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GLEN KOLKMEYER
Commissioner

June 18, 2021

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) PHMSA ADB-2021-01

PHMSA issued 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.

PHMSA states that the PIPES Act of 2020 requires that before December 27, 2021, pipeline facility operators must update their inspection and maintenance plans to address the elimination of hazardous leaks and minimizing releases from natural gas pipeline facilities. PHMSA further states that its expectation is that operators will comply with this requirement by amending Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plans required by 49 CFR 192.605 and 193.2017. The attached *Federal Register* notice provides a list of considerations for the content of such plans, including but not limited to minimizing fugitive and vented emissions, and replacement or remediation of pipelines constructed of materials known to leak (e.g. cast iron, unprotected steel, and plastics with known issues).

In order to verify that operators have complied with the requirements to update plans before December 27, 2021, Staff requests that copies of plan updates be provided to Staff no later than January 15, 2022. The PIPES Act of 2020 additionally requires PHMSA and state inspections of these plan provisions by December 27, 2022. Staff anticipates conducting these inspections in calendar year 2022.