



PIPELINE REGULATIONS

The design, construction, testing, operation, maintenance and safety of all pipelines are heavily regulated. In fact, Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas®) has hundreds of procedures dealing with pipeline and/or customer safety.

Most of our procedures were developed to meet the requirements outlined in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Parts 190,191,192 and 199, and State of California General Order 112-E.

Part 190 describes the procedures used by the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) in carrying out its regulatory duties. This part authorizes OPS to inspect pipelines and describes the procedures by which the agency can enforce the regulations. This part also describes the legal rights and options that pipeline operating companies have in response to OPS enforcement actions.

Part 191 describes requirements on operators of gas pipelines for reporting of incidents, safety-related conditions and annual summary data.

Part 192 prescribes minimum safety requirements for design, construction, operation and maintenance of gas pipelines.

Part 199 requires operators of gas pipelines to establish programs for preventing alcohol misuse and to test employees for the presence of alcohol and prohibited drugs and provides the procedures and conditions for this testing.

General Order 112-E outlines California's rules governing design, construction, testing, operation and maintenance of gas pipeline systems.

OPS, which is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), is the agency with primary responsibility for safety of the nation's pipelines. In California, OPS has

delegated this responsibility to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The CPUC conducts annual audits of each utility's procedures for compliance with state and federal requirements.

Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002

The Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush on Dec. 17, 2002, increased safety requirements for the operation of the nation's pipelines and mandated extensive public awareness/education programs on the existence of pipelines and pipeline safety.

Following is a summary of the major issues covered by the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002:

- Risk Analysis and Integrity Management Programs

The law requires operators of natural gas pipelines to conduct an analysis of the risks to their transmission pipelines located in "high consequence areas," which generally are heavily populated areas, and to adopt and implement integrity management programs for these transmission pipelines.

- Pipeline Operator Qualification Program

The law requires pipeline operators to develop and implement an operator qualification program for individuals who perform pipeline facility operating and maintenance tasks.

- One-Call Notification Program

DOT is required to encourage operators of one-call notification ("call before you dig") programs to adopt and implement certain best practices.

- Public Awareness Programs

The law requires that pipeline operators establish continuing public education programs on pipeline safety issues.

- National Pipeline Mapping System

DOT is required to develop a national pipeline mapping system to provide technical assistance to state and local officials.

- Penalties

The law increases civil penalties that may be assessed for safety violations.

- "Whistle-Blower" Protection

The law prohibits operators from firing or taking adverse action against an employee as a result of certain specified actions relating to pipeline safety.

- RD&D

The law requires a program of research, development, demonstration and standardization to promote the safety and integrity of pipeline facilities.

- Environmental Reviews

The law establishes a structure for coordinated environmental review and permitting for operators to conduct necessary pipeline repairs.

- Safety Orders

If the DOT determines that a facility has a “potentially safety-related condition” the act authorizes the department Secretary to order corrective action.