

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OVERSIGHT AND SAFETY DIVISION

Guidance for Natural Gas Operators/Economic Operators

Regarding Requested Pipeline Classification

(Private v. Gas Utility)

Beginning with the Pipeline Online Permitting System (POPS) to obtain a T-4 Pipeline permit in Texas, the applicant will request the pipeline classification of either Private or Gas Utility (for natural gas pipelines) or Private or Common Carrier (for non-natural gas pipelines). When a permit is granted it will state the pipeline classification.

The following guidance is intended for natural gas pipelines only.

Note: If any portion of the right-of-way associated with the permit application has or had condemnation in any location(s) when the pipeline was initially laid, the Operator/Economic Operator will be classified as gas utility.

- If the applicant is currently classified as a gas utility, request the pipeline classification of gas utility, as all of the T-4 Permits operated by a gas utility will be gas utility; there is no mixing of gas utility and private status within the entity being recognized as a gas utility.
- If requesting the pipeline classification of Private and you are not currently a gas utility, select Private in (POPS). If you are a gas utility then select Gas Utility.
- If requesting the pipeline classification of 'Private' and you indicate Intrastate attach a properly completed [Non-Utility Certificate](#) to the application.
- If requesting the pipeline classification of 'Gas Utility' and you indicate Intrastate, then do not attach a Non-Utility Certificate.

Regarding the Non-Utility Certificate, if you have any questions related to [Texas Utilities Code §121.005](#) and the certification process, contact the Gas Services department at 512-463-7022.