



Missouri Public Service Commission

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GLEN KOLKMEYER
Commissioner

January 28, 2022

TO: Missouri Natural Gas Operators

FROM: Kathleen McNelis, Pipeline Safety Program Manager

Note: Copies are not sent to all operator personnel. Please forward to the appropriate person(s).

SUBJECT: 1) **Section 114 of 2020 Pipes Act – Webinar**
2) **GX-2021-0406 Rulemaking update**
3) **PSC Staff Changes**

1) Section 114 of 2020 Pipes Act - Webinar

Background: The PIPES Act of 2020 was signed into law on December 27, 2020. This law contains several provisions that specifically address the elimination of hazardous leaks and minimization of releases of natural gas from pipeline facilities. Section 114(b) of the PIPES Act of 2020 requires each pipeline operator to update its inspection and maintenance plan no later than one year after the date of enactment of the PIPES Act of 2020 (i.e., by December 27, 2021) to address the elimination of hazardous leaks and minimization of releases of natural gas (including, and not limited to, intentional venting during normal operations and maintenance) from the operators' pipeline facilities. The PIPES Act of 2020 also requires those plans to address the replacement or remediation of pipelines that are known to leak due to their material (including cast iron, unprotected steel, wrought iron, and historic plastics with known issues), design, or past operating and maintenance history. PHMSA issued Advisory Bulletin ADB-2021-01 in the June 10, 2021 Federal Register to advise natural gas operators of a statutory mandate to update inspection and maintenance plans to address eliminating hazardous leaks and minimizing releases from natural gas pipeline facilities in the PIPES Act of 2020. Staff provided

a copy of the Advisory Bulletin and additional information to operators in a June 18, 2021 All Operators Letter.

Webinar: PHMSA will host a public informational webinar regarding Section 114 on February 17, 2022. During the webinar, PHMSA will review the requirements of Section 114 and plans for PHMSA and state inspection of the requirements. Following opening remarks, the webinar will address the following topics: 1) Key elements of Section 114; 2) Significant sources of natural gas (primarily methane) emissions from pipelines; 3) Discussion of which types of pipeline facilities must comply with each portion of Section 114; 4) PHMSA and state inspections, including reviews of a pipeline operator's programs and procedures to reduce methane emissions; 5) Inspection topics related to methane reduction and leak-prone pipes; 6) General review of how operators' programs and procedures will be inspected; and 7) The timelines for actions required by Section 114.

The docket number for this meeting is PHMSA-2021-0123. Additional information and a registration link is provided as an attachment.

2) GX-2021-0406 Rulemaking update

In GX-2021-0406, the Commission incorporated into Missouri rules applicable federal rule amendment: Pipeline Safety: Safety of Gas Transmission Pipelines: MAOP Reconfirmation, Expansion of Assessment Requirements, and Other Related Amendments (Docket No. PHMSA–2011–0023; Amdt. Nos. 191–26; 192–125).

The final rules were published in the Code of State Regulations on 12/31/21, and will be effective on 1/30/22. The amended rules are available at: [Missouri Secretary of State: Code of State Regulations \(mo.gov\)](#)

3) PSC Staff Changes

Aaron Archer has resigned from the Missouri Public Service Commission. An updated Staff phone contact list is provided with this letter.

Webinar Addressing Inspection of Operators' Plans to Eliminate Hazardous Leaks, Minimize Releases of Methane & Remediate/Replace Leak-Prone Pipe

[Register Here...](#)

Meeting Information	
<i>Status</i>	Scheduled
<i>Starts</i>	Feb 17, 2022 at 10:30 AM
<i>Ends</i>	Feb 17, 2022 at 6:00 PM
<i>Location</i>	Webinar
<i>Virtual Information</i>	<p>Please use the below Microsoft Teams link for the February 17, 2022 meeting.</p> <p>Click Here to access virtual meeting</p> <p>Meeting Connection Issues: If you experience connection issues, please contact Sam Hall by phone at (804) 551-3876 or via email at sam.hall @ dot.gov and specify the title of the meeting.</p> <p>Guide to Participants in MS TEAMS</p> <p>Meeting Location: Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting</p>
<i>On-Line Registration</i>	Register Here...
<i>Purpose & Summary</i>	<p>The public informational webinar will take place on February 17, 2022. During the webinar, PHMSA will review the requirements of Section 114 and plans for PHMSA and state inspection of the requirements. Following opening remarks, the webinar will address the following topics: 1) Key elements of Section 114; 2) Significant sources of natural gas (primarily methane) emissions from pipelines; 3) Discussion of which types of pipeline facilities must comply with each portion of Section 114; 4) PHMSA and state inspections, including reviews of a pipeline operator's programs and procedures to reduce methane emissions; 5) Inspection topics related to methane reduction and leak-prone pipes; 6) General review of how operators' programs and procedures will be inspected; and 7) The timelines for actions required by Section 114.</p> <p>The docket number for this meeting is PHMSA-2021-0123.</p>

Additional Information

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The mission of PHMSA is to protect people and the environment by advancing the safe transportation of energy products and other hazardous materials that are essential to our daily lives. PHMSA's mission includes prevention of the release of natural gas that can cause safety incidents and release methane into the atmosphere. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, methane is a potent greenhouse gas with a global warming potential (GWP) of 28-36 times greater than that of carbon dioxide over a 100-year period. Compared to carbon dioxide, methane gas has a stronger warming effect, but a shorter lifespan in the atmosphere. Due to the high GWP, minimizing methane emissions has near-term benefits to mitigating the consequences of climate change. Likewise, remediation or replacement of pipeline facilities that are known to leak based on material, design, or past

operating and maintenance history can result in enhanced public safety, environmental protection, and economic benefits.

The PIPES Act of 2020 (Pub. L. 116-260, Division R) was signed into law on December 27, 2020. This law contains several provisions that specifically address the elimination of hazardous leaks and minimization of releases of natural gas from pipeline facilities. Section 114(b) of the PIPES Act of 2020 contains self-executing provisions that apply directly to pipeline operators. This section requires each pipeline operator to update its inspection and maintenance plan required under 49 U.S.C. 60108(a) no later than one year after the date of enactment of the PIPES Act of 2020 (i.e., by December 27, 2021) to address the elimination of hazardous leaks and minimization of releases of natural gas (including, and not limited to, intentional venting during normal operations and maintenance) from the operators' pipeline facilities (49 U.S.C. 60108(a)(2)(D)). The PIPES Act of 2020 also requires those plans to address the replacement or remediation of pipelines that are known to leak due to their material (including cast iron, unprotected steel, wrought iron, and historic plastics with known issues), design, or past operating and maintenance history (49 U.S.C. 60108(a)(2)(E)). In addition, 49 U.S.C. 60108(a)(2) requires that operators continue updating these plans to meet the requirements of any future regulations related to leak detection and repair that are promulgated under 49 U.S.C. 60102(q). Pursuant to the PIPES Act of 2020, operators must have completed updates to their plans by December 27, 2021. PHMSA and our state partners are required to inspect these plans in 2022.

On June 10, 2021, PHMSA published an advisory bulletin in the Federal Register titled "Statutory Mandate to Update Inspection and Maintenance Plans to Address Eliminating Hazardous Leaks and Minimizing Releases of Natural Gas from Pipeline Facilities" (86 FR 31002) reminding pipeline operators of their obligation to comply with Section 114 of the PIPES Act of 2020 by December 27, 2021. That advisory bulletin reminded owners and operators of pipeline facilities that the PIPES Act of 2020 requires operators to update their inspection and maintenance plans to identify procedures to prevent and mitigate both vented/intentional and fugitive/unintentional pipeline emissions. Vented emissions can occur during repairs, maintenance, or operations of pressure relief systems, or other controlled activities. Fugitive emissions include leaks from mains or service lines, meters, or excavation damage, as well as other accidental releases.

DATES: The informational public webinar will be held on February 17, 2022, from 10:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Members of the public who wish to attend this webinar must register no later than February 11, 2022. Individuals requiring accommodations, such as sign language interpretation or other aids, are asked to notify PHMSA no later than February 11, 2022.

ADDRESSES: The informational public webinar will be held virtually. The agenda and instructions on how to attend are available on the meeting website at <https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/meetings/MtgHome.mtg?mkey=0913558304&mtg=159>.

PRESENTATIONS: Presentations from the informational public webinar will be available on the meeting website no later than 5 business days following the webinar.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact Byron Coy, Senior Technical Advisor, Program Development Division, by phone at (609) 771-7810 or by email at byron.coy@dot.gov.

II. Agenda -- See attachments

III. Public Participations

The webinar will be open to the public. Members of the public who wish to attend must register on the meeting website and include their names and organization affiliation. PHMSA is committed to providing all participants with equal access to these meetings. If you need special accommodations, please contact Byron Coy by phone at (609) 771-7810 or via email at byron.coy@dot.gov.

PHMSA is not always able to publish a notice in the Federal Register quickly enough to provide timely notification regarding last minute changes that impact a previously announced meeting. Therefore, individuals should check the meeting website listed in the ADDRESSES section of this notice or contact Byron Coy by phone at (609) 771-7810 or via email at byron.coy@dot.gov regarding any possible changes.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on January 24, 2022, under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.97.

Alan K. Mayberry,
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

The docket number for this meeting is PHMSA-2021-0123.

[Register Here...](#)

TELEPHONE NOTICE OF GAS INCIDENTS (01-28-2022)

20 CSR 4240-40.020, Section 4

A telephone notice is to be made to the answering service or to one of the following Missouri Public Service Commission – Safety Engineering Staff members as soon after the discovery of an incident as is reasonably possible, but not to exceed **one hour** after confirmed discover for a federally reportable incident, or **two hours** for a Missouri reportable incident, unless emergency efforts would be hindered. The answering service or these personnel may be contacted any time day or night. **The answering service can be used at any time; however, the Staff prefers operators to call the MoPSC office telephone numbers during normal working hours and home phone numbers after hours.**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOME PHONE</u>	<u>OFFICE PHONE</u>
Kathleen McNelis (Cellular 573-690-9860)	573-291-0438	573-751-3456
John Kottwitz	573-682-1107	573-751-7352
Greg Williams	573-619-0716	573-751-3411
Evan Neuner	573-552-2034	573-751-7347
Clinton Foster	816-377-2615	816-889-2012
Brian Buchanan	573-298-2488	573-526-3478
Jason Dickneite	573-301-2605	573-751-7074
Trevor Rucker	573-418-0429	573-751-4729
Robert Clay	573-673-4751	573-526-4847

If you cannot reach a Staff member, the following number is to an answering service that will take a message and go through the Staff call list:

MoPSC Incident Reporting Answering Service 888-299-2788

NOTE: If a Staff member does not contact you promptly following notification to the Answering Service, please re-contact the answering service or one of the Staff members directly.

Telephone Number for Reporting Federal Incidents 1-800-424-8802