



2023 Safety Seminar

A photograph of industrial machinery, likely a gas valve or wellhead, featuring several large red handwheels for manual operation. The equipment is white and set against a clear blue sky.

Welcome to the PUC

Opinions and content are that of I&E and I&E does not speak for the Commission

WHO and WHAT is the PUC

- The **Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission** oversees the nearly 7,000 entities which provide utility services across the state, including:
 - **Natural gas**
 - **Pipeline transmission of natural gas and hazardous materials**
 - **Electricity**
 - Motor carrier transportation of passengers and property
 - Railroad crossings
 - **Telecommunications**
 - **Water and wastewater collection and disposal**
- The roles and responsibilities of the PUC continues to evolve as the utility marketplace and technology changes and as legislators amend the Public Utility Code.



Mission Statement

- The mission of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission is to balance the needs of consumers and utilities; ensure safe and reliable utility service at reasonable rates; protect the public interest; educate consumers to make independent and informed utility choices; further economic development; and foster new technologies and competitive markets in an environmentally sound manner.





**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION & ENFORCEMENT • SAFETY
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Pipeline
Safety
Division

GAS
ELECTRIC
ONE CALL



What are our qualifications ?

We are all engineers with degrees in such fields as:

Civil

Environmental

Electrical

Mechanical

Petro- Chemical

We have EIT's and FET's and PE's on staff.

TRAINING

All inspectors must attend and complete training at the PHMSA federal training center located in Oklahoma City.

The courses are both lecture and practical.

The courses are 37.5 hours long and a written exam is required to pass the course.

The courses are like a full semester college course in 5 days with a final exam.

PA has inspectors that teach at the Federal training facility, and they also have additional required training courses .



LIST OF COURSES

- Safety Evaluation of Distribution Integrity Management Programs (DIMP)
- Safety Evaluation of Gas Pipeline Systems
- Gas Pressure Regulation & Overpressure Protection
- Gas Integrity Management (IM) Protocol
- Plastic and Composite Materials
- Safety Evaluation of Underground Storage Programs
- Safety Evaluation of Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Systems
- Safety Evaluation of Breakout Tanks



LIST OF COURSES

- Safety Eval of Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Integrity Mgmt (IM) Prog
- Welding and Welding Inspection of Pipeline Materials
- Failure Investigation Pipeline Failure Investigation Techniques
- Pipeline Safety Regulation Application and Compliance Procedures
- Fundamentals of Integrity Management
- HAZWOPER Refresher (annual)
- HAZWOPER 40 Hour- General Pipeline Safety Awareness Course
- Fundamentals of SCADA System Technology and Operation
- Safety Evaluation of Inline Inspection (ILI)/Pigging Programs



LIST OF COURSES

- Corrosion Control of Pipeline Systems
- External Corrosion Direct Assessment (ECDA) Field
- Evaluation of Operator OQ
- Safety Evaluation of Control Room Management Programs
- Root Cause/Incident Investigation
- Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Safety Technology and Inspection
- Safety Evaluation of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Systems
- PHMSA-PH2284-DL General Safety Awareness Refresher
- PHMSA PL8001 Facilitation of Instruction Methods
- PHMSA-PL8000 Fundamentals of Instruction



What gives us the authority to inspect?

State Level **Title 52 chapter § 59.33. Safety**

(d) Enforcement. Each public utility shall be subject to inspections as may be necessary to assure compliance with this section. The facilities, books and records of each public utility shall be accessible to the Commission and its staff for the inspections. Each public utility shall provide the Commission or its staff the reports, supplemental data and information as it shall from time-to-time request in the administration and enforcement of this section.

Federal Level CFR Title 49

§ 190.1 Purpose and scope. (a) This part prescribes procedures used by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration in carrying out duties regarding pipeline safety under **49 U.S.C. 60101**

§ 190.203(a). (a) Officers, employees, or agents authorized by the Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety, PHMSA, upon presenting appropriate credentials, are authorized to enter upon, inspect, and examine, at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner, the records and properties of persons to the extent such records and properties are relevant to determining the compliance of such persons with the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 60101 et seq., or regulations or orders issued thereunder.



What do we inspect:

The minimum safety standards for all natural gas and hazardous liquid public utilities in this Commonwealth under the pipeline safety laws as found in 49 U.S.C.A. § § 60101—60503 and as implemented at 49 CFR Parts 191—193, 195 and 199, including all subsequent amendments thereto. Future Federal amendments to 49 CFR Parts 191—193, 195 and 199, as amended or modified by the Federal government

ACT 127....

ACT 50

And other areas as directed by the Commission for public safety.





Who has been inspected by the PUC ?



Who has never been Inspected by the PUC ?

What do you expect during a PUC inspection?



A photograph of industrial machinery, likely a valve or wellhead, featuring several large red handwheels for manual operation. The equipment is white and set against a clear blue sky.

What to expect on an Inspection

- Field visits
- Records



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THANKS



Field Inspection Overview

By Martin Salamonski

A Fun Game!

Find the Potential Violation



What's Wrong Here?



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What's Wrong Here?



§192.353 Customer meters and regulators: Location.

(a) Each meter and service regulator, whether inside or outside a *building*, must be installed in a readily accessible location and be protected from corrosion and other damage, including, if installed outside a building, vehicular damage that may be anticipated. However, the upstream regulator in a series may be buried.

What's Wrong Here?



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What's Wrong Here?



PA Code § 59.18. Meter, regulator and service line location.

(8) Meters and service regulators may not be installed in the following locations:

(vi) In contact with soil or other potentially corrosive materials.

§192.355 Customer meters and regulators: Protection from damage.

(b) *Service regulator* vents and relief vents. Service regulator vents and relief vents must terminate outdoors, and the outdoor terminal must:

(2) Be located at a place where *gas* from the vent can escape freely into the atmosphere and away from any opening into the *building*

What's Wrong Here?



What's Wrong Here?



§192.721 Distribution systems: Patrolling.

(a) The frequency of patrolling mains must be determined by the severity of the conditions which could cause failure or leakage, and the consequent hazards to public safety.

(b) Mains in places or on structures where anticipated physical movement or external loading could cause failure or leakage must be patrolled

(2) Outside business districts, at intervals not exceeding 7 1/2 months, but at least twice each calendar year.

What's Wrong Here?



What's Wrong Here?



The utility company might feel a bit **crabby** about their meters being painted over..



But I really **don't see** any issues here!

Thank you!!
Up Next:
Nick Nagele



Compliance Inspections of Natural Gas Systems Records

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How Do I Prepare for an Inspection?

- What do I do?
- Where do I begin?
- What do I look for?
- What's the inspector going to look at and for?





Where Do I Begin?

- Think like an inspector.
- Code requirements and not just company requirements.
- Current inspection forms
- Forms available at:
<https://www.puc.pa.gov/filing-resources/forms/pipeline-forms/>

Where Do I Begin?

- All of the records required by the code for your system.
- Company records contain all code required information for your system.
- Clarify what records to be reviewed and time period.
- Know where the records are located.
- Make sure records are complete and up-to-date.



Where Do I Begin?

- Maps, red lines of recent work
- Check dates, versions
- Revision history if looking at procedures
- **If you didn't document it, then you didn't do it!**



Where Do I Begin?

- Use the tools and inspector will use.
- Use a current and up-to-date code book.
- Download the most current code book from the PHMSA website or us E-CFR.com

Things to Remember when being inspected

- Have your records available
- Know who to call if additional information is needed
- Recognize that the inspector is there to do a job



Things to Remember when being inspected

- The inspection is a legal proceeding
- Answer the questions to the best of your ability
- If you do not know the answer to a question – tell them that you don't know
- Be careful with electronic records.
- Be prepared! You should find any discrepancies **before** the inspector does.
- Inspector has a right to documents to prove non-compliance





What Happens When the Inspection is Over?

- The inspector will generally have a meeting with the operator to close out the inspection.
- The inspector will go over their findings with the operator, and describe what is out of compliance with the code (if anything) and why.

What Happens When the Inspection is Over?

- What the inspector lists as issues found in the audit may or may not be found in the final letter from the state program manager.
- The inspector is a fact finder and will make recommendations to their directors.
- The enforcement authority lies with the state program manager, and that's who will send the Non-Compliance letter.(NC)





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THANKS



Non-compliance Letters

Elena Bozhko

What is a Non-compliance letter?



Non-compliance letter is an official notification to a pipeline operator of a potential violation of the federal and state pipeline regulations from the Safety Division.



Why do we write NC letters?



To Inform operators of a non-compliance with State or Federal code



To Create a “Legal” record of the non-compliance



To allow the Operator apply corrections across all operating areas and ensure it is not repeated – now or later

Who is inspected the most?

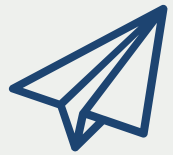


Inspections are assigned based on:

- Size of the operator, number of “shops”
- Customer base
- Number of known problems with the system
- Risk assessment analysis (FL-1 data)
- Data from incidents
- Complaints from customers
- PHMSA requirements



Process of NC letter



Inspection



NC letter



Meeting with the company
NC follow-up



NC letter structure



Standard outline:
date, Inspection number, addressee,
explanation of the findings and
required corrective actions



NC vary in length



Sequence number

NC-XX-23

XX can tell you how many NCs were
issued this year so far



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
COMMONWEALTH KEYSTONE BUILDING
400 NORTH STREET, HARRISBURG, PA 17120

BUREAU OF
INVESTIGATION
&
ENFORCEMENT

September 10, 2023]

REFERENCE:
NC-99-23
IREF: 12345

VIA EMAIL DELIVERY

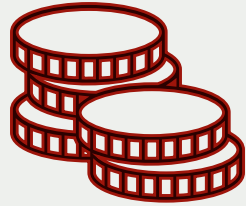
Mr. John Pipeliner
Chief Operating Officer
Big Pipeline Operator
355 Main Street Road
Harrisburg, PA 17177

Dear Mr. Pipeliner,

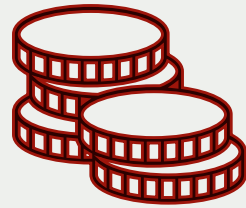
On August 23, 2023, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's Pipeline Safety Engineers conducted inspection of facilities and/or records on Big Pipeline Operator, Harrisburg shop. As a result of the inspection, the Pipeline Safety Section of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission has discovered that AmeriGas may potentially be in violation of the following federal and state regulations:

- (1) **49 CFR §192.13 What general requirements apply to pipelines regulated under this part?**
 - (c) Each operator shall maintain, modify as appropriate, and follow the plans, procedures, and programs that it is required to establish under this part.
- (2) **49 CFR §192.465 External corrosion control: Monitoring and remediation.**
 - (a) Each pipeline that is under cathodic protection must be tested at least once each calendar year, but with intervals not exceeding 15 months, to determine whether the cathodic protection meets the requirements of §192.463.
- (3) **49 CFR §192.491 Corrosion control records.**
 - (a) Each operator shall maintain records or maps to show the location of cathodically protected piping, cathodic protection facilities, galvanic anodes, and neighboring structures bonded to the cathodic protection system. Records or maps showing a stated number of anodes, installed in a stated manner or spacing, need not show specific distances to each buried anode.
 - (b) Each record or map required by paragraph (a) of this section must be retained for as long as the pipeline remains in service.
 - (c) Each operator shall maintain a record of each test, survey, or inspection required by this subpart in sufficient detail to demonstrate the adequacy of corrosion control measures or that a corrosive condition does not exist.

Fines and Consequences



How much is the fine?
no fines!!!



What if we do not agree?
Let's talk

How many NCs are too many?



Inspectors have no NC quota to meet



Promotions are not tied to the number of NC letters written



NC letter statistics



In 2022: 54 letters



Over the last 10 years:

- 571 letters total



A photograph of an industrial facility, likely a gas processing plant, featuring several large white valves with prominent red handwheels. The background is a clear blue sky.

Most frequent violations

- ✘ Section 192.614
 - Damage prevention
- ✘ Sections 192.605 and 192.13(c)
 - Following procedures

Inspection forms



The most up to date forms can be found on the PUC's web page under Pipeline Safety:

<https://www.puc.pa.gov/filing-resources/forms/pipeline-forms/>





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Thank you!