

State of North Dakota
Public Service Commission

Public Service Commission
Gas Pipeline Safety
Rulemaking

Case No. GS-06-510

Statement on Small Entity Regulatory Analysis

December 15, 2006

The purpose of the 2006 Gas Pipeline Safety rule amendments, enacted by the federal government and to be adopted by reference into state administrative rule, consist of the following: prescribes similar standards as the current standards governing integrity management of gas transmission lines that operators must meet when they use direct assessment on certain other onshore gas, hazardous liquid, and carbon dioxide pipelines; adopts a consensus standard to distinguish onshore gathering lines from other gas pipelines and production operations, and establishes safety rules for certain onshore gathering lines in rural areas and revises current rules for certain onshore gathering lines in non-rural areas; and, updates the pipeline safety regulations to incorporate by reference all or parts of new editions of voluntary consensus technical standards to enable pipeline operators to utilize current technology, materials, and practices.

Although this small entity regulatory analysis is not required under Chapter 28-32-08.1, N.D.C.C. because the proposed amendments to existing rules are mandated by federal law, we do not believe that these proposed rules will have an adverse regulatory affect on any small entity. On the contrary, all of the above amendments contribute to an increase in public safety.