

Charter of the Technical Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Standards Committee

1. **Advisory Committee's Official Designation.** The Technical Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Standards Committee (THLPSSC).
2. **Authority.** The requirement to establish prescribed duties of THLPSSC, formally known as the Liquid Pipeline Advisory Committee (LPAC), are set forth in 49 U.S.C. § 60115. Additional duties of the THLPSSC are prescribed under 49 U.S.C. § 60102(b)(4)(B). This Committee is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. ch. 10.
3. **Committee Objectives and Scope of Activities.**
 - a. The Designated Federal Officer (DFO) shall submit to the committee for its consideration any notice of proposed hazardous liquid pipeline (including carbon dioxide pipeline) safety standards published in the *Federal Register*, including both new standards and amendments to existing standards, to include any supporting analyses (*e.g.*, risk assessment or economic analysis, or environmental analysis). Within 90 days of receipt by the committee of any such proposal, the committee shall prepare a report on the technical feasibility, reasonableness, cost-effectiveness, and practicability of the proposal; an evaluation of the merit of the data and methods used; and any recommended options relating to the risk assessment information and the associated standard that the committee determines to be appropriate. The meeting transcript, together with the presentation slides documenting the committee's votes during each meeting, shall serve as the report for each proceeding.
 - b. Each timely report by the committee, including any minority views, shall form a part of the proceedings for the promulgation of the standard, and be incorporated in the preamble published with the final rule in the *Federal Register*. The Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) may prescribe a final standard at any time after the end of the 90-day period provided for LPAC review. The Administrator shall not be bound by the conclusions of the committee. In the event the conclusions of the majority of the current members of the committee are rejected, the reasons for rejection shall also be incorporated in the preamble of the final rule, 49 U.S.C. § 60115.
 - c. If the proposed safety standard is submitted as a Direct Final Rule and is approved by the committee, minority views will not be treated as adverse comments unless they are submitted to the docket.
 - d. The committee may propose safety standards for hazardous liquid pipeline (including carbon dioxide pipeline) facilities to the DFO for consideration. The committee may review and report on other matters related to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) pipeline safety rulemaking function, as presented by the DFO. The committee may also be requested by the DFO to make recommendations concerning policy development.
4. **Description of Duties.** The committee shall serve as a peer-review committee regarding carrying out 49 U.S.C. ch. 601.

- 5. Agency or Federal Officer Receiving the Advisory Committee's Advice/Recommendations.** LPAC is a committee of DOT and provides advice to the Secretary and PHMSA.
- 6. Support.** PHMSA's Office of Pipeline Safety is the committee's sponsor.
- 7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** In accordance with 41 CFR 102-3.75(g), the estimated annual operating costs for the committee are \$94,000. This annual budget and expected costs are broken down as follows:
 - a. \$70,000 for Federal personnel, based on a usage basis of 0.125 full-time equivalents (FTE), and other Federal internal costs;
 - b. \$0 in proposed payments to the members of the Committee; and
 - c. \$24,000 in reimbursable costs, such as member travel and per diem.
- 8. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The committee meets approximately four times each calendar year. Unless otherwise required by law or approved by the Secretary, all meetings will be held virtually (or in a hybrid forum that does not require additional use of Federal funds).
- 9. Duration.** Continuing.
- 10. Termination.** This committee will terminate 2 years after its effective date unless it is renewed in accordance with FACA and other applicable requirements.
- 11. Membership and Designation.** The committee membership is established by 49 U.S.C. § 60115.
 - a. The committee shall comprise 15 members, each of whom shall be appointed by the Secretary after consultation with public and private agencies that are concerned with the technical aspect of the transportation of hazardous liquids (including carbon dioxide) or the operation of pipeline facilities. Members shall be appointed based on their experience in the safety regulation of the transportation of hazardous liquids and pipeline facilities or must be technically qualified to evaluate hazardous liquids pipeline safety standards or risk-management principles by their training, experience, or knowledge in one or more fields of engineering that are applicable to the transportation of hazardous liquids or operation of a hazardous liquid pipeline facility.
 - b. Five members shall be selected from Federal or State government agencies. Two of the five must be State officials who are selected after consultation with representatives of national organizations of State commissioners or utility regulators.
 - c. Five members must be selected from the hazardous liquid industry after consultation with the national organizations representing the owners and operators of hazardous liquid pipeline facilities. At least three of the five shall be currently engaged in the active operation of hazardous liquids pipelines. At least one of the five shall have education, background, or experience in risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis.
 - d. Five members shall be selected from the public, including two members who have education, background, or experience in environmental protection or public safety. At least one of the five members shall have education, background, or experience in risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis. No public member may have a significant financial interest in the pipeline, petroleum, or gas industry. At least one of the

members shall have no financial interests in the pipeline, petroleum, or natural gas industries.

- e. Members appointed solely for their individual views or expertise shall serve as special government employees.
- f. Within the statutory limitations, the membership shall be fairly balanced in terms of the points of view represented; the advice and recommendations of the committee shall be the result of its independent judgment (FACA §§ 5(b)(2)-(3)).
- g. Members are appointed for terms of three years, except that a member may serve until his or her successor is appointed. Members may be reappointed.
- h. All members serve at the pleasure of the Secretary.

12. Subcommittees. Upon the Secretary's approval, the PHMSA Administrator has the authority to create subcommittees. Subcommittees shall submit their findings or reports back to their parent committee for review and consideration and must never submit directly to PHMSA or the Secretary. Each subcommittee operates under governing Federal statutes and regulations, and governing DOT policies and procedures.

13. Filing Date. The charter is effective September 17, 2026, which is the filing date of this charter. Unless renewed, the charter will expire 2 years from that date on September 17, 2028.