



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety  
Administration**  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**DATE 04/21/2026**

**MEMO TO FILE**

**From:** Carolyn Nelson, P.E.  
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**Subject:** **Categorical Exclusion Determination**  
**Pipeline Safety: Editorial Corrections to Telephone and Facsimile Numbers**

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#### **FINAL ACTION**

In this final rule, PHMSA is amending the federal Pipeline Safety Regulations (49 CFR parts 100–199) to remove obsolete references to telephone and facsimile numbers. The telephone number (202) 366-4046 is no longer operable. PHMSA is therefore revising 49 CFR 192.7(a), 49 CFR 193.2013(a)(1)(i), and 49 CFR 195.3(a) to replace the telephone number (202) 366-4046 with (202) 366-4595.

PHMSA is also making editorial corrections to the procedural requirements in 49 CFR part 190 to remove the option to submit requests for special permits by facsimile. Specifically, § 190.341(b)(1), (e)(2)(i), and (h)(1) specify the procedures for applying for a special permit, renewing a special permit, and requesting an emergency special permit. PHMSA is revising § 190.341(b)(1), (e)(2)(i), and (h)(1) to remove the facsimile numbers associated with making those requests. Operators may submit requests for a new special permit, a special permit renewal, or an emergency special permit by email to [pipelinespecialpermits@dot.gov](mailto:pipelinespecialpermits@dot.gov) or by express mail or overnight courier to the Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, East Building, Washington, DC 20590. Similarly, PHMSA is revising 49 CFR 192.727(g)(1) and 49 CFR 195.59(a) to remove the facsimile numbers associated with reporting abandoned pipelines and deactivated pipeline facilities. Operators may submit such reports by email to [InformationResourcesManager@dot.gov](mailto:InformationResourcesManager@dot.gov).

#### **APPLICABLE CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

Categorical exclusions (CE) are categories of actions that the agency has determined normally do not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and therefore do not require either an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS). [DOT Order](#)

[5610.1D](#), DOT's current National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures, notes in paragraph 9(f) that "[a]n OA may apply a CE established in another OA's procedures." PHMSA coordinated with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to determine that the following FHWA CE is applicable to the action described above and can be used by PHMSA per Section 9(f) of DOT Order 5610.1D:

*Promulgation of rules, regulations, and directives.*<sup>1</sup>

#### **UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

Based on the scope of the action, PHMSA has determined that this rulemaking action does not meet the criteria for unusual circumstances listed in 23 CFR 771.117(b), which would require PHMSA to conduct appropriate environmental studies to determine if the CE classification is proper.

#### **DETERMINATION**

PHMSA analyzed the final rule and determined that the rulemaking will not adversely affect safety and will not significantly affect the quality of the human and natural environment. Based on the information provided in the final rule, including a review of unusual circumstances, PHMSA finds the final action qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion in accordance with Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. § 4332, DOT Order 5610.1D, Departmentwide National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures, and 23 CFR 771.

**Approved by the Environmental Analysis and Compliance Division:**

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<sup>1</sup> 23 CFR 771.117(c)(20)