

North Dakota Public Service Commission
Testing and Safety Division

2008/2009 Proposed Gas Pipeline Safety Amendments
GS-09-67

Amended Rule Summary

July 29, 2009

49 CFR Part 192 - Amendment No. FR 20055 - This final rule requires operators to use design and construction features in new and replaced gas transmission pipelines to reduce the risk of internal corrosion and related pipeline failures. This is accomplished by reducing the potential for accumulation of liquids and facilitating operation and maintenance practices that address internal corrosion.

Effective date of final rule: May 23, 2007.

49 CFR Part 192 - Amendment No. 104 – This final rule amends the existing integrity management regulations for both hazardous liquid and natural gas transmission pipelines. The modifications include changing the notification requirements for operators of hazardous liquid and natural gas pipelines; and repealing a requirement for gas operators to notify local authorities. This action is intended to improve pipeline safety by clarifying the integrity management regulations and providing operators with increased flexibility in implementing their integrity management (IM) programs.

Effective date of final rule: August 16, 2007.

49 CFR Part 192 - Amendment No. 105 – This final rule relaxes regulatory requirements governing public awareness programs conducted by operators of master meter systems and certain operators of petroleum gas systems. These operators typically manage property and incidentally provide gas service to customers located on the property. The change provides a less burdensome means for these operators to satisfy public awareness needs.

Effective date of final rule: January 14, 2008.

49 CFR Part 192 - Amendment No. 106 – This final rule adopts, with minor modifications, an interim final rule issued by PHMSA on March 28, 2008, conforming PHMSA's administrative procedures with the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act of 2006 by establishing the procedures PHMSA will follow for issuing safety orders and handling requests for special permits, including emergency special permits. The rule also notifies operators about electronic docket information availability; updates addresses for filing reports, telephone numbers, and routing symbols; and clarifies the time period for processing requests for written interpretations of the regulations. This final rule

makes minor amendments and technical corrections to the regulatory text in response to written public comments received after issuance of the interim final rule.

Effective Date of final rule: February 17, 2009.

49 CFR Part 192 - Amendment No. 107 – This final rule amends the existing pipeline safety regulations to prescribe safety requirements for the operation of certain gas transmission pipelines at pressures based on higher operating stress levels. The result is an increase of maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) over that currently allowed in the regulations. Improvements in pipeline technology assessment methodology, maintenance practices, and management processes over the past twenty-five years have significantly reduced the risk of failure in pipelines and necessitate updating the standards that govern the MAOP. This rule will generate significant public benefits by reducing the number and consequences of potential incidents and boosting the potential capacity and efficiency of pipeline infrastructure, while promoting rigorous life-cycle maintenance and investment in improved pipe technology.

Effective date of final rule: November 17, 2008. **Note:** A notice published in the Federal Register on December 1, 2008 stays the effective date of this final rule, published on October 17, 2008 (73 FR 62148). In accordance with the Congressional Review Act, this final rule will now become effective on **December 22, 2008**, 60 days after the final rule was transmitted to Congress

49 CFR Part 192 - Amendment No. 108 – This final rule amends the design factor and design pressure limits for natural gas pipelines made from new Polyamide-11 (PA-11) thermoplastic pipe. Together, these two changes in the regulations allow pipeline operators to operate certain pipelines constructed of new PA-11 pipe at higher operating pressures than is currently allowed for other plastic pipe materials.

Effective date of final rule: January 23, 2009.

49 CFR Part 192 – Amendment No. 109 - This direct final rule incorporates by reference the most recent editions of API Specification 5L “Specification for Line Pipe” and API 1104 “Welding of Pipelines and Related Facilities.” The purpose of this update is to enable pipeline operators to utilize current technology, materials, and practices to help maintain a high level of safety relative to their pipeline operations. PHMSA is not eliminating the use of the current referenced standards but simply allowing the additional use of these new standards. PHMSA may in the future propose to eliminate the incorporation of the existing referenced standards.

Effective date of final rule: April 14, 2009

49 CFR Part 199 - Amendment No. 24 – This final rule conforms PHMSA's administrative procedures with the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act of 2006 (PIPES Act) by establishing the procedures PHMSA will follow in issuing safety orders and handling requests for special permits, including emergency special permits. This interim final rule also notifies operators about electronic docket information availability; updates addresses, telephone numbers, and routing symbols; and clarifies the time period for processing requests for written interpretations of the regulations. This interim final rule does not impose any new operating, maintenance, or other substantive requirements on pipeline owners or operators.

Effective date of final rule: March 28, 2008.