

PIPELINE SAFETY



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To: All Pipeline and Liquefied Natural Gas Operators in Minnesota

From: Jerry Rosendahl, MNOPS Director / State Fire Marshal

Subject: **MNOPS REPORTABLE EVENT POLICY**

Effective immediately, the following pipeline related events will be considered a potential threat to public safety and will be promptly reported to the Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety through the 24-hour Minnesota Duty Officer (MnDO) at 651/649-5451 or 1-800-422-0798.

A. MNOPS Reportable Event requiring notification is a release causing any of the following:

1. Evacuation of 10 or more people,
2. Evacuation of a school, hospital or health care facility,
3. Rerouting of traffic or closing a highway by public emergency responders,
4. 50 or more customers out of service,
5. Any media attention,
6. Unintentional fire or explosion,

B. Reportable for Natural Gas and LNG per CFR Title 49 Part §191.3 DEFINITIONS.

"Incident" means any of the following events:

1. An event that involves a release of gas from a pipeline, or of liquefied natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, refrigerant gas, or gas from an LNG facility, and 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;
2. An event that results in an emergency shutdown of an LNG facility. Activation of an emergency shutdown system for reasons other than an actual emergency does not constitute an incident.
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.

C. Reportable for Hazardous Liquids per CFR Title 49 Part §195.52 TELEPHONIC NOTICE OF CERTAIN ACCIDENTS.

(a) At the earliest practicable moment following discovery of a release of the hazardous liquid transported resulting in an event described in §195.50, the operator of the system shall give notice, in accordance with paragraph (b) of the section, of any failure that:

1. Caused a death or a personal injury requiring hospitalization;
2. Resulted in either a fire or explosion not intentionally set by the operator;
3. Caused estimated property damage, including cost of cleanup and recovery, value or lost product, and damage to the property of the operator or others, or both, exceeding \$50,000;
4. Resulted in pollution of any stream, river, lake, reservoir, or other similar body of water that violated applicable water quality standards, caused a discoloration of the surface of the water, or adjoining shoreline, or deposited a sludge or emulsion beneath the surface of the water or upon adjoining shorelines; or
5. In the judgment of the operator was significant even though it did not meet the criteria of any other paragraph of the section.

D. Safety-Related Conditions per CFR Title 49 Part §191.23

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, each operator shall report in accordance with §191.25 the existence of any of the following safety-related conditions involving facilities in service:

1. In the case of the pipeline (other than an LNG Facility) that operates at a hoop stress of 20 percent or more of its specified minimum yield strength, general corrosion that has reduced the wall thickness to less than that required for the maximum allowable operating pressure, and localized corrosion pitting to a degree where leakage might result.
2. Unintended movement or abnormal loading by environmental causes, such as an earthquake, landslide, or flood, that impairs the serviceability of a pipeline or the structural integrity or reliability of an LNG facility that contains, controls, or processes gas or LNG.
3. Any crack or other material defect that impairs the structural integrity or reliability of an LNG facility that contains, controls, or processes gas or LNG.
4. Any material defect or physical damage that impairs the serviceability of a pipeline that operates at a hoop stress of 20 percent or more of its specified minimum yield strength.
5. Any malfunction or operating error that causes the pressure of a pipeline or LNG facility that contains or processes gas or LNG to rise above its maximum allowable operating pressure (or working pressure for LNG facilities) plus the build-up allowed for operation of pressure limiting or control devices.
6. A leak in a pipeline or LNG Facility that contains or processes gas or LNG that constitutes an emergency.
7. Inner tank leakage, ineffective insulation, or frost heave that impairs the structural integrity of an LNG storage tank.
8. Any safety-related condition that could lead to an imminent hazard and causes (either directly or indirectly by remedial action of the operator), for purposes other than abandonment, a 20 percent or more reduction in operating pressure or shutdown of operation of a pipeline or an LNG Facility that contains or processes gas or LNG.

(b) A report is not required for any safety-related condition that-

1. Exists on a master meter system or a customer-owned service line;
2. Is an incident or results in an incident before the deadline for filing the safety-related condition report;
3. Exists on a pipeline (other than an LNG facility) that is more than 220 yards (200 meters) from any building intended for human occupancy or outdoor place of assembly, except that reports are required for conditions within the right-of-way of an active railroad, paved road, street, or highway; or
4. Is corrected by repair or replacement in accordance with applicable safety standards before the deadline for filing the safety-related condition report, except that reports are required for conditions under paragraph (a)(1) of this section other than localized corrosion pitting on an effectively coated and cathodically protected pipeline.

D. Addressee for written reports

Each written report required by this part must be made to Office of Pipeline Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, the Information Resources Manager, PHP-10, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE,., Washington, DC 20590-0001. However, incident and annual reports for intrastate pipeline subject to the jurisdiction of a State agency pursuant to a certification under section 5(a) of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 may be submitted in duplicate to that State agency if the regulations of that agency require submission of these reports and provide for further transmittal of one copy within 10 days of receipt for incident reports and not later than March 15 for annual reports to the Information Resources Manager. **Safety-related condition reports required by §191.23 for intrastate pipeline transportation must be submitted concurrently to that State agency**, and if that agency acts as an agent of the Secretary with respect to interstate transmission facilities, safety-related condition reports for these facilities must be submitted concurrently to that agency.