



2026 PAPUC Safety Conference

ROB HORENSKY

PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

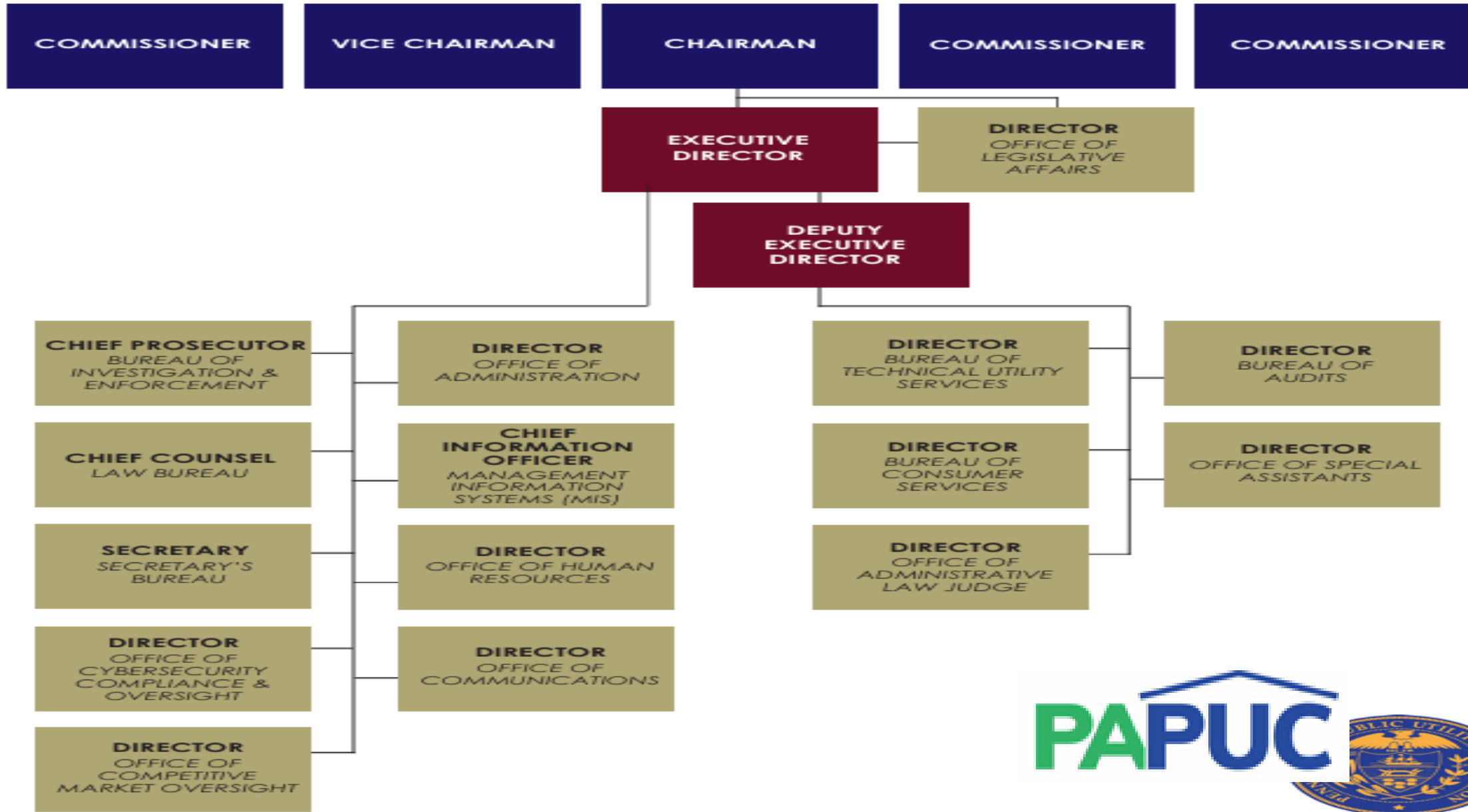
SEPTEMBER 9-10, 2026

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

- The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission oversees more than **8,400 entities** which provide utility services across the Pennsylvania
- **Over 500 employees** across 15 bureaus and offices throughout the Commonwealth
- PAPUC is overseen by a group of **5 Commissioners** appointed by the Governor for a 5-year term
- **Public Meetings** held regularly where the Commission acts on a variety of utility matters
- **Hearings** held for individual cases

- 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**.
- PHMSA's mission is to **protect people and the environment** by advancing the **safe transportation of energy** and other hazardous materials that are essential to our daily lives. To do this, the agency establishes national **policy, sets and enforces standards, educates**, and conducts research to prevent incidents. We also **prepare the public and first responders** to reduce consequences if an incident does occur.

PUC ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Staff Leadership:

- **Jennifer Berrier, Executive Director**
 - Responsible for the oversight of the day-to-day management of the Commission functions and staff
- **Kelly Monaghan, Deputy Executive Director**
 - Oversees the PUC's bureaus with regulatory functions, including the:
 - Bureau of Audits
 - Bureau of Consumer Services
 - Bureau of Technical Utility Services
 - Office of Special Assistants
 - Office of Administrative Law Judge



Opinions and content are attributed to I&E, an independent bureau that does not speak for the Commission.



Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (I&E)

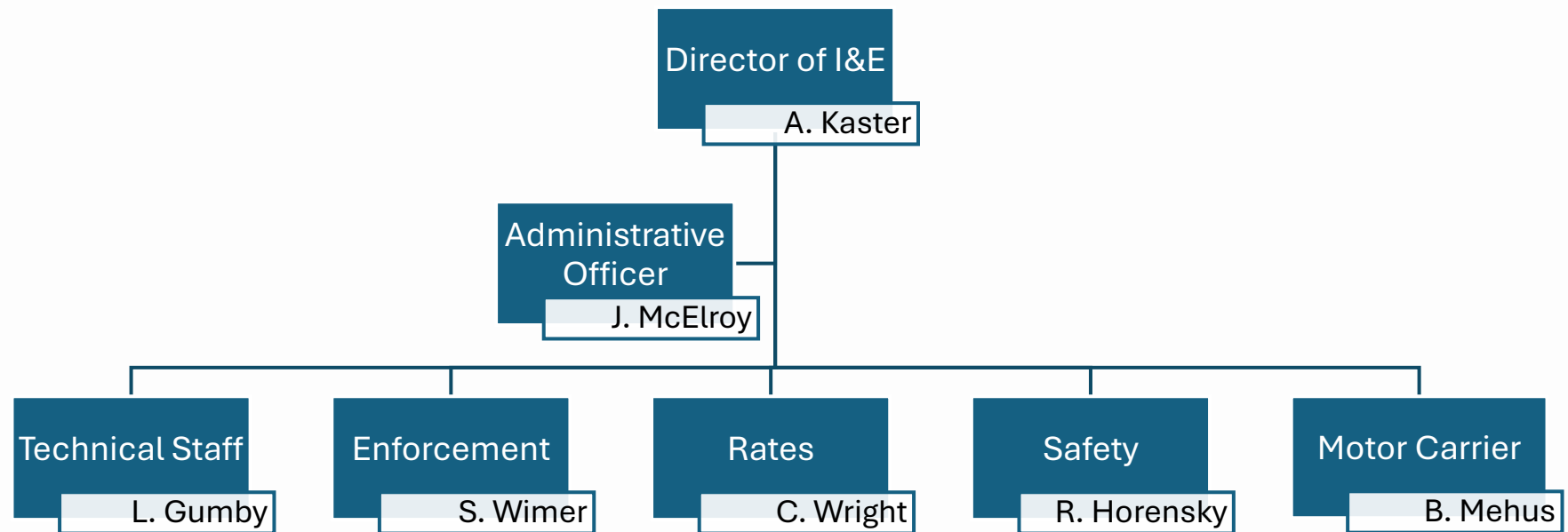
Allison Kaster- Director/Chief Prosecutor

- Prosecutory Bureau
 - Representing the public interest in ratemaking and service matters before the Office of Administrative Law Judge
 - Enforcing compliance with the state and federal safety laws and regulations.
 - The Bureau also prepares reports for the Commission, provides technical support for other bureaus and participates in working groups on energy and safety issues



I&E Structure

- Complement of 116 (largest in the Commission)
- Independent Investigative and Prosecutory Bureau within the Commission



PAPUC I&E Enforcement Division

- Stephanie Wimer, Deputy Chief Prosecutor



Samantha Barbush, Assistant Counsel



Grant Rosul, Assistant Counsel



Jade Salyards, Assistant Counsel



Colby Widdowson, Assistant Counsel



Safety Website Updates-

Pipeline Safety

[Gas Emergencies](#)

[Jurisdiction & Regulations](#)

[2026 Safety Conference](#)

[Operator and Public Resources](#)

[Jurisdictional Pipeline Operators](#)

[Statistics and Trends](#)

[Pipeline Forms](#)

[Act 127 \(Pipeline Act\)](#)

Damage Prevention Enforcement

[Reporting Alleged Violations](#)

[Damage Prevention Online Payment Portal](#)

[PUC Compliance Education](#)

[Damage Prevention Committee](#)

[Pennsylvania Law](#)

[Related Links & Resources](#)

[Damage Prevention Enforcement Staff](#)

[Damage Prevention Enforcement Annual Reports](#)

[PA One Call - 811](#)

[Cybersecurity](#)

[Forms](#)

Damage Prevention Enforcement

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) oversees compliance with the Underground Utility Line Protection Law (One Call Law), which protects underground utility infrastructure by preventing damage during excavation activities. The PUC's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement investigate alleged violations of the law and presents cases to the Damage Prevention Committee (DPC). The DPC reviews cases during regular meetings and determines whether violations occurred and whether enforcement actions such as warning letters, administrative penalties or mandatory training are warranted. These enforcement efforts focus on safe excavation practices and compliance with Pennsylvania's damage prevention laws.



Reporting Alleged Violations

Learn where to file an Alleged Violation Report.

[EXPLORE MORE](#)



Online Payment Portal

Save time by submitting an online payment for fines and late fees

[GET STARTED](#)



PUC Compliance Education

Learn where to complete required PUC Compliance Education.

[GET STARTED](#)



[Damage Prevention](#)



[Pennsylvania Law](#)



[Related Links &](#)

I&E Safety Division

Staff of 44(complement)

- 1 Manager

- 8 Supervisors

- 25 Pipeline Safety Engineers

- 4 Electric Safety Engineers

- 5 Damage Prevention Investigators

- 1 Administrative Assistant

More to come-

- Manager

- Deputy

- Other



Opinions and content are attributed to I&E, an independent bureau that does not speak for the Commission.

Who does PAPUC Pipeline Safety regulate:

176 gas operators

- 29 Private Gas
- 2 Municipal
- 30 MasterMeter
- 11 LPG
- 4 Co-op
- 38 Transmission
- 4 LNG
- 58 Gathering

7 Hazardous Liquid Operators

3 Underground Natural Gas Storage operators



Opinions and content are attributed to I&E, an independent bureau that does not speak for the Commission.

What's jurisdictional...

Gas

- Gas services in Pennsylvania – 2,940,407
- Miles of gas distribution pipeline – 49,764
- Miles of gas service lines- 32,000
- Miles of gas transmission pipeline – 1,199
- Miles of gas gathering pipeline– 4,664.

Underground Natural Storage

- 7 Depleted Hydrocarbon Reservoirs
- 24 Injection Wells and 10 Observation Wells
- 4.21 BcF working gas capacity of the storage fields

Hazardous Liquid

- Intrastate hazardous liquid pipeline – 80.9 miles
- Breakout tanks – 5



Regulatory Statistics

- 10 reported gas incidents in 2025
 - 3 fatalities
 - Multiple injuries
- Letters of Non-Compliance
 - 5-year average- 59 Non-Compliance Letters per year

Multiple I&E Enforcements Actions at various stages of the process



Inspection Statistics

- Total 2025 Inspection Days – 3,196 days
 - Range of ~120-130 days per inspector
- Total Inspections- nearly 2,000
 - Leaks- 243 inspections
 - Regulator Stations-227 Inspections
 - Incident Investigations-280 days
 - Damage Prevention- 161Inspections
 - Operator Qualification Inspections-126 Inspections
 - Plastic and steel construction- 326 Inspections/ 736 Days
 - 23% of the inspection days spent on const.



I&E Safety Notices

- Large Events and gatherings-FIFA World Cup
- 250th Anniversary
- FL data requests to:
 - Distribution
 - Gathering/transmission an
 - Hazardous Liquids
- Frost letters
- Valve data
- Advisory Bulletins
- Operator specific notifications

PHMSA Advisory Bulletins

- Preventing Excavation Damage
- Incident Notifications to the NRC
- Protecting Pipeline Integrity during extreme winter weather, rapid thaw and geohazard events
- Integrity Risk of Type A repair sleeves
- DIMP considerations for plastic pipeline and components
- Promotion of PSMS(2025)
- DIMP- Enhancing Effectiveness
 - Probabilistic Risk Models
 - Interactive Threats
 - Leak Management Effectiveness
 - System Degradation over time



From the NTSB- SA-098



SAFETY ALERT

[Home](#) > [Advocacy](#) > [Safety Alerts](#) > [Natural Gas Alarms Save Lives](#)

Natural Gas Alarms Save Lives

Early Warning of Natural Gas Leaks Can Prevent
Deaths and Injuries

Safety Alert Number:
SA-098

Date Issued:
3/27/2025



Pipeline

Go To

NTSB Reports:

Ohio- Fatal commercial building explosion

- Cut by demolition crew on perceived abandoned steel service line
- Operator records indicated an out of service gas service line

Mississippi - Fatal home explosion

- Compression coupling pullout on service
- Expansive soil expanding and contracting with weather events

Maryland-Bel Air-Explosion with fatalities and injuries

- Electrical Arc and response to gas leak



NTSB Reports:

Pennsylvania-Fatal factory explosion

- 1982 Aldyl A crack on service tee. Tee “retired” on the Aldyl main during service line upgrade in 2021
- Elevated temperatures can accelerate failure timeline of early vintage plastics

Louisiana-

- Federal regulations require that valve boxes be installed such that they do not transmit external loads to buried natural gas assets, as occurred in the Avondale accident

Utah - Fatal home explosion

- 1976 Aldyl-A crack due to rock Impingement
- Migrated 150 ft No odor detected.



NTSB Reports:

Utah

Probable cause of the explosion was a through-wall crack that formed in the 1976 vintage 4-inch-diameter Aldyl A polyethylene gas distribution main from a rock impingement, allowing natural gas to leak, migrate about 150 feet, and accumulate in a home, where it was ignited by the home's furnace. Contributing to the severity were insufficient safeguards to mitigate hazards presented by the leak.



NTSB Reports:

Maryland

The National Transportation Safety Board determines that the probable cause of the August 11, 2024, home explosion in Bel Air, Maryland, was the Exelon Corporation subsidiary Baltimore Gas and Electric Company's ineffective response to reports of a suspected natural gas leak, which allowed for a suspected leak, caused by electrical arcing of electrical service lines, collocated in a common trench with a plastic gas service-line pipe and its tracer wire, to be left unrepaired for over 10 hours, resulting in gas leaking from the service-line pipe, migrating to the accident home, and igniting.



NTSB Reports:

Louisiana

Probable cause of the Avondale, Louisiana, home explosion was the release and underground migration of natural gas from a gas main that failed when a cement truck drove over a valve box that the Atmos Energy Corporation installed in contact with the gas main; the valve box transmitted the truck's weight to the main and fractured it. Contributing to the severity of the accident was the Atmos Energy Corporation's failure to identify the underground migration of gas during its leak investigation and to recognize the need to evacuate structures outside the immediate area of the leak.



NTSB Reports:

Mississippi

We determined that the probable cause of the two explosions at two separate homes in Jackson, Mississippi, was Atmos Energy Corporation's **inadequate leak management program**, which allowed for known natural gas leaks, from service-line pipes that had **partially pulled out of compression couplings due to soil movement**, to be left unrepaired for at least 8 weeks, resulting in gas leaking from the compression couplings and then migrating to the nearby homes and igniting. Contributing to the explosions was Atmos Energy Corporation's inadequate integrity management program, which did not appropriately assess and address risk in its pipeline system. Also contributing was an ineffective public awareness program, which did not adequately educate the public or emergency response officials on how to respond to a suspected natural gas leak.



NTSB Reports:

Mississippi

- Locate and replace all mechanical couplings and mechanical joints in expansive soils that are not resistant to pipe pullout.
- Require weekly monitoring of nonhazardous belowground leaks identified in locations with adverse-soil conditions.

- After updating its leak monitoring procedures to address leaks in adverse-soil conditions, train its technicians

- Train emergency response officials more frequently and monitor the effectiveness of the training.



NTSB Reports:

Mississippi

- Require technicians to immediately notify people near an unrepaired leak that the hazard potential of a leak can change over time, and that they should evacuate the area and then call 9-1-1 and Atmos every time they smell natural gas odorant.
- Proactively identify and collect missing service-line information for all its operating divisions.
- Transition from a relative-risk model to a probabilistic risk model. • Make natural gas alarms available to members of the public who live in its distribution areas.



NTSB Reports:

Ohio

Probable cause of the explosion and subsequent fatality was a cut by a scrap-removal crew into an active Enbridge Inc. service line, which was incorrectly documented as having been abandoned years earlier by the pipeline owner at the time, Dominion Energy Inc., and which allowed natural gas to leak into the Realty Building where it was ignited by an unknown source. Contributing to the severity of the accident were Chase Bank's emergency procedures that did not require employees to immediately evacuate upon being alerted to a natural gas leak.



NTSB Reports:

Pennsylvania

- Probable cause of the explosion was degradation of a retired 1982 Aldyl A polyethylene service tee with a Delrin polyacetal insert that allowed natural gas to leak and migrate underground into the R.M. Palmer Company candy factory buildings, where it was ignited by an unknown source.



NTSB Reports:

Pennsylvania(cont)

- Contributing to the degradation of the service tee and insert were significantly elevated ground temperatures from steam escaping R.M. Palmer Company's corroded underground steam pipe, located near the service tee, that had been unmarked and cracked. Contributing to the steam pipe crack was soil movement and R.M. Palmer Company's lack of awareness of the pipe's corroded state. Contributing to the natural gas leak was UGI Corporation's lack of awareness of the nearby steam pipe, which led to an incomplete integrity management program evaluation that did not consider or manage the risk posed by the steam pipe.
- Contributing to the accident's severity was R.M. Palmer Company's insufficient emergency response procedures and training of its employees, who did not understand the hazard and did not evacuate the buildings before the explosion.



Gas Distribution Bare Steel Main Miles and Service Count State Trend

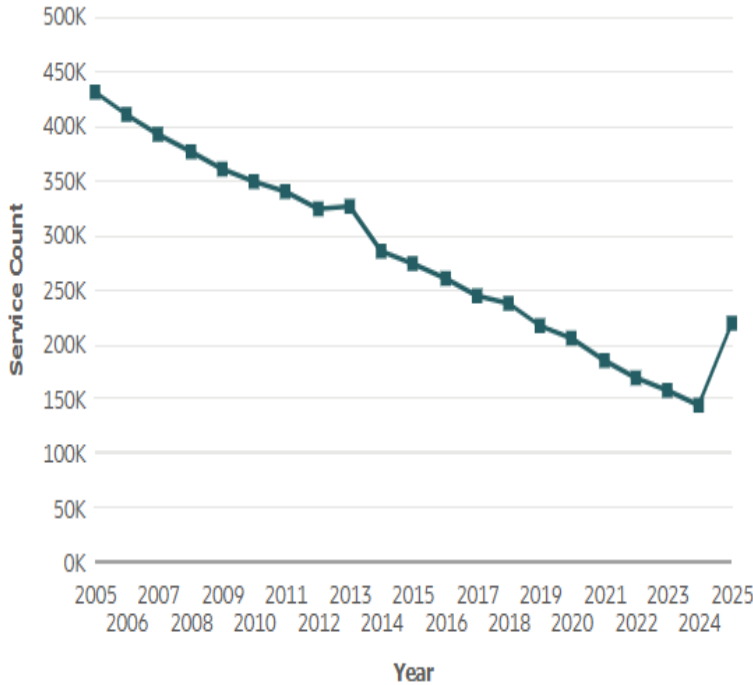
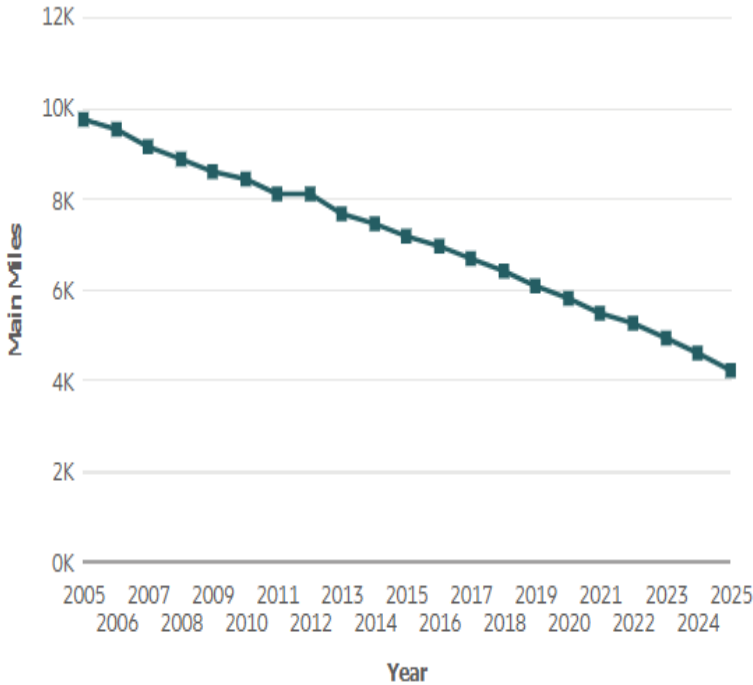
Date run: 5/26/2026

Data Source: US DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Portal - Data as of 5/25/2026

State: PENNSYLVANIA

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Main Miles	9,757	9,562	9,125	8,881	8,608	8,435	8,091	8,086	7,649	7,448	7,208	6,946	6,711	6,420	6,103	5,827	5,500	5,247	4,915	4,585	4,227
Service Count	431,884	410,966	392,602	377,479	361,228	350,404	339,384	325,176	326,151	286,623	274,083	259,840	244,824	238,584	217,253	204,675	185,619	168,230	156,830	143,935	219,945



Gas Distribution Bare Steel Main Miles and Service Count State Trend

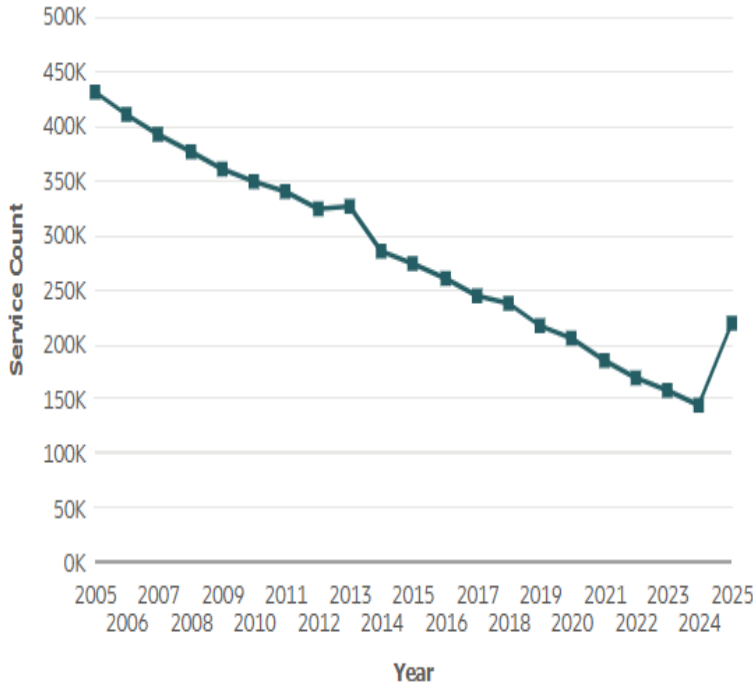
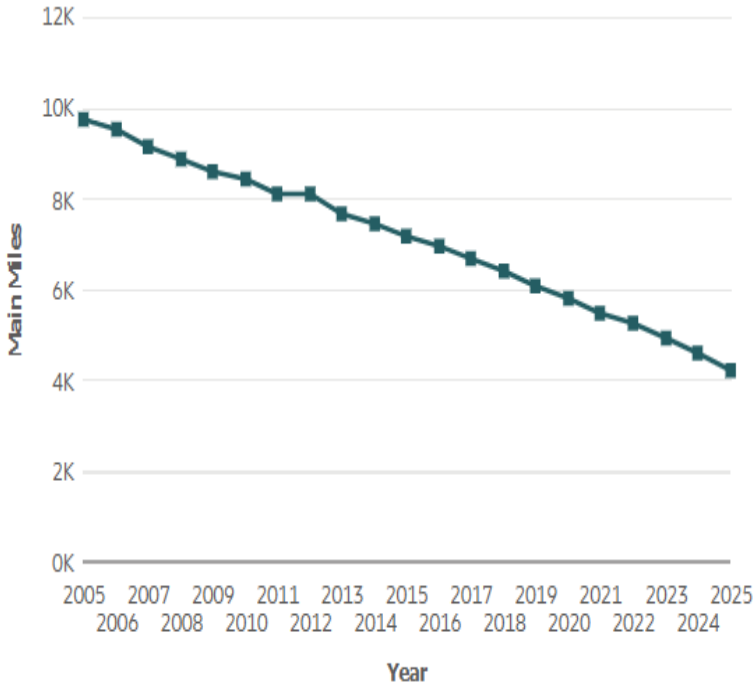
Date run: 5/26/2026

Data Source: US DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

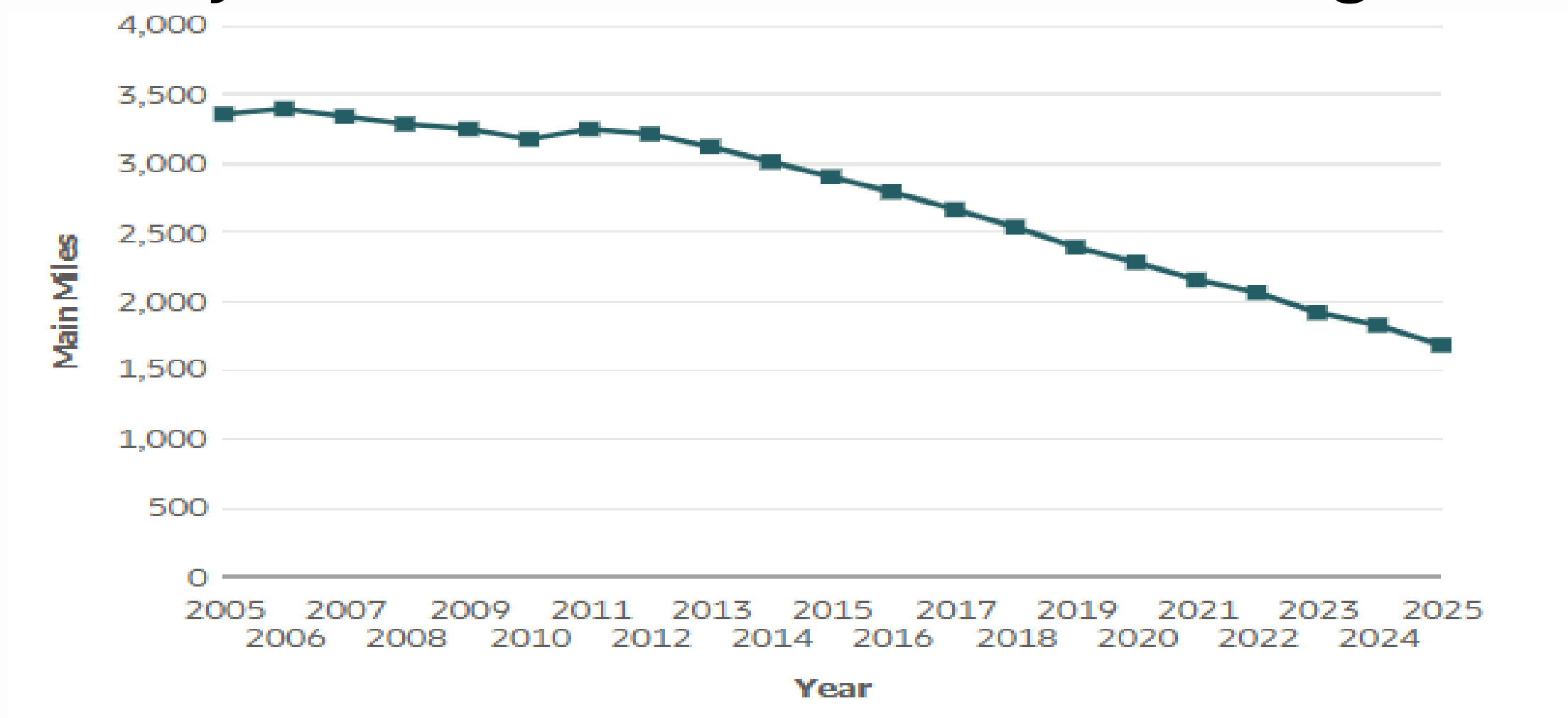
Portal - Data as of 5/25/2026

State: PENNSYLVANIA

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Main Miles	9,757	9,562	9,125	8,881	8,608	8,435	8,091	8,086	7,649	7,448	7,208	6,946	6,711	6,420	6,103	5,827	5,500	5,247	4,915	4,585	4,227
Service Count	431,884	410,966	392,602	377,479	361,228	350,404	339,384	325,176	326,151	286,623	274,083	259,840	244,824	238,584	217,253	204,675	185,619	168,230	156,830	143,935	219,945



Pennsylvania- Gas Distribution CI/Wrought



Cast Iron Inventory by State

Year: 2025

State	Main Miles▲▼	% of Total Main Miles	Service Count	% of Total Service Count
NEW JERSEY	2,340	6.4%	0	0.0%
NEW YORK	2,035	4.0%	3,432	0.1%
MASSACHUSETTS	2,003	9.1%	1,083	0.1%
PENNSYLVANIA	1,689	3.4%	0	0.0%
MICHIGAN	1,109	1.8%	6	0.0%
ILLINOIS	900	1.4%	46	0.0%
MARYLAND	851	5.4%	19	0.0%
CONNECTICUT	783	9.4%	2	0.0%
RHODE ISLAND	503	15.6%	24	0.0%
ALABAMA	381	1.1%	219	0.0%
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	380	31.4%	0	0.0%
MISSOURI	180	0.6%	0	0.0%
VIRGINIA	107	0.5%	70	0.0%
LOUISIANA	77	0.3%	389	0.0%
OHIO	77	0.1%	0	0.0%

Bare Steel

Year: 2025

State	Main Miles Bare Steel▲▼	% of Total Main Miles	Service Count	% of Total Service Count
OHIO	5,275.23	8.6%	42,203	1.2%
PENNSYLVANIA	4,226.58	8.5%	219,945	7.4%
TEXAS	3,584.76	3.0%	179,136	3.0%
NEW YORK	3,460.25	6.9%	153,573	4.6%
KANSAS	3,269.12	13.6%	24,522	2.5%
CALIFORNIA	3,053.99	2.7%	57,614	0.6%
WEST VIRGINIA	2,299.27	20.3%	36,262	9.4%
OKLAHOMA	954.27	3.4%	32,142	2.6%
MASSACHUSETTS	695.83	3.2%	101,368	7.6%
MICHIGAN	618.10	1.0%	17,176	0.5%
MISSISSIPPI	480.51	2.7%	12,403	2.0%
ALABAMA	452.51	1.3%	115,324	11.0%
MISSOURI	444.82	1.5%	1,911	0.1%
ARKANSAS	384.83	1.8%	15,353	2.0%
FLORIDA	327.25	1.0%	9,678	0.9%
ARIZONA	301.51	1.1%	1,495	0.1%
KENTUCKY	296.61	1.5%	9,869	1.1%

PER THE NUMBERS...

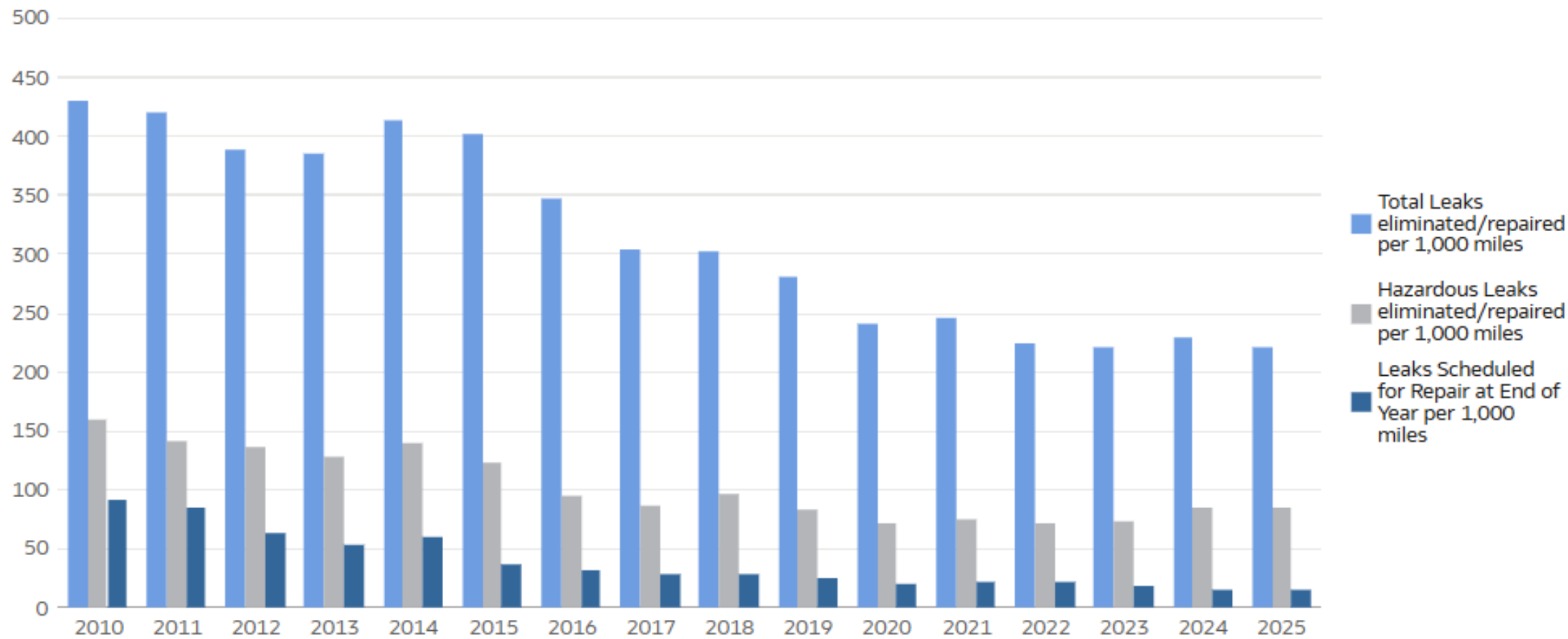
- Pennsylvania has more bare steel and cast/wrought combined than any other state:
 - 5,915 miles; New York having 5,495 miles
- Pennsylvania is removing more of this pipe than any other operator:
 - 494 miles removed in 2025; New York removed 393 miles

Bare steel services- What does your DIMP say?

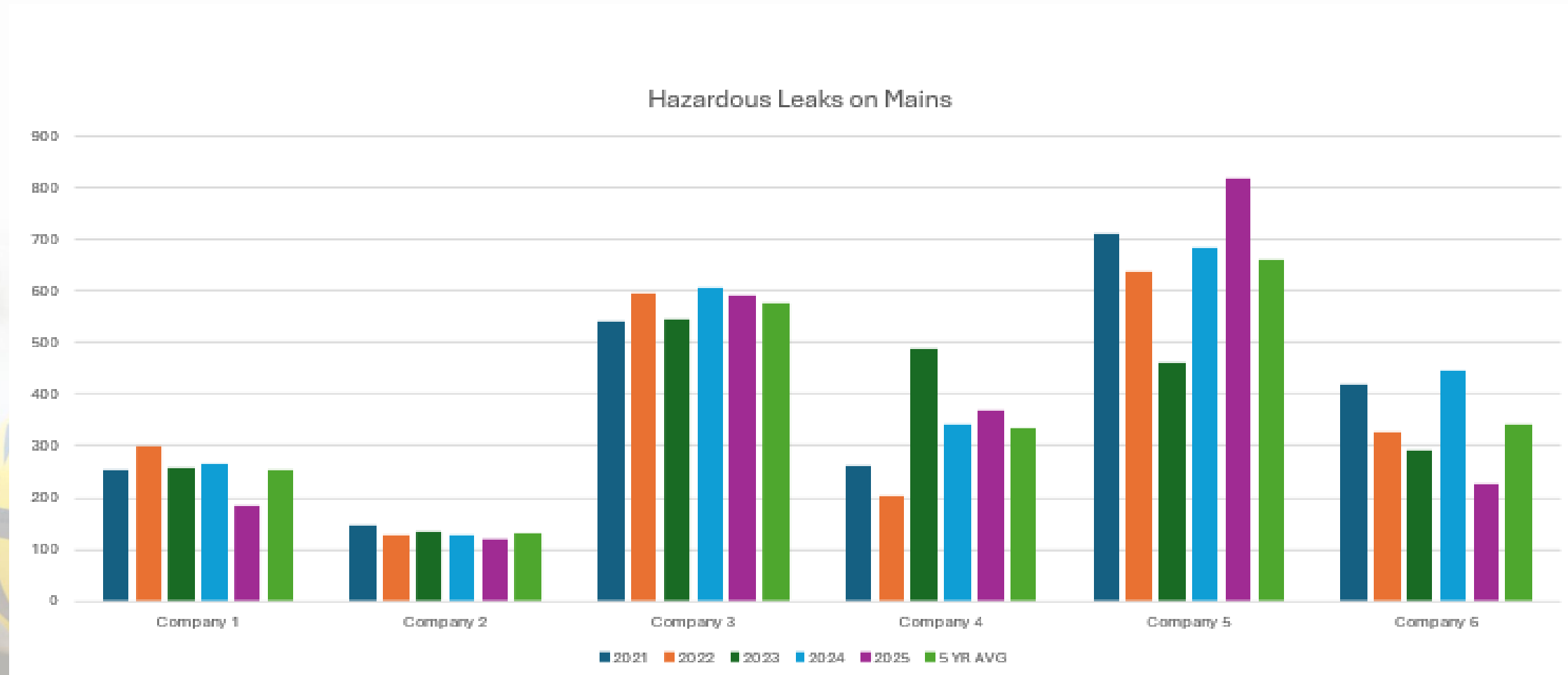


Leaks Trends

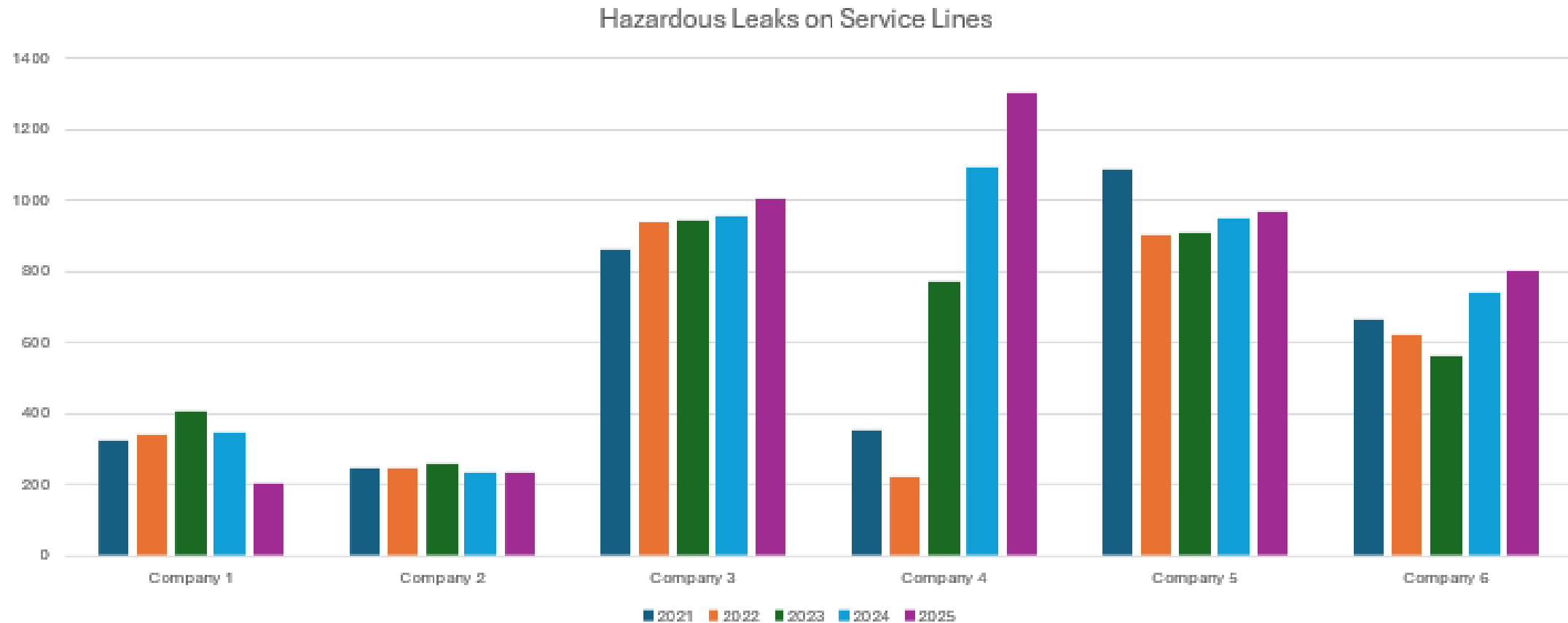
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission: Gas Distribution System Leaks



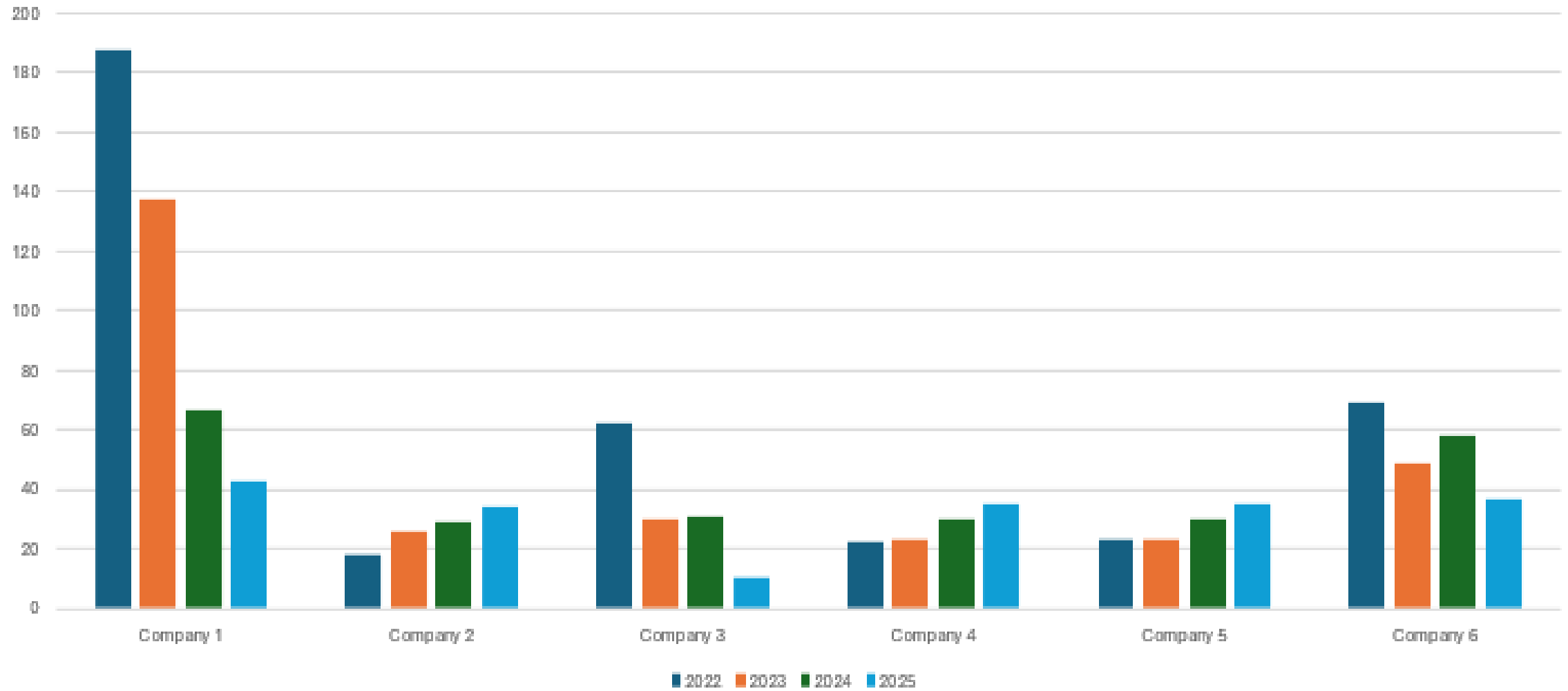
Hazardous leaks per operator (mains)



Hazardous leaks per operator (services)



Failures on Plastic Main





Thank you

“Trust but verify and follow the data”

NATURAL GAS