and other issues, international regulatory cooperation can identify approaches that are at least as protective as those that are or would be adopted in the absence of such cooperation. International regulatory cooperation can also reduce, eliminate, or prevent unnecessary differences in regulatory requirements.

Similarly, the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (Pub. L. 96–39), as amended by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (Pub. L. 103–465), prohibits Federal agencies from establishing any standards or engaging in related activities that create unnecessary obstacles to the foreign commerce of the United States. For purposes of these requirements, Federal agencies may participate in the establishment of international standards, so long as the standards have a legitimate domestic objective, such as providing for safety, and do not operate to exclude imports that meet this objective. The statute also requires consideration of international standards and, where appropriate, that they be the basis for U.S. standards.

PHMSA engages with international standards setting bodies to protect the safety of the American public. PHMSA has assessed the effects of the direct final rule and has determined that its regulatory amendments will not cause unnecessary obstacles to foreign trade.

L. Cybersecurity and Executive Order 14028

E.O. 14028, *Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity,* directed the Federal Government to improve its efforts to identify, to deter, and to respond to ''persistent and increasingly sophisticated malicious cyber campaigns.'' PHMSA has considered the effects of the direct final rule and has determined that its regulatory amendments will not materially affect the cybersecurity risk profile for pipeline facilities.

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 195

Pipeline Safety.

For the reasons set forth above, PHMSA amends 49 CFR part 195 as follows:

PART 195—TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS LIQUIDS BY PIPELINE

■ 1. The authority citation for 49 CFR Part 195 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 30 U.S.C. 185(w)(3), 49 U.S.C. 5103, 60101 *et seq.,* and 49 CFR 1.97.

■ 2. Amend Appendix C to Part 195 as follows:

■ a. Revise the introductory text of Appendix C to Part 195;

■ b. Republish the introductory text of paragraph I, revise paragraphs I.B(3) and (6) through (11), and remove paragraph I.B(12); and

■ c. Republish the introductory text of paragraph II, and revise paragraphs II.A(11), (15), and (17).

The revisions and republications read as follows:

Appendix C to Part 195–Guidance for Implementation of an Integrity Management Program

This appendix gives guidance to help an operator implement integrity management program requirements in §§ 195.450 and 195.452. This appendix is intended to give advice to operators on how to implement the requirements of the integrity management requirements. This appendix is not legally binding and conformity with this appendix is voluntary only. Guidance is provided on:

(1) Information an operator may use to identify a high consequence area and factors an operator can use to consider the potential impacts of a release on an area;

(2) Risk factors an operator can use to determine an integrity assessment schedule;

(3) Safety risk indicator tables for leak history, volume or line size, age of pipeline, and product transported, an operator may use to determine if a pipeline segment falls into a high, medium, or low risk category;

(4) Types of internal inspection tools an operator could use to find pipeline anomalies;

(5) Measures an operator could use to measure an integrity management program's performance;

(6) Types of records an operator will have to maintain; and

(7) Types of conditions that an integrity assessment may identify that an operator should include in its required schedule for evaluation and remediation.

I. Identifying a high consequence area and factors for considering a pipeline segment's potential impact on a high consequence area.

B. * * *

(3) Crossing of farm tile fields. Using available information and knowledge, an operator should consider the possibility of spillage in a field following a drain tile into a waterway.

* * * * *

(6) Operating conditions of the pipeline (pressure, flow, mode of operation, etc.).

(7) The hydraulic gradient of the pipeline.

(8) The diameter of the pipeline, the potential release volume, and the distance between the isolation points.

(9) Potential physical pathways between the pipeline and the high-consequence area.

(10) Response capability (time to respond, nature of response).

(11) Potential of terrain and waterways to be flooded and serve as a conduit to a high consequence area.

II. Risk factors for establishing frequency of assessment.

A. * * *

(11) Location related to potential flooding or ground movement (*e.g.,* flood zones, seismic faults, rock quarries, and coal mines); climatic (permafrost causes settlement—Alaska); geologic (earthquakes, landslides, or subsidence areas).

* * * * *

(15) Operating conditions of the pipeline (pressure, stress levels, flow rate, etc.). Consider if the pipeline has been exposed to an operating pressure exceeding the established maximum operating pressure.

* * * * *

(17) Physical support of the pipeline segment such as by a cable suspension bridge. An operator should look for stress indicators on the pipeline (strained supports, inadequate support at towers), atmospheric corrosion, vandalism, and other obvious signs of improper maintenance.

* * * * *

Issued in Washington, DC, on April 22, 2026, under the authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.97.

Paul J. Roberti,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2026–08074 Filed 4–23–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

49 CFR Part 195

[Docket No. PHMSA–2026–1545; Amdt. No. 195–125]

RIN 2137–AG49

Pipeline Safety: Editorial Correction to Requirements for Low-Stress Hazardous Liquid Pipelines in Rural Areas

AGENCY: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule makes certain editorial corrections to the requirements for low-stress hazardous liquid pipelines in rural areas.

DATES: This rule is effective August 3, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Angela Hill, Transportation Specialist, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, 202–680–2034, *angela.hill@dot.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In this final rule, PHMSA is making certain editorial corrections and non-substantive changes to the requirements for assessing newly identified unusually sensitive areas for low-stress pipelines in rural areas. Specifically, PHMSA is revising § 195.12(e)(1)(ii) to correct an erroneous citation that identifies when operators are required to complete baseline assessments. Section 195.12(e)(1)(ii) requires operators to complete the baseline assessment required by paragraph (c)(1)(iii)(C) or (c)(2)(iii)(C) of § 195.12, as appropriate, according to the schedule set forth in § 195.452(d)(3). Since § 195.452(d)(3) does not exist, PHMSA is revising § 195.12(e)(1)(ii) to correct the citation. Operators should complete their baseline assessments, as appropriate, according to the schedule set forth in § 195.452(d).

Regulatory Analyses and Notices

A. Legal Authority

This final rule is published under the authority of the Secretary of Transportation set forth in the Federal Pipeline Safety Laws (49 U.S.C. 60101 *et seq.*) and delegated to the PHMSA Administrator pursuant to 49 CFR 1.97. PHMSA has good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) to issue this final rule without prior notice and comment. The regulatory citation listed in § 195.12(e)(1)(ii) that identifies when operators are required to complete baseline assessments is incorrect. PHMSA is simply revising the Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations to correct the error. PHMSA finds that notice and comment is unnecessary because this revision is editorial in nature and does not impose any new requirements.

B. Executive Order 12866

E.O. 12866, *Regulatory Planning and Review,* as implemented by DOT Order 2100.6B (''Policies and Procedures for Rulemaking'') and DOT Order 2100.7 (''Ensuring Reliance upon Sound Economic Analysis in Department of Transportation Policies, Programs, and Activities''), requires agencies to regulate in the ''most cost-effective manner,'' to make a ''reasoned determination that the benefits of the intended regulation justify its costs,'' and to develop regulations that ''impose the least burden on society.'' In arriving at those conclusions, E.O. 12866 requires that agencies should consider ''both quantifiable measures . . . and qualitative measures of costs and benefits that are difficult to quantify'' and ''maximize net benefits . . . unless a statute requires another regulatory approach.'' E.O. 12866 also requires that ''agencies should assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives, including the alternative of not regulating.'' DOT Order 2100.6B directs that PHMSA and other Operating Administrations must generally choose the ''least costly regulatory alternative that achieves the relevant objectives'' unless required by law or compelling safety need. DOT Order 2100.6B also specifies that regulations should generally ''not be issued unless their benefits are expected to exceed their costs'' except where required by law or compelling safety need. DOT Order 2100.7 requires that ''all rulemaking activities shall be based on sound economic principles and analysis supported by rigorous cost-benefit requirement.''

E.O. 12866 and DOT Order 2100.6B also require that PHMSA submit ''significant regulatory actions'' to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) within the Executive Office of the President's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review. This final rule is a not significant regulatory action pursuant to E.O. 12866; OMB also has not designated this rule as a ''major rule'' as defined by the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*).

PHMSA has complied with the procedural and analytical requirements in E.O. 12866 as implemented by DOT Order 2100.6B and DOT Order 2100.7. This final rule does not impose new burdens, as the changes made therein are non-substantive and do not impose new requirements in the Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations. Similarly, the final rule does not have any adverse effects on safety.

C. Executive Orders 14192 and 14219

This final rule is considered a deregulatory action pursuant to E.O. 14192, *Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation.* PHMSA estimates that the total costs of the rule on the regulated community will be *de minimis.* The non-substantive changes of this rulemaking do not impose any new requirements on pipeline operators and should improve the clarity and compliance with the Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations. Nor does this rule implicate any of the factors identified in section 2(a) of E.O. 14219, *Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's ''Department of Government Efficiency'' Deregulatory Initiative,* indicative that a regulation is ''unlawful . . . [or] that undermine[s] the national interest.''

D. Energy-Related Executive Orders 13211, 14154, and 14156

The President has declared in E.O. 14156, *Declaring a National Energy Emergency,* a National emergency to address America's inadequate energy development production, transportation, refining, and generation capacity. Similarly, E.O. 14154, *Unleashing American Energy,* asserts a Federal policy to unleash American energy by ensuing access to abundant supplies of reliable, affordable energy from (inter alia) the removal of ''undue burden[s]'' on the identification, development, or use of domestic energy resources such as PHMSA-jurisdictional gases and hazardous liquids. PHMSA finds this final rule is consistent with each of E.O. 14156 and E.O. 14154. The final rule will correct an erroneous citation that specifies when an operator of a low-stress pipeline in a rural area, who identifies a new unusually sensitive area, must complete a baseline assessment. The provisions of this final rule are not substantive and will not impose new requirements on pipeline operators; they are intended to promote the ease of operators complying with the existing regulations.

This final rule is not a ''significant energy action'' under E.O. 13211, *Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use,* which requires Federal agencies to prepare a Statement of Energy Effects for any ''significant energy action.'' Because this final rule is not a significant action under E.O. 12866, it will not have a significant adverse effect on supply, distribution, or energy use.

E. Executive Order 13132: Federalism

PHMSA analyzed this final rule in accordance with the principles and criteria contained in E.O. 13132, *Federalism,* and the Presidential Memorandum (''Preemption'') published in the **Federal Register** on May 22, 2009. E.O. 13132 requires agencies to assure meaningful and timely input by State and local officials in the development of regulatory policies that may have ''substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the National Government and the States, or on the

distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.''

While the final rule may operate to preempt some State requirements, it would not impose any regulation that has substantial direct effects on the States, the relationship between the National Government and the States, or the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Section 60104(c) of the Federal Pipeline Safety Laws prohibits certain State safety regulation of interstate pipelines. Under the Federal Pipeline Safety Laws, States that have submitted a current certification under section 60105(a) can augment Federal pipeline safety requirements for intrastate pipelines regulated by PHMSA but may not approve safety requirements less stringent than those required by Federal law. A State may also regulate an intrastate pipeline facility that PHMSA does not regulate. The preemptive effect of the regulatory amendments in this final rule is limited to the minimum level necessary to achieve the objectives of the Federal Pipeline Safety Laws. Therefore, the consultation and funding requirements of E.O. 13132 do not apply.

F. Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) requires Federal agencies to conduct a Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (FRFA) for a final rule subject to notice-and-comment rulemaking, unless the agency certifies that the rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The RFA applies only to rules for which an agency is required to first publish a proposed rule (*see* 5 U.S.C. 603(a) and 604(a)). PHMSA is not required to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking for this final rule, so the RFA does not apply. However, PHMSA expects no affected operators will face significant costs from the regulatory amendments introduced here, as they are editorial and non-substantive in nature.

G. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA, 2 U.S.C. 1501 *et seq.*) requires agencies to assess the effects of Federal regulatory actions on State, local, and Tribal governments, and the private sector. For any proposed or final rule that includes a Federal mandate that may result in the expenditure by State, local, and Tribal governments, in the aggregate of $100 million or more in 1996 dollars ($203 million in 2024) in any given year, the agency must prepare, amongst other things, a written statement that qualitatively and quantitatively assesses the costs and benefits of the Federal mandate.

This final rule does not impose unfunded mandates under UMRA because it does not result in costs of $100 million or more (in 1996 dollars) per year for either State, local, or Tribal governments, or to the private sector.

H. National Environmental Policy Act

PHMSA has analyzed this rule pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and has determined it is categorically excluded under 23 CFR 771.117(c)(20), which applies to the promulgation of rules, regulations, and directives. Under section 9 of DOT Order 5610.1D (''DOT's Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts''), PHMSA may apply a categorical exclusion established in another Operating Administration's procedures. PHMSA followed the requirements outlined in DOT Order 5610.1D to apply a categorical exclusion issued by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to this deregulatory action. PHMSA does not anticipate any adverse environmental impacts from this rule, and PHMSA has determined no unusual circumstances are present under 23 CFR 771.117(b). PHMSA's Categorical Exclusion Determination memo for this action is available on PHMSA's website.[1]

I. Executive Order 13175

PHMSA analyzed this final rule according to the principles and criteria in E.O. 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments,* and DOT Order 5301.1A (''Department of Transportation Tribal Consultation Policies and Procedures''). E.O. 13175 requires agencies to assure meaningful and timely input from Tribal government representatives in the development of rules that significantly or uniquely affect Tribal communities by imposing ''substantial direct compliance costs'' or ''substantial direct effects'' on such communities or the relationship or distribution of power between the Federal Government and Tribes.

PHMSA assessed the impact of the final rule and determined that it will not significantly or uniquely affect Tribal communities or Indian Tribal governments. The rulemaking's regulatory amendments have a broad, national scope; therefore, this final rule will not significantly or uniquely affect Tribal communities, much less impose substantial compliance costs on Native American Tribal governments or mandate Tribal action. For these reasons, PHMSA has concluded that the funding and consultation requirements of E.O. 13175 and DOT Order 5301.1A do not apply.

J. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations at 5 CFR 1320.8(d) requires that PHMSA provide interested members of the public and affected agencies with an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping requests. This rulemaking will not create, amend, or rescind any existing information collections.

K. Executive Order 13609 and International Trade Analysis

E.O. 13609, *Promoting International Regulatory Cooperation,* requires agencies consider whether the impacts associated with significant variations between domestic and international regulatory approaches are unnecessary or may impair the ability of American business to export and compete internationally. In meeting shared challenges involving health, safety, labor, security, environmental, and other issues, international regulatory cooperation can identify approaches that are at least as protective as those that are or would be adopted in the absence of such cooperation. International regulatory cooperation can also reduce, eliminate, or prevent unnecessary differences in regulatory requirements.

Similarly, the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (Pub. L. 96–39), as amended by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (Pub. L. 103–465), prohibits Federal agencies from establishing any standards or engaging in related activities that create unnecessary obstacles to the foreign commerce of the United States. For purposes of these requirements, Federal agencies may participate in the establishment of international standards, so long as the standards have a legitimate domestic objective, such as providing for safety, and do not operate to exclude imports that meet this objective. The statute also requires consideration of international standards and, where appropriate, that they be the basis for U.S. standards.

PHMSA engages with international standards setting bodies to protect the safety of the American public. PHMSA has assessed the effects of the final rule and has determined that its regulatory

[1] PHMSA, *Implementing Procedures, https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/planning-and-analytics/environmental-analysis-and-compliance/implementing-procedures.*

amendments will not cause unnecessary obstacles to foreign trade.

L. Cybersecurity and Executive Order 14028

E.O. 14028, *Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity,* directs the Federal Government to improve its efforts to identify, deter, and respond to ''persistent and increasingly sophisticated malicious cyber campaigns.'' PHMSA has considered the effects of the final rule and has determined that its regulatory amendments will not materially affect the cybersecurity risk profile for pipeline facilities.

List of Subjects in 49 CFR Part 195

Hazardous liquid, Pipeline safety.

In consideration of the foregoing, PHMSA amends 49 CFR part 195 as follows:

PART 195—TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS LIQUIDS BY PIPELINE

■ 1. The authority citation for 49 CFR part 195 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 30 U.S.C. 185(w)(3), 49 U.S.C. 5103, 60101 *et seq.,* and 49 CFR 1.97.

■ 2. In § 195.12, revise paragraph (e)(1)(ii) to read as follows:

§ 195.12 What requirements apply to low-stress pipelines in rural areas?

* * * * *

(e) * * *

(1) * * *

(ii) Complete the baseline assessment required by paragraph (c)(1)(iii)(C) or (c)(2)(iii)(C) of this section, as appropriate, according to the schedule in § 195.452(d).

* * * * *

Issued in Washington, DC, on April 22, 2026, under the authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.97.

Paul J. Roberti,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2026–08063 Filed 4–23–26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

49 CFR Part 195

[Docket No. PHMSA–2026–1546; Amdt. No. 195–126]

RIN 2137–AG50

Pipeline Safety: Removing Obsolete Provision From Safety-Related Condition Reporting Requirements for Hazardous Liquid and Carbon Dioxide Pipeline Facilities

AGENCY: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule makes certain editorial corrections and non-substantive changes to the requirements for filing safety-related condition reports in 49 CFR 195.56.

DATES: This rule is effective August 3, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Angela Hill, Transportation Specialist, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, 202–680–2034, *angela.hill@dot.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In this final rule, PHMSA is making certain editorial corrections and non-substantive changes to the safety-related condition reporting requirements in 49 CFR 195.56. Specifically, § 195.56(a) gives operators the option to file a safety-related condition report by email or by facsimile. PHMSA no longer allows operators to file a safety-related condition report by facsimile. PHMSA is therefore revising § 195.56(a) to remove all references to filing a safety-related condition report by facsimile. Safety-related condition reports must be filed by email to *InformationResourcesManager@dot.gov.* This correction will remove unnecessary delays in the process of operators filing a safety-related condition report.

Regulatory Analyses and Notices

A. Legal Authority

This final rule is published under the authority of the Secretary of Transportation set forth in the Federal Pipeline Safety Laws (49 U.S.C. 60101 *et seq.*) and delegated to the PHMSA Administrator pursuant to 49 CFR 1.97. PHMSA has good cause under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) to issue this final rule without prior notice and comment. PHMSA no longer accepts safety-related condition reports by facsimile and is simply revising the safety-related condition reporting requirements in § 195.56(a) to account for that fact. PHMSA finds that notice and comment is unnecessary because the facsimile number in § 195.56(a) is obsolete and serves no useful purpose.

B. Executive Order 128662

E.O. 12866, *Regulatory Planning and Review,* as implemented by DOT Order 2100.6B (''Policies and Procedures for Rulemaking'') and DOT Order 2100.7 (''Ensuring Reliance upon Sound Economic Analysis in Department of Transportation Policies, Programs, and Activities''), requires agencies to regulate in the ''most cost-effective manner,'' to make a ''reasoned determination that the benefits of the intended regulation justify its costs,'' and to develop regulations that ''impose the least burden on society.'' In arriving at those conclusions, E.O. 12866 requires that agencies should consider ''both quantifiable measures . . . and qualitative measures of costs and benefits that are difficult to quantify'' and ''maximize net benefits . . . unless a statute requires another regulatory approach.'' E.O. 12866 also requires that ''agencies should assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives, including the alternative of not regulating.'' DOT Order 2100.6B directs that PHMSA and other Operating Administrations must generally choose the ''least costly regulatory alternative that achieves the relevant objectives'' unless required by law or compelling safety need. DOT Order 2100.6B also specifies that regulations should generally ''not be issued unless their benefits are expected to exceed their costs'' except where required by law or compelling safety need. DOT Order 2100.7 requires that ''all rulemaking activities shall be based on sound economic principles and analysis supported by rigorous cost-benefit requirement.''

E.O. 12866 and DOT Order 2100.6B also require that PHMSA submit ''significant regulatory actions'' to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) within the Executive Office of the President's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review. This final rule is a not significant regulatory action pursuant to E.O. 12866; OMB also has not designated this rule as a ''major rule'' as defined by the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*).

PHMSA has complied with the procedural and analytical requirements in E.O. 12866 as implemented by DOT