

SEISMICITY

Pub. L. 112-90, §29, Jan. 3, 2012, 125 Stat. 1921, provided that: "In identifying and evaluating all potential threats to each pipeline segment pursuant to parts 192 and 195 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, an operator of a pipeline facility shall consider the seismicity of the area."

[Terms used in section 29 of Pub. L. 112-90, set out above, have the meaning given those terms in this chapter, see section 1(c)(1) of Pub. L. 112-90, set out as a note under section 60101 of this title.]

STUDY OF REASSESSMENT INTERVALS

Pub. L. 107-355, §14(d), Dec. 17, 2002, 116 Stat. 3005, required the Comptroller General to study the 7-year reassessment interval required by section 60109(c)(3)(B) of title 49 and to transmit to Congress a report on the study not later than 4 years after Dec. 17, 2002.

§ 60110. Excess flow valves

(a) APPLICATION.—This section applies only to—

(1) a natural gas distribution system installed after the effective date of regulations prescribed under this section; and

(2) any other natural gas distribution system when repair to the system requires replacing a part to accommodate installing excess flow valves.

(b) INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS.—Not later than April 24, 1994, the Secretary of Transportation shall prescribe standards on the circumstances, if any, under which an operator of a natural gas distribution system must install excess flow valves in the system. The Secretary shall consider—

- (1) the system design pressure;
- (2) the system operating pressure;
- (3) the types of customers to which the distribution system supplies gas, including hospitals, schools, and commercial enterprises;
- (4) the technical feasibility and cost of installing, operating, and maintaining the valve;
- (5) the public safety benefits of installing the valve;
- (6) the location of customer meters; and
- (7) other factors the Secretary considers relevant.

(c) NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY.—(1) Not later than October 24, 1994, the Secretary shall prescribe standards requiring an operator of a natural gas distribution system to notify in writing its customers having lines in which excess flow valves are not required by law but can be installed according to the standards prescribed under subsection (e) of this section, of—

- (A) the availability of excess flow valves for installation in the system;
- (B) safety benefits to be derived from installation; and
- (C) costs associated with installation, maintenance, and replacement.

(2) The standards shall provide that, except when installation is required under subsection (b) of this section, excess flow valves shall be installed at the request of the customer if the customer will pay all costs associated with installation.

(d) REPORT.—If the Secretary decides under subsection (b) of this section that there are no circumstances under which an operator must in-

stall excess flow valves, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the reasons for the decision not later than 30 days after the decision is made.

(e) PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—Not later than April 24, 1994, the Secretary shall develop standards for the performance of excess flow valves used to protect lines in a natural gas distribution system. The Secretary may adopt industry accepted performance standards in order to comply with the requirement under the preceding sentence. The standards shall be incorporated into regulations the Secretary prescribes under this section. All excess flow valves shall be installed according to the standards.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1316; Pub. L. 104-304, §§8, 20(j), Oct. 12, 1996, 110 Stat. 3800, 3805; Pub. L. 107-355, §21(1), Dec. 17, 2002, 116 Stat. 3010.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
60110(a)	49 App.:1672(j)(5).	Aug. 12, 1968, Pub. L. 90-481, 82 Stat. 720, §3(j); added Oct. 24, 1992, Pub. L. 102-508, §104, 106 Stat. 3291.
60110(b)	49 App.:1672(j)(1).	
60110(c)	49 App.:1672(j)(2).	
60110(d)	49 App.:1672(j)(3).	
60110(e)	49 App.:1672(j)(4).	

In subsection (a)(2), the words "in a manner" are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (b), before clause (1), the words "on when" are substituted for "prescribing the circumstances, if any, under which" to eliminate unnecessary words.

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 107-355 substituted "circumstances, if any, under which an operator" for "circumstances under which an operator" in introductory provisions.

1996—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104-304, §20(j), substituted "standards" for "regulations" in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 104-304, §8(1), which directed the insertion of ", if any," after "circumstances" in the first sentence of subsection (b)(1), could not be executed because the word "circumstances" did not appear in subsec. (b)(1).

Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 104-304, §8(2), inserted ", operating, and maintaining" after "cost of installing".

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 104-304, §20(j), substituted "standards" for "regulations" after "prescribe" in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (c)(1)(C). Pub. L. 104-304, §8(3), inserted ", maintenance, and replacement" after "installation".

Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 104-304, §20(j), substituted "standards" for "regulations".

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 104-304, §8(4), inserted after first sentence "The Secretary may adopt industry accepted performance standards in order to comply with the requirement under the preceding sentence."

§ 60111. Financial responsibility for liquefied natural gas facilities

(a) NOTICE.—When the Secretary of Transportation believes that an operator of a liquefied natural gas facility does not have adequate financial responsibility for the facility, the Secretary may issue a notice to the operator about the inadequacy and the amount of financial responsibility the Secretary considers adequate.

(b) HEARINGS.—An operator receiving a notice under subsection (a) of this section may have a hearing on the record not later than 30 days after receiving the notice. The operator may show why the Secretary should not issue an order requiring the operator to demonstrate and maintain financial responsibility in at least the amount the Secretary considers adequate.

(c) ORDERS.—After an opportunity for a hearing on the record, the Secretary may issue the order if the Secretary decides it is justified in the public interest.

(Pub. L. 103–272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1317.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
60111(a)	49 App.:1674b(b)(1), (c).	Aug. 12, 1968, Pub. L. 90–481, 82 Stat. 720, §7(b)(1)–(3), (c); added Nov. 30, 1979, Pub. L. 96–129, §153, 93 Stat. 1002.
60111(b)	49 App.:1674b(b)(2).	
60111(c)	49 App.:1674b(b)(3).	

In subsection (a), the words “is not maintaining adequate insurance or otherwise”, the text of 49 App.:1674b(c), and the words “and serve upon” and “a statement of” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (b), the words “in accordance with section 554 of title 5” are omitted for consistency in the revised title and because 5:554 applies to a hearing on the record unless otherwise stated. The words “to be held” and “cause as to” are omitted as surplus. The words “the Secretary considers adequate” are substituted for “indicated in the notice under paragraph (1)” for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words.

Subsection (c) is substituted for 49 App.:1674b(b)(3) to eliminate unnecessary words.

§ 60112. Pipeline facilities hazardous to life and property

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—After notice and an opportunity for a hearing, the Secretary of Transportation may decide that a pipeline facility is hazardous if the Secretary decides that—

(1) operation of the facility is or would be hazardous to life, property, or the environment; or

(2) the facility is or would be constructed or operated, or a component of the facility is or would be constructed or operated, with equipment, material, or a technique that the Secretary decides is hazardous to life, property, or the environment.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a decision under subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall consider, if relevant—

(1) the characteristics of the pipe and other equipment used in the pipeline facility, including the age, manufacture, physical properties, and method of manufacturing, constructing, or assembling the equipment;

(2) the nature of the material the pipeline facility transports, the corrosive and deteriorative qualities of the material, the sequence in which the material are¹ transported, and the pressure required for transporting the material;

(3) the aspects of the area in which the pipeline facility is located, including climatic and geologic conditions and soil characteristics;

(4) the proximity of the area in which the hazardous liquid pipeline facility is located to environmentally sensitive areas;

(5) the population density and population and growth patterns of the area in which the pipeline facility is located;

(6) any recommendation of the National Transportation Safety Board made under another law; and

(7) other factors the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) OPPORTUNITY FOR STATE COMMENT.—The Secretary shall provide, to any appropriate official of a State in which a pipeline facility is located and about which a proceeding has begun under this section, notice and an opportunity to comment on an agreement the Secretary proposes to make to resolve the proceeding. State comment shall incorporate comments of affected local officials.

(d) CORRECTIVE ACTION ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary decides under subsection (a) of this section that a pipeline facility is or would be hazardous, the Secretary shall order the operator of the facility to take necessary corrective action, including suspended or restricted use of the facility, physical inspection, testing, repair, replacement, or other appropriate action.

(2) ACTIONS ATTRIBUTABLE TO AN EMPLOYEE.—If, in the case of a corrective action order issued following an accident, the Secretary determines that the actions of an employee carrying out an activity regulated under this chapter, including duties under section 60102(a), may have contributed substantially to the cause of the accident, the Secretary shall direct the operator to relieve the employee from performing those activities, reassign the employee, or place the employee on leave until the earlier of the date on which—

(A) the Secretary, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, determines that the employee’s actions did not contribute substantially to the cause of the accident; or

(B) the Secretary determines the employee has been re-qualified or re-trained as provided for in section 60131 and can safely perform those activities.

(3) EFFECT OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.—An action taken by an operator under paragraph (2) shall be in accordance with the terms and conditions of any applicable collective bargaining agreement.

(e) WAIVER OF NOTICE AND HEARING IN EMERGENCY.—The Secretary may waive the requirements for notice and an opportunity for a hearing under this section and issue expeditiously an order under this section if the Secretary decides failure to issue the order expeditiously will result in likely serious harm to life, property, or the environment. An order under this subsection shall provide an opportunity for a hearing as soon as practicable after the order is issued.

(Pub. L. 103–272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1317; Pub. L. 103–429, §6(76), Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4388; Pub. L. 107–355, §§8(a), 10(b), Dec. 17, 2002, 116 Stat. 2993, 2995.)

¹ So in original. Probably should be “is”.