

exposed pipe inspection records, and the pipeline environment.

To address the threat of internal corrosion on a covered segment, an operator must—

- Conduct a gas analysis for corrosive agents at least once each calendar year;
- Conduct periodic testing of fluids removed from the segment. At least once each calendar year test the fluids removed from each storage field that may affect a covered segment; and
- At least every seven years, integrate data from this analysis and testing with applicable internal corrosion leak records, incident reports, safety-related condition reports, repair records, patrol records, exposed pipe reports, and test records, and define and implement appropriate remediation actions.

Section 192.943 When Can an Operator Deviate From These Reassessment Intervals?

The rule provides for a waiver from the reassessment intervals in two limited instances. In either instance the waiver has to be done in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 60118(c), which requires public notice and comment, and OPS has to find that the waiver would not be inconsistent with pipeline safety. The rule requires an operator to apply for a waiver at least 180 days before the end of the required reassessment interval, unless local product supply issues make that period impractical. The two instances when an operator may apply for a waiver are—

1. Lack of internal inspection tools.

In this instance an operator who uses internal inspection as an assessment method may be able to justify a longer assessment period for a covered segment if internal inspection tools are not available to assess the line pipe. To justify this, the operator must demonstrate that it cannot obtain the internal inspection tools within the required assessment period and that the actions the operator is taking in the interim ensure the integrity of the covered segment.

2. To maintain product supply.

An operator may be able to justify a longer reassessment period for a covered segment if the operator demonstrates that it cannot maintain local product supply if it conducts the reassessment within the required interval.

Section 192.945 What Methods Must an Operator Use To Measure Program Effectiveness?

The rule requires an operator have performance measures to measure, on a semi-annual basis, whether the program is effective in assessing and evaluating the integrity of each pipeline segment

and in protecting the HCAs. These measures must include the four overall performance measures specified in Section 9.4 of ASME/ANSI B31.8S and the specific measures for each identified threat specified in Appendix A of ASME/ANSI B31.8S. An operator must submit the four overall performance measures electronically on a semi-annual frequency to OPS.

In addition to the general requirements for performance measures the rule requires that if an operator uses direct assessment to assess the external corrosion threat, the operator must also must define and monitor measures to determine the effectiveness of the ECDA process. These measures must meet the external corrosion direct assessment requirements in § 192.925.

Section 192.947 What Records Must an Operator Keep?

The rule provides that an operator must maintain, for the useful life of the pipeline, records that demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the integrity management program rule. This section lists the minimum records an operator has to maintain for review during an inspection.

Section 192.949 How Does an Operator Notify OPS?

For any of the required notification, the rule allows an operator to submit the notification by one of three methods.

- Sending the notification by mail to the Information Resources Manager, Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room 7128, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington DC 20590;
- Sending the notification by facsimile to (202) 366-7128; or
- Entering the information directly on the Integrity Management Database (IMDB) Web site at <http://primis.rspa.dot.gov/gasimp/>.

Section 192.951 Where Does an Operator File a Report?

The rule has certain reporting requirements. An operator must send these reports to OPS by one of three methods.

- By mail to the Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room 7128, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590;
- Via facsimile to (202) 366-7128; or
- Through the online reporting system provided by OPS for electronic reporting available at the OPS Home Page at <http://ops.dot.gov>.

This rule also adds a new Appendix E to Part 192, Guidance on Determining High Consequence Areas, and on carrying out requirements in the Integrity Management Rule. The guidance in the appendix describes the process an operator must use to determine whether a pipeline segment is in a high consequence area.

The new Appendix also provides guidance on alternative assessment methods for transmission pipeline operating at below 30% SMYS. That guidance is provided in the form of three tables:

- Table E.II.1 gives guidance to help an operator implement requirements on assessment methods for addressing time dependent and independent threats, for transmission pipelines operating below 30% SMYS *not* in HCAs (*i.e.*, outside of Potential Impact Circles) but located within Class 3 and 4 locations.
- Table E.II.2 gives guidance to help an operator implement requirements on assessment methods for addressing time dependent and independent threats, for transmission pipelines operating below 30% SMYS in HCAs.
- Table E.II.3 gives guidance on preventative & mitigative measures addressing time dependent and independent threats for transmission pipelines that operate below 30% SMYS, in HCAs.

Regulatory Analyses and Notices

Executive Order 12866 and DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures

The Department of Transportation (DOT) considers this action to be a significant regulatory action under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 (58 FR 51735; October 4, 1993). Therefore, it was forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget. This final rule is significant under DOT's regulatory policies and procedures (44 FR 11034; February 26, 1979) because of its significant public and government interest.

A regulatory evaluation of this final rule on Integrity Management for gas transmission pipelines has been prepared and placed in the docket.

Cost-Benefit Analysis

A copy of the final regulatory evaluation has been placed in the docket for this final rule. The following section summarizes the regulatory evaluation's findings.

Natural and other gas pipeline ruptures can adversely affect human health and property. However, the magnitude of this impact differs from area to area. There are some areas in