

County Comments on the Federal Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Pipeline Safety Regulations)

Santa Barbara County
Board of Supervisors
December 8, 2015

Introduction

- October 13, 2015 - PHMSA released for public review/comment a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
- Energy & Minerals Division staff reviewed the proposed regulations and prepared a draft comment letter
- Comments due January 8, 2016

Background

October 2010

PHMSA published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM)

January 2014

Finalization deadline was not met and ANPRM was shelved

May 2015

Following the Refugio Oil Spill, funds were set aside to finalize the Proposed Rules

2010

2011

2014

2015

January 2011

Job Creation Act of 2011 directed PHMSA to update and strengthen key pipeline safety standards

October 2015

PHMSA released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

PHMSA Proposed Rules

- (1) Extend reporting for gravity lines;
- (2) Extend reporting for hazardous liquid gathering lines;
- (3) Enhance inspections of pipelines in disaster areas;

PHMSA Proposed Rules

- (4) Periodically assess pipelines not already covered under the integrity management (IM) program;
- (5) Expand the use of leak detection systems;

PHMSA Proposed Rules

(6) Expand the Integrity Management (IM) repair criteria to be applied more broadly; and

(7) Increase the use of inline inspection tools

Additional County Comments

- Require coordination between PHMSA, pipeline operators and local governments when determining valve placement in sensitive areas; and
- Require that pipelines be equipped to automatically shut down (Emergency Flow Restricting Devices)

Staff Recommendations

- Authorize the Chair to execute the letter commenting on the PHMSA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking dated October 13, 2015; and
- Determine that the above action is organizational and administrative activities of government that are not a project under CEQA pursuant to section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Questions?