Share with Other States (Field could be from operator visited or state inspector practices)
- d. Other

Evaluator Notes:

Yes

7 General Comments:

Info Only = No Points

Info Only Info Only

Evaluator Notes:

No point deductions or concerns noted under Part E.

Total points scored for this section: 15 Total possible points for this section: 15



Evaluator Notes:

1

Yes. No issues identified.

2 Has the state verified that the operators analyze excavation damages for the purpose of determining root causes and minimizing the possibility of a recurrence? (192.617) Has the state verified that the operators have appropriately identified excavators who have repeatedly violated one-call laws and damaged their facilities. Have the operators taken steps to mitigate that risks? (192.1007)

2

2

2

4

Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

Evaluator Notes:

Yes. No concern noted.

3 Has the state reviewed the operator's annual report pertaining to Part D - Excavation Damage?

4

Yes = 4 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-3

- Is the information complete and accurate with root cause numbers?
- b. Has the state evaluated the causes for the damages listed under "One-Call Notification Practices Not Sufficient" (Part D.1.a.)?
- Has the state evaluated the causes for the damages listed under "Locating Practices Not Sufficient" (Part D.1.b)? For each operator, does the state review the following?
- Is the operator or its locating contractor(s) qualified and following written procedures for locating and marking facilities?
- Is the operator appropriately requalifying locators to address performance deficiencies?
- What is the number of damages resulting from mismarks?
- What is the number of damages resulting from not locating within time requirements (no-shows)?
- Is the operator appropriately addressing discovered mapping errors resulting in excavation damages?
- Are mapping corrections timely and according to written procedures?
- j. Has the state evaluated the causes for the damages listed under "Excavation Practices Not Sufficient" (Part D.1.c.)?

Evaluator Notes:

Yes to items a thru j. No concerns identified.

4 Has the agency or another organization within the state collected data and evaluated trends on the number of pipeline damages per 1,000 locate requests?

Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

- What stakeholder group is causing the highest number of damages to the pipelines? Operator, contractor, locating company or public.
- Has the state verified the operator is appropriately focusing damage prevention education and training to stakeholders causing the most damages?
- Has the state evaluated which of the following best describes the reason for the excavation damages; i.e., operator or contractor not following written procedures, failure to maintain marks, failure to support exposed facilities, failure to use hand tools were required, failure to test-hole (pot hole), improper backfilling practices, failure to maintain clearance or insufficient excavation practices.
- Has the state verified the operator is appropriately focusing damage prevention education and training to address the causes of excavation damages?

Evaluator Notes:

Yes to all. No issues noted.

2

2

5 General Comments: Info Only Info Only

Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

No point deductions or concerns identified under Part F.

Total points scored for this section: 10 Total possible points for this section: 10

