

Pennsylvania State Hazardous Materials & Pipeline Safety Meeting

Paul Metro
Chief, Gas Safety Division
Pennsylvania PUC

Gas Safety Division

- The Gas Safety Division is responsible for enforcing federal and Commission pipeline safety regulations as they apply to the certificated Natural Gas Utilities and Hazardous Liquid Lines located in Pennsylvania. Acting as an agent for the federal Office of Pipeline Safety and the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Gas Safety Division enforces the federal pipeline safety regulations as adopted by the PUC .

Gas Safety Division

- The division monitors compliance with Federal and State regulations by conducting frequent inspections of pipeline facilities and records of regulated gas utilities. It also investigates incidents which could include fires, explosions and major outages

Gas Safety Division

■ Types of fuels that we inspect:

- ❖ Natural Gas
- ❖ Propane
- ❖ Hazardous Liquids
- ❖ Landfill Gas

Gas Safety Division

- Almost 4 million natural gas customers in PA
- Regulate 36 natural gas utilities, 9 intrastate pipelines, 9 hazardous liquid lines, 4 LNG facilities
- 40,000 miles of gas mains

Gas Safety Division

■ Types of Inspections:

- Pipeline construction
- Corrosion
- Leakage Surveys
- Damage Prevention
- Incident Investigation

Gas Safety Division

- 9 Inspectors across the state
- If you're not sure whether an issue is related to gas safety....call anyways....

Gas Safety

- Gas Safety Metrics
- Emergency Dispatch - within 15 minutes
- Emergency Response - within 60 minutes
- Damage Prevention
- Unaccounted for Gas - Less than 4%
- Leak Reduction\Leak per Miles

Gas Safety

- Risk Assessment - Reduce line hits through focused inspections, investigations, and enforcement while reducing inspections in other non-problem areas

Gas Safety

- Risk Assessment Strategies
- Damage Prevention, Corrosion, Operator Qualification
- Through re-focused inspections reduce gas interruptions and outages
- Distribution Integrity Management

Gas Safety

- Unaccounted for Gas - Gas lost through leaks, company use, metering problems
- Average Unaccounted for in Pennsylvania - 4%
- Reduce Unaccounted for through reduction in leaks
- Pipeline Replacement

Gas Safety

- Pipeline Replacement
- Pennsylvania has 3,600 miles of cast iron and 9,000 miles of unprotected bare steel pipes
- Bare Steel and Cast Iron pipes account for 5% of distribution pipe and 95% of leaks
- Reliability and Safety Issue
- Replacement Costs - \$13 Billion over 20 Years

And you think your job is tough!



GAS RELIABILITY TASK FORCE

- **LINE HITS ARE THE PUC'S NUMBER ONE SAFETY AND RELIABILITY PROBLEM – GAS, ELECTRIC, WATER, SEWER, TELEPHONE**
- **APPROXIMATELY 30,000 LINE HITS PER YEAR (CONSERVATIVE)**
- **APPROXIMATELY 2,000 – 6,000 NATURAL GAS LINE HITS**



Damage Prevention

- Moon Township Incident – US
Congressman Tim Murphy sponsors a bill to require contractors and excavators to call 911 in the event of an emergency
- Signed into Law in Dec 06 – Pipes Act



Damage Prevention

- New Hope, Bucks County – US Department of Transportation investigated the need for Excess Flow Valves
- Pennsylvania leads the nation in installation of excess flow valves

REPORTABLE INCIDENTS

2007

8 TOTAL

- 4 LINE HITS
- 1 CORROSION LEAK
- 1 Fire
- 1 Theft
- 1 OPERATOR ERROR

Gas Safety Stats

■ Reportable Incident Five Year Average:

- 3 Line Hits
- 2 Corrosion
- 1 Automobile
- 1 Environmental Forces
- 1 Operator Error

Pipeline Safety Act of 2006

- If an excavator or contractor hits a natural gas pipeline or hazardous liquid line and creates an emergency situation (leaking gas), excavator or contractor must call 911
- Pa One Call Law

Pipeline Safety Act of 2006

- Any owner or operator of a pipeline facility who fails to respond to a location request in order to ensure accurate marking of the location of the pipeline facility shall be subject to a civil action or assessment of a civil penalty (\$1 million)

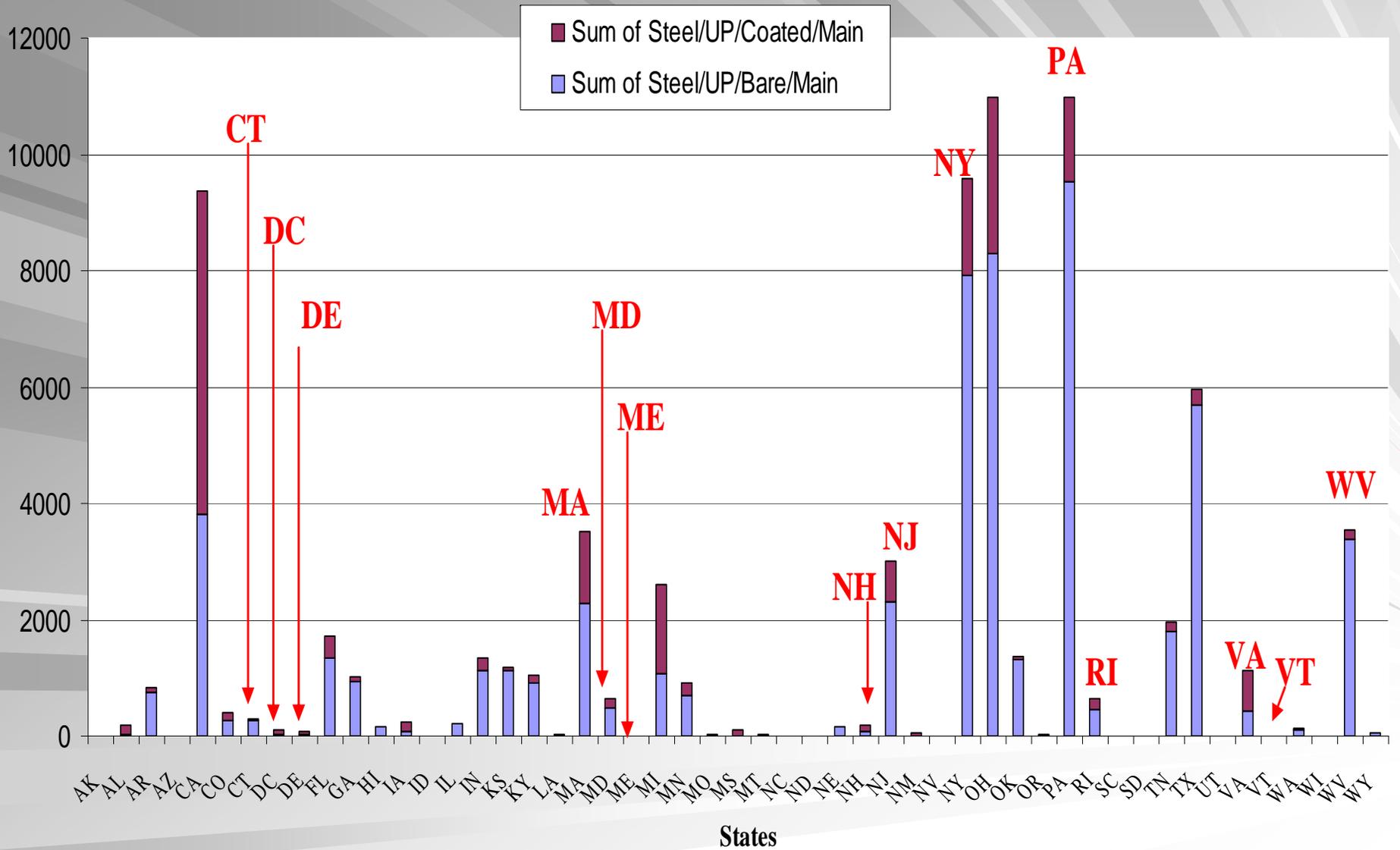
Gas Facility Damages

- 2006 Data Shows Approximately 20% of Gas Line Hits due to Water Utilities
- PAPUC does not track water hits
- Line Hits are the #1 reliability problem

811

- 811 was implemented May 2007
- 811 – Call before you Dig – rings to the Pennsylvania One Call System

National 2004 Annual Report-Unprotected Steel Distribution Mains



Plum Boro

- Gas Explosion – 5 Mar 08
- 1 Fatality
- 1 Injury
- 19 Homes Damaged
- 5 Severely





Plum Boro



The End

- Paul Metro
- Gas Safety Division Chief
- PA One Call Board Member
- 717.787.7063