



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

March 26, 2019

ACTION MEMORANDUM TO THE ADMINISTRATOR

From: Alan K. Mayberry
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety
x6-5124

Subject: Approval to Publish Guidance on the Extension of the 7-year Integrity
Management Reassessment Interval (FAQs)

ACTION REQUIRED

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) Office of Pipeline Safety requests approval to publish Guidance on the Extension of the 7-year Integrity Management Reassessment Interval by Six Months (FAQs) on PHMSA's public website at <https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/gasimp/faqs.htm>.

SUMMARY

PHMSA is issuing guidance on what constitutes sufficient justification to extend a gas pipeline operator's 7-year integrity management reassessment interval by up to six months if the operator submits written notice.

BACKGROUND

Congress made several amendments to the pipeline safety statutes in the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 (the 2011 Act). The Secretary of Transportation (the Secretary) has delegated to PHMSA the responsibility for implementing the changes resulting from the 2011 Act. Section 5, "Integrity Management," paragraph (e), of the 2011 Act made a technical correction to the Federal pipeline safety statute, 49 U.S.C. § 60109(c)(3)(B), regarding the performance of integrity management assessments. As part of an operator's integrity management program, operators must assess pipelines in high-consequence areas for defects and anomalies a minimum of once every 7 years. The technical correction clarified that the Secretary may extend such deadlines by an additional six months if the operator submits written notice to the Secretary with sufficient justification of the need for the extension.

