

Sign-up for Email Alerts [Newsroom](#)

Search

[Home](#) / [Newsroom](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[Press Releases](#)

[Reports to Congress](#)

[Congressional Testimony](#)

[Speeches](#)

**Related Links**

- [Federal Register - Pipeline Safety: Potential for Damage to Pipeline Facilities...](#)

**Related Documents**

- [PHMSA Notice of Proposed Violation, Proposed Civil Penalty and Proposed Compliance Order to Denbury Gulf Coast Pipeline](#)
- [PHMSA Failure Investigation Report - Denbury Gulf Coast Pipelines, LLC](#)

**Contact Us**

Office of Governmental, International, and Public Affairs  
U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
United States

**Email:** [phmsa.publicaffairs@dot.gov](mailto:phmsa.publicaffairs@dot.gov)  
**Phone:** 202-366-4831  
**Fax:** 202-366-7431

# PHMSA Announces New Safety Measures to Protect Americans From Carbon Dioxide Pipeline Failures After Satartia, MS Leak

Thursday, May 26, 2022

**PHMSA 05-22**  
**Contact:** [PHMSAPublicAffairs@dot.gov](mailto:PHMSAPublicAffairs@dot.gov)

**WASHINGTON** - The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) today announced it is taking steps to implement new measures to strengthen its safety oversight of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) pipelines around the country and protect communities from dangerous pipeline failures. The new measures, as well as an enforcement action taken today are a result of PHMSA's investigation into a CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline failure in Satartia, Mississippi in 2020 that resulted in local evacuations and caused almost 50 people to seek medical attention.

To strengthen CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline safety, PHMSA is undertaking the following:

- initiating a new rulemaking to update standards for CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines, including requirements related to emergency preparedness, and response;
- issuing a [Notice of Probable Violation, Proposed Civil Penalty, and Proposed Compliance Order](#) (NOPV) to Denbury Gulf Coast Pipeline, LLC for multiple probable violations of Federal pipeline safety regulations (PSRs). The proposed civil penalties amount to \$3,866,734.
- completing a [failure investigation report](#) for the 2020 pipeline failure in Satartia, Mississippi;
- issuing an updated nationwide [advisory bulletin](#) to all pipeline operators underscoring the need to plan for and mitigate risks related to land-movements and geohazards that pose risks to pipeline integrity like the 2020 incident in Satartia, Mississippi; and
- [conducting research solicitations](#) to strengthen pipeline safety of CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines.

"I recently visited with the first responders in Satartia to hear firsthand of the pipeline failure so that we can improve safety and environmental protections for CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines and work to protect communities from experiences like this," said PHMSA Deputy Administrator Tristan Brown. "The safety of the American people is paramount and we're taking action to strengthen CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline safety standards to better protect communities, our first responders, and our environment."

PHMSA's investigation identified a number of probable violations in connection with the 2020 accident, including the following alleged failures:

- the lack of timely notification to the National Response Center to ensure the nearby communities were informed of the threat;
- the absence of written procedures for conducting normal operations, as well as those that would allow the operator to appropriately respond to emergencies, such as guidelines for communicating with emergency responders; and
- a failure to conduct routine inspections of its rights-of-way, which would have fostered a better understanding of the environmental conditions surrounding its facilities that could pose a threat to the safe operation of the pipeline.

PHMSA has longstanding and comprehensive [guidance](#) on its enforcement of PSRs as well as its civil penalties, which are calculated using [range of criteria](#) and based on statutory limitations. Under the authorities granted by Congress, PHMSA may propose civil penalties, with the recipient of the NOPV being able to contest, contest in part, or accept them. A pipeline operator that receives a proposed civil penalty may also request and receive an informal hearing before a presiding official of the agency and prior to a proposed civil penalty being finalized. PHMSA publishes its entire history of enforcement actions online for public consumption, available [here](#).

**W147**

PU-22-391