



RRC Pipeline Safety Updates Stephanie Weidman

August 2023





Stephanie Weidman

Pipeline Safety Director

Oversight and Safety Division

Pipeline Safety

August 2023

Agenda



- RRC Pipeline Safety Overview
- State and Federal Rule Making Overview
- Pipeline Safety News and Reminders



Pipeline Safety Overview

Pipeline Safety Responsibilities



- Underground Natural Gas Storage
- Safety inspection of regulated pipeline systems
- Investigation of pipeline incidents/accidents
- Respond to public complaints and inquiries

Pipeline Miles in Texas

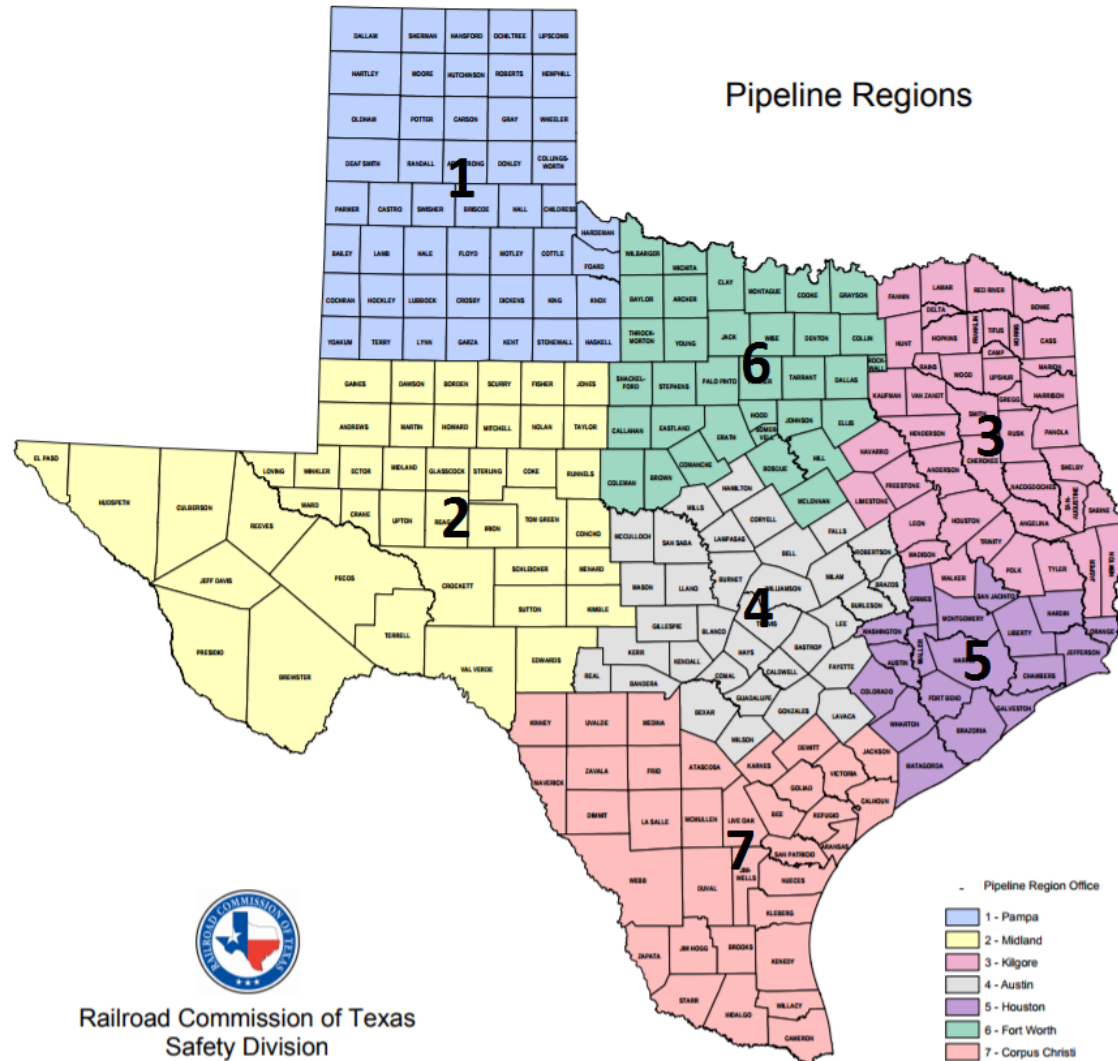


- **Hazardous Liquid: 58,000 mi**
 - Operators: 255
- **Gas Transmission: 34,000 mi**
 - Operators: 217
- **Distribution: 167,000 mi**
 - Operators: 125
- **Regulated Gathering: 44,860 mi**
 - Operators: 222
 - Type A: 4,635 mi
 - Type B: 1,140 mi
 - **Type C: 38,780 mi**
 - Offshore: 305 mi
 - Type R: 91,785 mi

Pipeline Safety Regional Offices



Pipeline Regions



Railroad Commission of Texas
Safety Division

Regional Manager Contact Information



- Larry Snelson-Midland and Lubbock
 - Larry.Snelson@rrc.texas.gov
- Daniel Francis- Kilgore
 - Daniel.Francis@rrc.texas.gov
- Ron Perez- Austin and Corpus
 - Ron.Perez@rrc.texas.gov
- Sam Copeland- Houston
 - Samuel.Copeland@rrc.texas.gov
- Brad Cox- Fort Worth
 - Brad.Cox@rrc.texas.gov

Inspection Staff Overview



- May 2022 received 10 new FTEs: Total 84 FTEs
 - Regions 1&2—Larry Snelson
 - 16 Inspectors
 - Region 3—Daniel Francis
 - 13 Inspectors
 - Regions 4&7—Ron Perez
 - 12 Inspectors
 - Region 5—Sam Copeland
 - 20 inspectors
 - Region 6—Brad Cox
 - 12 Inspectors



- Manager: Joey Bass
 - Training Coordinator
 - Michael Parker
 - Accident Investigation Lead
 - Jonathan Saucedo
 - Underground Natural Gas Storage
 - Mark Lay
 - Special Projects
 - Nicholas Owojori
 - Pete Longoria
 - Steven Rios



- Section 114 Inspections
- Underground Natural Gas Storage Inspection
- Standard Comprehensive Inspection
 - Risk based inspection model
 - Prioritizes inspections based on risk factors
- Specialized Program Inspection
 - Operator Qualification, OM&E, Control Room, Drug and Alcohol, Public Awareness/Damage Prevention, Integrity and New Construction



State Rule Making

Chapter 8 Amendments



- Plan to amend Chapter 8
 - Adopt latest federal final rules
 - Gas Gathering
 - RIN 2
 - RMV Rule
 - Leak Detection and Repair Rule?
 - Amend TAC §8.110
 - Update terminology to align with federal rule
 - Other various corrections

Stay Informed: RRC Rules Website

[GO](#)[RRC APPLICATIONS](#)[ABOUT US](#)[RESOURCES](#)[FORMS](#)[EVENTS](#)[COMPLAINTS](#)[ACCIDENTS](#)[CONTACT US](#)

Current Rules

Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Title 16.

Economic Regulation Part 1. Railroad Commission Of Texas

The official rules of the Railroad Commission of Texas are found in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Title 16, Part 1, Chapters 1 through 20. The TAC is maintained by the Office of the Secretary of State and is available online by clicking on the links below. The Railroad Commission of Texas rules are located on [the Office of the Secretary of State website at:](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=3&ti=16&pt=1)

Send questions regarding the Railroad Commission of Texas' rules to the Office of General Counsel at gcwebmaster@rrc.texas.gov.

NOTE: Printable versions of certain chapters are now available in PDF format. Click on the PDF link to see that chapter. Note that the PDF versions include the official text of each chapter in effect on the date the PDF was produced, which is indicated at the bottom of each page. PDF versions of additional chapters will be added in the future. *The PDF versions are provided for informational purposes only. The official versions of RRC rules are found under each link following the chapter numbers.*

Below is the list of Railroad Commission of Texas chapters currently in effect. Click on the chapter title to go to the list of subchapter and/or rules in that chapter:

Chapter 1: [Practice and Procedure](#) ([PDF version 8/21/2017](#))

RULES

[Current Rules](#)[Proposed Rules](#)[Draft Rules For Informal Comment](#)[Comment Form For Proposed Rulemakings](#)[Emergency Rules](#)

RULES EMAIL SERVICE

Join The RRC Rules Email Service

Join the RRC Rules Email Service to receive email notifications of the Railroad Commission of Texas' rule-making actions. The list is free; just provide an email address.

For questions or comments, please contact us at gcwebmaster@rrc.texas.gov.

<http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/general-counsel/rules/current-rules/>

Stay Informed: Subscription Services



Simple Content Search

GO

RRC
APPLICATIONS

ABOUT US ▾

RESOURCES ▾

FORMS

EVENTS ▾

COMPLAINTS

ACCIDENTS ▾

CONTACT US

Subscription Services

The Railroad Commission of Texas offers several subscriptions services for your convenience.
The subscription service is free; just provide an email address.

ALTERNATIVE FUELS SAFETY

Email notifications regarding regulations, licensing, certification and training for the transportation, storage, distribution and use of alternative fuels.

BROWNFIELDS BULLETIN

Quarterly emails regarding Brownfields Response Program news, upcoming events, and success stories.

NEWS RELEASES

Email notifications of Railroad Commission of Texas news and press releases.

OIL & GAS NEWS

Email notifications regarding Oil & Gas Division news, notices to operators and upcoming events hosted by the Oil & Gas Division.

PIPELINE SAFETY NEWS

Email notifications regarding the regulation of Texas' pipeline infrastructure, the Pipeline Damage Prevention Program for Texas and upcoming events hosted by the Pipeline Safety Department.

<http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/resource-center/subscription-services/>



Federal Rule Making Overview



- Gas Mega Rule (NPRM released in 2016)
 - RIN 1—MAOP Confirmation
 - Published: Oct 1, 2019
 - Effective: July 1, 2020
 - FAQs: <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/regulatory-compliance/phmsa-guidance/frequently-asked-questions-faqs-gas-transmission-final-rule>
 - RIN 2—Repair Criteria, IM Improvements, Cathodic Protection, Management of Change
 - Published: Aug 24, 2022
 - Effective: May 24, 2023
 - Correction Final Rule published April 24, 2023 and effective May 24, 2023
 - Stay of Enforcement until Feb 24, 2024
 - FAQs under development



- Gas Mega Rule Cont'd (NPRM released in 2016)
 - RIN 3—Gas Gathering
 - Published: Nov 15, 2021
 - Effective: May 16, 2022
 - Limited Stay of Enforcement until May 17, 2024
 - FAQs: <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/faqs/gathering-pipelines-faqs>
- Rupture Detection and Valve Rule
 - Published: April 8, 2022
 - Effective: Oct 5, 2022



- Coastal Ecological Unusually Sensitive Areas (USAs)
 - Published: Dec 27, 2021—Interim Final Rule (IFR)
 - IFR Effective Date: Feb 25, 2022
 - Limited Stay of Enforcement (Low Stress Lines)
 - Topics:
 - Expand definition of USA (Great Lakes, coastal beaches/waters)
 - Pipelines in new USAs subject to Integrity Management
 - Next Action: Publish Final Rule

Notice of Proposed Rulemakings (NPRM)



- Leak Detection and Repair NPRM
 - Published May 18, 2023
- Class Location Requirements NPRM
 - Published Oct 14, 2020
- Standards Update I NPRM
 - Published Jan 15, 2021
- Standards Update II NPRM
 - Published Aug 29, 2022

Rulemakings Under Development



- Safety of Gas Distribution Pipelines—Imminent
 - In response to Merrimack valley (Leonel Rondon Act)
 - Topics: DIMP, Emergency Response Plans, Operations and Maintenance
- Liquified Natural Gas (LNG)
 - Topics: Updated NFPA 59A
- Carbon Dioxide
 - In response to carbon capture initiatives and growth of CO2 pipelines—both gas and liquid
 - Topics: Vapor dispersion modeling, crack arresters, odorization
- Pipeline Operational Status
 - Topics: Defines an idled pipeline
- Hazardous Liquid Repair Criteria
 - Topics: Repairs in HCAs and non-HCAs



- Stay Informed
 - PHMSA Notices and Rulemaking
 - <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/regulations/federal-register-documents>
 - PHMSA Pipeline Technical Resources- Public Meetings
 - <https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/meetings/>

Regulatory Status Updates



- Advisory Bulletins
 - <http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/regs/advisory-bulletin>
- Interpretations
 - <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/regulations/title49/b/2/1/list?filter=Pipelines>
- Special Permits and State Waivers
 - <http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/regs/special-permits>



Pipeline Safety News and Reminders

New Inspection System



- The Pipeline, Permitting, Inspection and Evaluation System (PIPES) went live June 2021.
- PIPES Online Portal
 - Search Inspections
 - Upload Plan of Correction (POC) letters
 - Make Payments
 - Upload New Construction Reports (PS-48)
 - Pipeline Integrity Filing (PLI)
 - PS-95 Leak Reports

PIPES Training Video/Webinar



- RRC held a webinar October 20, 2021
- Topics Included
 - RRC Access Management Process (RAMP)
 - PIPES Online Portal
 - Inspections, Incidents, Complaints
 - PS-48—New Construction Report
 - SRC reports and IM Notifications
 - Plan of Correction (POC)
- <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/pipeline-safety/training/workshops-and-conferences/rrc-pipes-webinar/>

Notice to Operators



- Effective Sept 1, 2023 RRC will no longer accept hard copy filings of operator Plan of Correction (POC) letters and PS-48 New Construction Report filings by mail
- How to submit?
 - PS-48 New Construction Reports: Online using RRC PIPES
 - POC filings: Online using RRC PIPES or by email to safety@rrc.texas.gov



- FY23 Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Notice of Funding (NOFO)
 - Eligible Applicants:
 - Municipality or community owned utilities*
 - County, city or township governments, Native American tribal governments**

*Not including for-profit entities

**Federally Recognized

Distribution Infrastructure Grant (2 of 2)



- Closing Date: August 4, 2023
- Website:
 - <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=348316>
- Questions regarding program
 - Contact PHMSAPipelineBILGrant@dot.gov
- Webinar to Review FY 23 NOFO
 - June 9, 2023 2-3 PM Eastern Time
 - <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/9e6da144-b59e-4e82-b0af-eeaca78abce9@c4cd245b-44f0-4395-a1aa-3848d258f78b>



Stephanie Weidman
Pipeline Safety Director
Phone: 512-463-2519
Stephanie.Weidman@rrc.texas.gov

<http://www.rrc.texas.gov>

