



RRC Pipeline Safety Updates

Stephanie Weidman

July 2025





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Pipeline Safety Director

Oversight and Safety Division

Pipeline Safety

July 2025

Agenda



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



Pipeline Safety Overview

Federal and State Partnership



- RRC is certified with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to enforce federal regulations
- Pipeline Safety Regulations
 - Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 8
- Rule §8.1 adopts by reference federal pipeline safety regulations
 - 49 CFR Part 191: Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipeline; Annual, Incident, and Other Reporting
 - 49 CFR Part 192: Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipeline
 - 49 CFR Part 193: Liquefied Natural Gas Facilities
 - 49 CFR Part 195: Transportation of Hazardous Liquids by Pipeline
 - 49 CFR Part 40 and Part 199: Drug and Alcohol Testing: Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs

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: 45,000 mi**
 - Operators: 220
- **Gas Transmission: 34,000 mi**
 - Operators: 200
- **Gas Distribution: 173,000 mi**
 - Operators: 125
- **Gas Gathering: 44,860 mi**
 - Operators: 224
 - Type A: 4,600 mi
 - Type B: 1, 400mi
 - **Type C: 39,500 mi**
 - Offshore: 266 mi
 - Type R: 91,785 mi
- **Underground Natural Gas Storage**
 - 31 Facilities
 - 21 operators
 - 408 wells

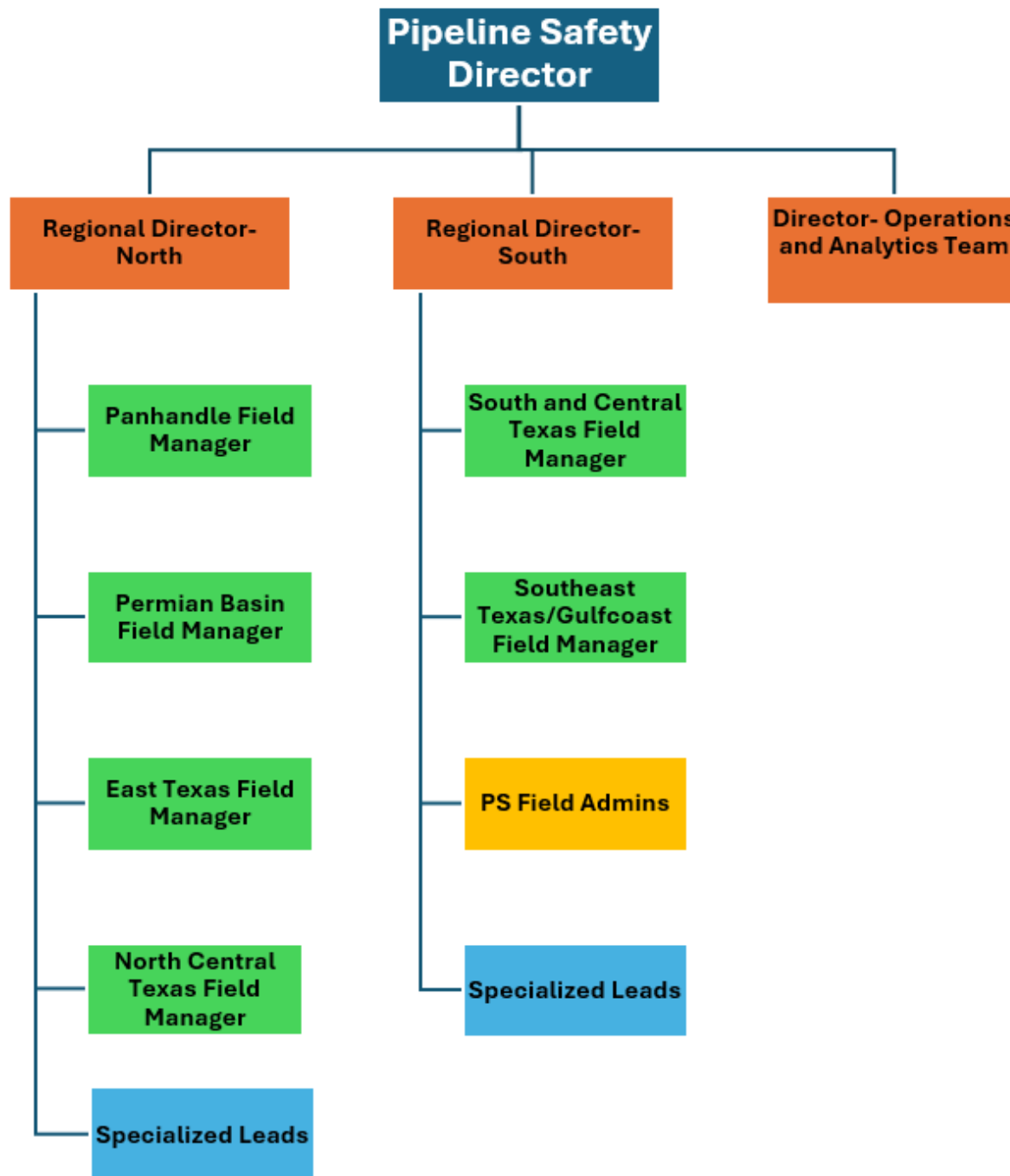


- 8

New! Gathering Line FTEs



- RRC requested additional FTEs in response to the PHMSA Gathering Line Rule (RIN 3)
- Pipeline Safety received 35 FTEs
 - Regional Managers
 - Engineering Specialists (Region leads)
 - Project Managers
 - Inspectors
- Total inspector FTEs: 111
 - Current Field Staff count: 84





- Daniel Francis-North Region
 - Permian Basin, Panhandle, North Central Texas, East Texas
 - Contact: Daniel.Francis@rrc.Texas.gov
- Ron Perez- South Region
 - South Texas, Central Texas, Southeast Texas/Gulf Coast
 - Contact: Ron.Perez@rrc.Texas.gov

Operations and Analytics Group



- Manager: Joey Bass
 - Inspector Training Department
 - Accident Investigation Team
 - Underground Natural Gas Storage
 - LNG
 - Special Projects
 - Plan of Correction letters
 - DIMP filings
 - Public Inquires
 - Operator Inquiries
 - Special Permits/Waivers
- Contact Info
 - Joey.Bass@rrc.texas.gov

Regional Manager Contact Information



- Larry Snelson-Lubbock
 - Larry.Snelson@rrc.texas.gov
- Sam Hughes- Midland
 - Samuel.Hughes@rrc.Texas.gov
- Carlos Jaime- Kilgore
 - Carlos.Jaime@rrc.texas.gov
- Mario Solis- Austin and Corpus
 - Mario.Solis@rrc.texas.gov
- Sam Copeland- Houston
 - Samuel.Copeland@rrc.texas.gov
- Brad Cox- Fort Worth
 - Brad.Cox@rrc.texas.gov

Pipeline Safety Evaluations



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



State Rule Making

New! State Rule Amendments (1 of 5)



- Rule adoption approved: 11/19/24
- Rule changes effective 12/09/2024
- §3.70
 - Transferee and transferor additions
 - For FY 25 fee—Type C will be in Group A (\$20/mile)
 - Requires all gas permits be amended by March 31, 2025 to include gas gathering specifications

New! State Rule Amendments (3 of 5)



- Chapter 8
 - §8.1: Applicability
 - Adopt latest federal final rules
 - Gas Gathering (RIN 3)
 - Repair Criteria, IM, CP, MOC (RIN 2)
 - RMV Rule
 - Clarification
 - Production pipelines in Class 2, 3 and 4 locations
 - Pipelines in Texas waters
 - §8.101: Integrity
 - Updated to align Texas integrity rule with federal requirements
 - Pipelines covered under §192.710-requires assessment interval of 10 years and to follow remediation requirements

New! State Rule Amendments (4 of 5)



- §8.110: Gathering Lines
 - Update terminology to align with federal rule
- §8.115: New Construction
 - Cleaned up reporting requirements for distribution
 - Online filing requirements for New Construction Reports
- §8.125: Waivers
 - Relating to waivers—removed notice of protest form published by RRC
 - Updated how to file (electronically)

New! State Rule Amendments (5 of 5)



- §8.201: Fees
 - Requires distribution fees to be paid online
- §8.208: Compression Coupling Removals
 - No longer required to file compression coupling removal reports
- §8.209: DIMP
 - Changes relating to how to recover costs
- §8.210: Reporting
 - Requires PS-95 report to be filed even when no leaks found

Stay Informed: RRC Rules Website

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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](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/>

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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 Updates



- 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
 - INGAA lawsuit filed Sept 2022
 - Correcting Amendments published: Jan 15, 2025
 - <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/regulations/federal-register-documents/2025-00073>



- 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
- Standards Update
 - Published: April, 29, 2024
 - Effective: June 28, 2024
 - Limited Stay of Enforcement until January 1, 2025

Notice of Proposed Rulemakings (NPRM)



- Leak Detection and Repair NPRM
 - Published May 18, 2023
 - Estimated release: ??
- Class Location Requirements NPRM
 - Published Oct 14, 2020
 - Estimated release: ??
- Safety of Gas Distribution Pipelines
 - Published: Sept 7, 2023
 - Topics: DIMP, Emergency Response Plans, Operations and Maintenance
 - Next Steps: GPAC and Final rule process will most likely go into 2025

Rulemakings Under Development



- Liquified Natural Gas (LNG)
 - ANPRM released May 5, 2025
 - Comments due: July 5, 2025
- Repair Criteria for Hazardous Liquid and Gas
 - ANPRM released May 21, 2025
 - Comments due: July 21, 2025
- Carbon Dioxide
 - Topics: Vapor dispersion modeling, crack arresters, odorization
- Pipeline Operational Status
 - Topics: Defines an idled pipeline
- Standards Update III



- Stay Informed
 - PIPES Act Web Chart
 - <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/legislative-mandates/pipes-act-web-chart>
 - 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
 - <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/regulations/federal-register-documents>
- Interpretations
 - <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/regulations/title49/b/2/1>
- Special Permits and State Waivers
 - <http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/regs/special-permits>



Pipeline Safety News and Reminders

Notice to Operators



- RRC no longer accepting 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



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

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/>

Frequently Asked Questions



- How do I change who RRC Inspection reports go to?
 - Send email to safety@rrc.texas.gov requesting change
 - Must be an officer of the company
- How do make sure all operator IDs included in specialized inspections
 - Communicate with inspectors
 - Provide list of P-5 numbers utilizing the same plan
- What if I disagree with the findings of an inspection?
 - Send executive summary to Regional Manager and/or me and we will put a hold on approval process until we meet
- Thinking of requesting a Special Permit?
 - Email safety@rrc.texas.gov and we will be in touch to start the process



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