

requirement for remediating certain conditions applies (these are listed in the rule as immediate repair, one-year and monitored conditions), an operator must follow the schedule in Section 7, Figure 4 of ASME/ANSI B31.8S. If an operator cannot meet the schedule for any condition, the operator must justify the reasons why it cannot meet the schedule and that the changed schedule will not jeopardize public safety. An operator must notify OPS if it cannot meet the schedule and cannot provide safety through a temporary reduction in operating pressure or other action. An operator must also notify a State or local pipeline safety authority when a covered segment is located in a State where OPS has an interstate agent agreement, and a State or local pipeline safety authority that regulates a covered pipeline segment within that State.

*Special requirements for scheduling remediation.* The rule lists immediate repair conditions, one-year conditions and monitored conditions. If a condition is an immediate repair condition, the operator must either temporarily reduce operating pressure or shut down the pipeline until the repair is completed. The one-year period begins from when the condition is discovered. Certain dents on the top of the pipe are listed as one-year conditions. Monitored conditions are those that an operator must record and monitor during subsequent risk assessments and integrity assessments for any change that may require remediation.

*Section 192.935 What Additional Preventive and Mitigative Measures Must An Operator Take To Protect the High Consequence Area?*

The requirements in this section apply to all gas transmission pipelines, including plastic gas transmission pipelines. The rule requires an operator to take additional measures beyond those already required in Part 192 to prevent a pipeline failure and to mitigate the consequences of a pipeline failure in a high consequence area. An operator must base the additional measures on the threats the operator has identified to each pipeline segment. (Threat identification is in § 192.917.) The rule requires an operator to conduct, in accordance with one of the risk assessment approaches in Section 5 of ASME/ANSI B31.8S, a risk analysis of its pipeline to identify additional measures to protect the high consequence area and enhance public safety. Examples of additional measures listed in the rule are: installing Automatic Shut-off Valves or Remote Control Valves, installing computerized monitoring and leak detection systems,

replacing pipe segments with pipe of heavier wall thickness, providing additional training to personnel on response procedures, conducting drills with local emergency responders and implementing additional inspection and maintenance programs. These are not the only measures an operator should consider or use.

The rule requires an operator to enhance its current damage prevention program required under § 192.614 with respect to a covered segment to prevent and minimize the consequences of a release due to third-party or outside force damage. The rule lists examples of enhanced damage prevention program measures. These are the minimum actions an operator can take to enhance its current program.

- Using qualified personnel for work an operator is conducting that could adversely affect the integrity of a covered segment, such as marking, locating, and direct supervision of known excavation work.

- Collecting in a central database information that is location specific on excavation damage that occurs in covered and non-covered segments in the transmission system and the root cause analysis to support identification of targeted additional preventative and mitigative measures in the high consequence areas. This information must include recognized damage that is not required to be reported as an incident under Part 191.

- Participating in one-call systems in locations where covered segments are present.

- Monitoring of excavations conducted on covered pipeline segments by pipeline personnel. When there is physical evidence of encroachment involving excavation near a covered segment, an operator must either excavate the area near the encroachment or conduct an above ground survey using methods defined in NACE RP-0502-2002. An operator must excavate, and remediate, in accordance with ASME/ANSI B31.8S and § 192.933 any indication of coating holidays or discontinuity warranting direct examination.

If an operator determines that outside force, such as earth movement, floods, or an unstable suspension bridge, is a threat to the integrity of a covered segment, the rule requires the operator to take measures to minimize the consequences to covered segments from outside force damage. The minimum measures an operator can take are: increasing the frequency of aerial, foot or other methods of patrols, adding external protection, reducing external stress, and relocating the pipeline.

The requirements for third-party damage and outside force damage also apply to plastic transmission pipelines.

The rule allows that there may be limited instances in which an operator will determine that installing an automatic shut off or remote control valve is necessary. The rule provides that if an operator determines, based on a risk analysis, that such a valve would be an efficient means of adding protection to a high consequence area in the event of a gas release, an operator must install the valve. In making that determination, an operator must, at least, consider the swiftness of leak detection and pipe shutdown capabilities, the type of gas being transported, operating pressure, the rate of potential release, pipeline profile, the potential for ignition, and location of nearest response personnel.

Because under the revised definition of a high consequence area, some low-stress pipelines may not be in a high consequence area, although the pipeline is in a populated area, the rule adds additional requirements for these pipelines. Thus, if a transmission pipeline operates below 30% SMYS and is located in a Class 3 or 4 area but not in a high consequence area, an operator must apply the enhanced third-party damage prevention requirements for using qualified personnel and participating on one-call centers to the pipeline and either monitor excavations near the pipeline, or conduct patrols of the pipeline at bi-monthly intervals. If an operator finds any indication of unreported construction activity, the operator must conduct a follow up investigation to determine if mechanical damage has occurred.

*Section 192.937 What Is a Continual Process of Evaluation and Assessment To Maintain a Pipeline's Integrity?*

After completing the baseline integrity assessment of a covered segment, the rule provides that an operator must continue to assess the line pipe of that segment at specified intervals (in § 192.939) and to periodically evaluate the integrity of each covered pipeline segment. If an operator had used a prior assessment as the baseline assessment, the reassessment must be done by no later than December 17, 2009. If a prior assessment is not used as the baseline, a reassessment of a covered segment must be done by no later than seven years after the baseline assessment of that covered segment unless the periodic evaluation indicates earlier reassessment.

The rule requires a periodic evaluation as frequently as needed to