



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PIPELINE SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES

RESOLUTION

Central Region
State of Illinois

Action Category 1

Resolution 2013-3-AC1

REQUESTING AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS REGARDING OPERATOR IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS ASSIGNED TO PIPELINE FACILITIES

WHEREAS: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration (“PHMSA”) Advisory Bulletin (ADB-2012-01) issued January 13, 2012, advises owners and operators of pipeline facilities of the implementation of the National Pipeline Operator Registry (“National Registry”); and

WHEREAS: In the March 21, 2012, edition of the Federal Register, PHMSA provided updates to the information contained in a PHMSA Advisory Bulletin published on January 13, 2012, (77 FR 2126) updates informed operators of pipeline facilities that a final rule added two new sections, 49 CFR 191.22 and 195.64, to the pipeline safety regulations that concerned the establishment of a national federal registry of pipeline and liquefied natural gas (LNG) operators; and

WHEREAS: The final rule requires new operators to use the National Registry to obtain an Operator Identification (“OpID”) Number, and all operators must use it when notifying PHMSA of certain actions, including company name changes, certain construction activities, and project planning; and

WHEREAS: Many owners of pipelines supplying industrial, power generation, municipal gas customers and master metered gas customers, contract operation and maintenance tasks performed on pipeline facilities but retain control of spending associated with facility upgrades and expansion; and

WHEREAS: Contracted operators of pipeline facilities have been inconsistently instructed to apply for OpID numbers and submit annual reports for the pipeline facilities they are contracted to operate, but pipeline owners continue to be required to submit plans for pipeline expansions or upgrades; and

WHEREAS: Some pipeline owners frequently change the entities under contract to operate the pipeline facilities, making it difficult for federal and state regulators to identify the current operator of a specific pipeline facility thus creating “inconsistent” operators; and

WHEREAS: PHMSA intends to deactivate OpIDs for pipeline owners who no longer submit the annual reports; and

WHEREAS: The pipeline owners will no longer have an assigned OpID if the contracted entity files the required Annual Report under the contractors assigned OpID; and

WHEREAS: Accurate operator data is essential to implementation of a risk based, data driven compliance inspection program; and

WHEREAS: The periodic changes of OpIDs associated with pipeline facilities due to different entities being contracted to operator the facilities, has created confusion and made it difficult to track data associated with the pipeline facility.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

PHMSA amend regulations under CFR Part 191 to require that the owner or operator of the gas pipeline, gas pipeline facility, LNG Plant, or LNG facility, must obtain from PHMSA an Operator Identification Number; as follows:

1. For pipeline facilities with a consistent operator, the operator may obtain the OpID;
and
2. For pipeline facilities with inconsistent operators, the owner shall obtain the OpID.