



**Chairman David Porter**  
**Commissioner Christi Craddick**  
**Commissioner Ryan Sitton**  
August 2016

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Railroad Commission  
Oil and Gas Seminar  
Corpus Christi 2016

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Oversight and Safety Division  
Pipeline Safety Department

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Accident/Incident Reporting Criteria

Presented by Stephen Kelly  
Accident Coordinator



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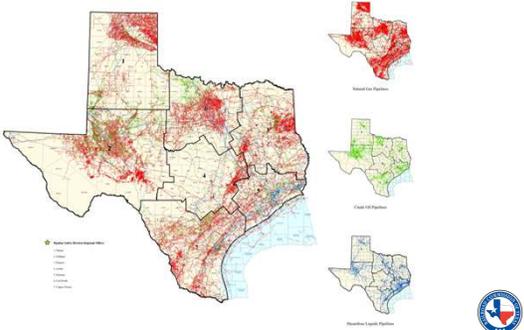
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Why Regulate Pipelines?



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Pipelines near Corpus Christi, TX



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## Miles Of Pipelines In Texas

- Texas has the largest pipeline infrastructure in the nation, with more than 431,997 miles of pipeline which is 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the total U.S. pipeline mileage.
- The RRC regulates 217,065 miles of pipeline.



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## Types of Pipelines

- **Intrastate pipeline:** are Pipeline facilities located completely within the State of Texas.
- **Interstate pipeline:** A pipeline or that part of a pipeline that crosses the Texas state border.



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## Pipeline Safety Department

- We currently have 43 full time inspectors



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## Authority to Regulate Pipelines

- TX Admin. Code (TAC),
  - Title 16: Economic Regulation
    - Part 1: Railroad Commission
      - Chapter 8: Pipeline Safety Regulations
- Code of Federal Regulation (CFR), Title 49
  - Department of Transportation
    - Office of Pipeline Safety
      - Pipeline Hazardous Materials and Safety Administration (PHMSA) Federal Oversight



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## 2015 Pipeline Safety Stats

In Fiscal Year 2015 The RRC:

- Conducted approximately 3800 inspections.
- Received notice of 200 accidents/incidents.
- Handled 150 complaints.



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## Inspections/Audits

### Evaluation of the Pipeline

Prioritizes inspections based on risk factors:

- Violation Count
- Class Location
- Inspection Frequency
- Incidents
- Pipe Size
- HCAs
- Unevaluated System



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## Inspections/Audits

### Program

### Evaluation:

- Integrity Management,
- Operator Qualification,
- OM&E
- Control Room
- Drug and Alcohol
- Public Awareness
- Damage Prevention



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## Natural Gas Reporting Criteria

- TAC Title 16 Part 1 Chapter 8 Subchapter C Rule §8.210
  - An operator must contact the RRC 24hr Pipeline Safety emergency line (512) 463-6788 with in two hours following a discovery that involves a release of gas from a pipeline as defined 49 CFR Part 191.3.



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## Natural Gas Reporting Criteria

- CFR Title 49 Part 191.3
  - (1) An event that involves a release of gas from a pipeline that results in one or more of the following consequences:
    - (i) A death, or personal injury necessitating in-patient hospitalization;
    - (ii) Estimated property damage of \$50,000 or more, including loss to the operator and others, or both, **but excluding cost of gas lost**;
    - (iii) Unintentional estimated gas loss of three million cubic feet or more;



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## Natural Gas Reporting Criteria

- CFR Title 49 Part 191.3 (continued)
  - (2) An event that results in an emergency shutdown of an LNG facility.
  - (3) An event that is significant in the judgment of the operator, even though it did not meet the criteria of paragraphs (1) or (2) of this definition.



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## Hazardous Liquid Reporting

- TAC Title 16 Part 1 Chapter 8 sub chapter D Rule §8.301
  - Requires that an operator must contact the RRC 24hr Pipeline Safety emergency line 1-512 463-6788 with in two hours following a discovery that involves a release of a hazardous liquid from a pipeline as defined 49 CFR Part 195.50.



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## Hazardous Liquid Reporting

- CFR Title 49 Part 195.50 Criteria:
  - Explosion or fire not intentionally set by the operator.
  - Release of 5 gallons or more of hazardous liquid or carbon dioxide,
  - Death of any person;
  - Personal injury necessitating hospitalization;
  - Estimated property damage, including cost of clean-up and recovery, **value of lost product** and damage to the property of the operator or others, or both, exceeding \$50,000.



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## Hazardous Liquid Reporting

- CFR Title 49 Part 195.50 (continued)
  - except that no report is required for a release of less than 5 barrels resulting from a pipeline maintenance activity if the release is:
    - (1) Not otherwise reportable under this section;
    - (2) Not one described in §195.52(a)(4); (pollution of a body of water)
    - (3) Confined to company property or pipeline right-of-way; and
    - (4) Cleaned up promptly;



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## Onsite Investigation

- Some incidents/accidents require an inspector(s) to go onsite. Determining factors include:
  - Fatality(s) or Injuries requiring in-patient hospitalization
  - Unintentional fires or pipeline explosion/rupture
  - Significant release
  - Pollution of a body of water
  - Residential or commercial structure explosion
  - Media attention



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## Accident Investigation



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## Accident Investigation



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## Accident Investigation



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## Accident Investigation



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## Accident Investigation



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## Accident Investigation



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## Incident/Accident Follow Up

- In addition to the telephonic report, each operator is required to file a written report with PHMSA and the RRC within 30 days.
- The operator must include:
  - The cost of the incident
  - Final cause of the incident.
  - Amount of product spilled
  - Type and size of material involved
  - Operating information



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## Complaints

- Act as liaison between the operator and the complainant
- Utilize an RRC database system for tracking purposes
- Make an onsite investigation if required
- Assist public agencies and first responders during emergencies



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## Questions and Answers

Railroad Commission of Texas  
Oversight and Safety Division

Pipeline Safety Department

Mainline 512-463-7058

24 hour emergency line

512-463-6788 or 1-844-773-0305



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