

Public Service Commission  
Of West Virginia

201 Brooks Street, P. O. Box 812  
Charleston, WV 25323



Phone: (304) 340-0300  
FAX: (304) 340-0325

August, 2022

**RE: Update to Pipeline Safety Regulations - New Natural Gas Gathering Rule**

The United States Department of Transportation (DOT), Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), has recently issued new expanded regulations that impact operators of pipelines transporting natural gas through gathering systems. You are receiving this letter since your company has been identified (by your assigned standard industrial code or well operations) of potentially operating natural gas gathering pipelines that may be subject to these new regulations. The purpose of this letter is to help inform you of the new regulatory requirements that are now applicable to gathering pipeline operators.

The new regulations entitled "*Safety of Gas Gathering Pipelines: Extension of Reporting Requirements, Regulation of Large, High-Pressure Lines, and Other Related Amendments*" were published in the Federal Register on November 15, 2021 (Docket No. PHMSA-2011-0023). This new final rule became effective on May 16, 2022. A complete copy of the rule is available from the Federal Register web site at <https://www.regulations.gov/document/PHMSA-2011-0023-0491>. The new regulations expand the requirements applicable to gathering pipelines. **All gathering pipeline operators** are now subject to regulatory requirements, which, at a minimum, now include a requirement for operators to report incidents and to file an annual report (due March 15 of each year). An operator must have or obtain a PHMSA Operator Identification (Operator ID) number in accordance with 49 CFR Part 191.22, in order to submit required reports. A link to the PHMSA Portal Access Page is provided below. The link can be used to register for enrollment into the electronic PHMSA portal as well as to subsequently provide application to obtain an Operator ID number.

<https://portal.phmsa.dot.gov/phmsapub/faces/PHMSAHome> .

Under the new rule, other requirements are now also applicable to newly defined Type C gathering pipelines. Type C gathering pipelines are defined as gas gathering lines in Class 1 locations that have an outer diameter of 8.625 inches or greater and operate at an MAOP producing a hoop stress of 20% or more of specified minimum yield strength (SMYS), or if the pipeline is non-metallic or the stress level is unknown, operates above 125 pounds per square inch gauge. Requirements for Type C pipelines include provisions for: design, construction inspection and testing requirements of new and refurbished pipelines; damage prevention; emergency planning; public awareness; line marking; corrosion control; leakage surveys; repair; maximum allowable operating pressure; as well as other requirements.

PHMSA regulations at 49 CFR Part 192.3 *Definitions* defines a gathering line as "... a pipeline that transports gas from a current production facility to a transmission line or main. ..." In addition, PHMSA regulations at 49 CFR Part 192.8 entitled "*How are onshore gathering*

**Update to Pipeline Safety Regulations - New Natural Gas Gathering Rule**  
**August, 2022**

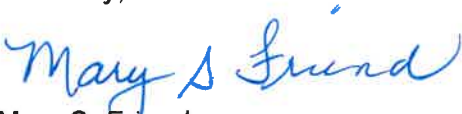
---

*pipelines and regulated onshore gathering pipelines determined”, include additional provisions to determine if an onshore pipeline is considered a gathering pipeline. This includes the use of American Petroleum Institute’s Recommended Practice 80 (API RP 80), *Guidance for the Definition of Onshore Gas Gathering Lines.**

A document containing links (from the PHMSA web site) to relevant information concerning gas gathering requirements is attached for your information and use.

The WV Public Service Commission (WVPSC), Gas Pipeline Safety section is available to help answer questions regarding the requirements for gathering pipelines. Should you have any questions regarding the new PHMSA gas gathering requirements, please reference the attachment. You may also submit questions in writing to [GPS\\_INFO@psc.state.wv.us](mailto:GPS_INFO@psc.state.wv.us). Please include your contact information, including a phone number, with any written inquiries.

Sincerely,



Mary S. Friend  
Director  
Gas Pipeline Safety Division  
Public Service Commission of West Virginia

Attachment