

# 2010 Pipeline Safety Act Reauthorization

## Key Accomplishments Since 2006 PIPES Act

### **Background:**

The natural gas industry has worked hard to implement the provisions included in the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act of 2006. It has also spent the past four years making significant progress on implementing major initiatives from the 2002 Pipeline Safety Act. From a regulatory perspective, the past ten years have easily included far more major pipeline safety rulemakings than any other decade since the creation of the federal pipeline safety code in 1970.

The list of regulatory accomplishments is impressive. Highlights include:

- ✓ ***25,000 natural gas distribution employees are qualified, through testing, for an estimated 750,000 tasks***
- ✓ ***More than 140,000 miles of transmission pipe have been inspected in meeting requirements from the Transmission Integrity Management regulation***
- ✓ ***Millions of excess flow valves have been installed***
- ✓ ***Approximately 2.1 million miles of distribution piping are covered under the recently promulgated Distribution Integrity Management regulation***
- ✓ ***Approximately 3,700 gas controllers are covered under the recently promulgated Control Room Management regulation, which includes requirements to address employee fatigue***
- ✓ ***Locations of all natural gas transmission and hazardous liquids pipelines have been added to the federal National Pipeline Mapping System***
- ✓ ***A pipeline awareness program has been developed and implemented for almost 1,600 natural gas operators***

The results of these safety enhancements are evident when the number of significant reportable incidents and excavation damages are considered. The average number of serious reportable incidents from 2002 to 2009 is 34.3, as compared to 47.3 for the preceding eight-year period, beginning in 1994 and ending in 2001. This reflects a 27% reduction.

Based upon 2008 data collected by the Common Ground Alliance, excavation damages for all underground facilities have decreased by approximately 50% as compared to 2004. A significant cause for this reduction is the work done by the pipeline industry in promoting the use of 811, the national number for people to call before they dig. Regulators, natural gas operators and other stake holders continue work to improve excavation damage prevention programs.

***AGA's position is that the Department Of Transportation, state pipeline safety regulatory agencies and the natural gas industry should continue to implement the significant provisions from the past two pipeline safety Acts. AGA believes the Pipeline Act should be reauthorized with legislation that is consistent with the previous Acts and than does not contain mandates for unproven safety requirements.***