



Gas Pipeline Safety in NY

May 2011



Statutory Authority

Public Service Law, Article 4, Section 66(2) states the Commission shall...

- *investigate the methods employed by corporations distributing and supplying gas*
- *have power to order reasonable improvements*
- *protect the public*



Beginning Safety Regulation

- *Incident in Town of Brighton on 9/21/51*
 - *Rochester Gas and Electric*
 - *Pressure regulating station failure*
 - *High pressure gas enters low pressure system*
 - *3 fatalities, several injuries*
 - *18 homes destroyed, many damaged*



Beginning Safety Regulation

- *NYPSC Case 15686*

- *Approved November 7, 1952*
- *Adopted safety regulations for transmission and distribution of gas*
- *Required compliance with ASA Code for Pressure Piping (ASA B31.1.8 – 1952)*
- *Included more stringent requirements in some areas*



Federal Statutory Authority

- *Exclusive Federal Authority for safety regulation of **interstate** pipeline facilities*
- *Delegate safety regulation of **intrastate** pipeline facilities to states with annual Certification*
- *Funding up to 80% of state program costs based on:*
 - *Availability of appropriated funds*
 - *State's program performance*

Pipeline Safety Program Certification

- *Separate Certifications for gas and liquid programs*
- *NY safety regulations must meet or exceed counterpart Federal pipeline safety regulations*
- *Annual program performance evaluation by USDOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration (PHMSA)*
 - *Certification documents filed annually*
 - *Annual records and field evaluation by PHMSA*
 - *Each worth 50% of total program scores*
 - *Basis for program funding level*



Interstate Agent Agreements

- *NY has had Interstate Agent Agreements since 1994*
- *Inspect **interstate** pipeline facilities as agent for USDOT based on annual approved plan*
- *Verify compliance with Federal safety regulations*
- *Current agreement covers five-year period 2007 - 2011*

Federal Funding Allocation – CY 2010

- *Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Program*
 - *\$2.6 million*
 - *69.5% of estimated costs*
- *Liquid Petroleum Pipeline Safety Program*
 - *\$120,000*
 - *69.5% of estimated costs*
- *Reimbursement based on actual costs*

Safety Codes Enforced - 16 NYCRR

- *Part 255 – Transmission and Distribution of Gas*
- *Part 257 – Liquefied Petroleum Gas Plants*
- *Part 258 – Transportation of Liquid Petroleum*
- *Part 259 – Liquefied Natural Gas Plants*
- *Part 261 – Piping Beyond the Meter*
- *Part 420 – Distribution of Steam*
- *Part 753 – Protection of Underground Facilities*
- *Case 04-M-0159 – Electric Safety Standards*

Safety Personnel



- **Currently 30 people**
 - 26 engineers
 - 5 utility specialists
 - 1 utility analyst
 - 2 support staff (1.5 FTEs)
 - 3 dedicated to electric safety
- **Four office locations**
 - New York City, Albany, Syracuse, Buffalo

Required Training



- *Gas and Liquid Petroleum Technical staff must complete PHMSA training*
- *Currently 12 required courses covering various aspects of pipeline O&M, construction, and safety*
- *Each course typically one week in length*
- *Successful completion requires passing test*
- *New employees complete courses within 5 years*
- *Repeat courses on 7 year schedule*



Gas Pipeline Operators in NY

- *19 natural gas LDCs (including 2 municipals)*
- *11 intrastate gas transmission companies*
- *14 interstate gas transmission companies*
- *Gas Gathering across state. All pressures and materials*



Gas Pipeline Facilities in NY

- 4,350 miles - gas transmission lines
 - 1,050 miles *intrastate*
 - 360 miles (38%) in High Consequence Areas
 - 3,300 miles *interstate*
- 47,500 miles – gas distribution lines
- 3.1 million gas service lines
- Gas gathering lines

Gas Pipeline Facilities in NY (continued)

- *Three liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities*
 - *KeySpan NY (Brooklyn)*
 - *KeySpan LI (Holtsville)*
 - *Con Edison (Queens)*
- *Two liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) facilities*
 - *Central Hudson (Poughkeepsie and Newburgh)*
- *Facilities used to supplement gas supply*



Safety Section Activities

- *Record and Field Audits*
- *Construction Inspections*
- *O&M Procedures Reviews*
- *Transmission Facility Design and Specification Review*
- *Code Revisions and Waivers*
- *Incident Investigations*
- *Safety Complaint Investigations*
- *Rate Case Participation*
- *Damage Prevention Program*
- *Safety Performance Measures*



Gas Safety Code Enforcement

- *Staff conducts ongoing record and field audits of companies' O&M and construction activities for Code compliance*
- *Violations are formally reported to the operators; request response within 30 days with corrective action plan.*
- *Public Service Law does not allow civil penalties unless violations cause or contribute to incident resulting in injury or death.*
- *DPS has proposed legislation for several years to allow penalties for repeat violations or violations that result in significant property damage.*

Excavation Damage Prevention Program

- *Commission Authority*

- *Public Service Law, Art. 6, Section 119-b, Protection of Underground Facilities*
- *Adopt regulations (16 NYCRR Part 753)*
- *Inspect excavation/demolition methods and activities and order compliance*
- *Cite violations and recover penalties*

Damage Prevention Enforcement

- *\$1,000 for first violation*
 - *Proposed legislation to increase to \$2,500*
- *\$7,500 for succeeding violation on same excavation within two month period*
 - *Proposed legislation to increase to \$10,000 and extend time period to one year and for any project*
- *Consider nature and circumstances, history of prior violations, and effect on public health and safety*
- *Fines go to the Underground Facilities Safety Training Account*

Gathering Lines



- Designed, constructed, tested, operated and maintained with “sound engineering practices”, including:
 - Inspection of joints
 - Depth of cover (24 inches, 40 in farmland)
 - Conductive wire for locating
 - Maps
 - Patrols (2 years)
 - Leakage Surveys (5 years)



Article VII

- 125 PSI or above and other gathering lines located within 150 feet of buildings
- Design, construct, test, operate and maintain as a steel transmission line.
 - More frequent operation and maintenance activities.
 - Must be steel pipeline for all portions within 100'
 - Must meet all requirements for transmission lines
 - Design, Construction, Testing, O&M
 - Including Dig Safely membership, Integrity Management, Odorization requirements