

requested that FRA extend the comment period on this petition.² Through this notice, FRA is extending the comment period for an additional 30 days (until September 30, 2026).

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments relating to the Program and associated regulatory suspension requests. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested parties desire an opportunity for oral comment and a public hearing, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

Communications received by September 30, 2026 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if practicable.

Privacy Act

Anyone can search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of FRA's dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). Under 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to inform its processes. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>. See also <https://www.regulations.gov/privacy-notice> for the privacy notice of www.regulations.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC.

John Karl Alexy,

*Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety,
Chief Safety Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2026-17778 Filed 8-31-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-2026-1420]

Notice of Petition for Waiver of Compliance

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document provides the public notice that Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) petitioned FRA for relief from certain regulations concerning inspections performed by qualified mechanical inspectors (QMIs). **DATES:** FRA must receive comments on the petition by November 2, 2026. FRA will consider comments received after that date to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES:

Comments: Comments related to this docket may be submitted by going to <https://www.regulations.gov> and following the online instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name and docket number. All comments received will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov>; this includes any personal information. Please see the Privacy Act heading in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document for Privacy Act information related to any submitted comments or materials.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for accessing the docket.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Caleb Rogers, Railroad Safety Specialist, FRA Motive Power & Equipment Division, telephone: 202-493-6322, email: caleb.rogers@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under part 211 of title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that by letter dated June 9, 2026, UPRR petitioned FRA for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 229 (Railroad Locomotive Safety Standards). FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA-2026-1420.

Specifically, UPRR seeks relief from § 229.23(b)(2), *Periodic inspection: general*, related to locomotives equipped with advanced microprocessor-controlled systems.

UPRR requests a waiver from the requirement that the daily inspection conducted once every 33 days on a microprocessor-equipped locomotive be performed by a QMI, which, as defined under § 229.5, *Definitions*, must have a primary responsibility that includes work generally consistent with locomotive troubleshooting, inspection, testing, maintenance, and repair of locomotives. As a result, UPRR proposes to remove the requirement for a QMI to perform the referenced periodic inspection.

In support of its request, UPRR states that it has collected data on daily inspections performed by QMIs and non-QMIs and found “no statistical difference between the quality of daily inspections.” UPRR explains that the relief “will improve overall safety by reducing additional walking, getting [on and off] equipment, as well as improving the overall inspection quality by cross[-]training employees in multiple aspects of multiple interconnected mechanical systems.”

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment and a public hearing, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

Communications received by November 2, 2026 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if practicable.

Privacy Act

Anyone can search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of FRA's dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). Under 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to inform its processes. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>. See also <https://www.regulations.gov/>

² <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2026-1421-0004>.

privacy-notice for the privacy notice of regulations.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC.

John Karl Alexy,

Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety,
Chief Safety Officer.

[FR Doc. 2026-17869 Filed 8-31-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

[Docket No. PHMSA-2026-1156]

Pipeline Safety: Joint Meeting of the Gas and Liquid Pipeline Advisory Committees

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

ACTION: Notice of advisory committee meeting; reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: On July 17, 2026, PHMSA published a **Federal Register** notice titled: "Pipeline Safety: Joint Meeting of the Gas and Liquid Pipeline Advisory Committees," which provided an opportunity for public comment by August 31, 2026, on the proceedings of the Gas and Liquid Pipeline Advisory Committees meeting related to 13 notices of proposed rulemakings (NPRM). These proposed rules covered topics such as special permit conditions, in-plant piping, incidental gathering lines, coating damage assessments, atmospheric corrosion, class change pressure tests, maximum allowable operating pressure reconfirmation, operator identification notifications, limitations on welding, remote valves, the property damage definition, right-of-way patrols, and reporting deadlines. PHMSA received requests from stakeholders to extend the comment period. Based on those requests, PHMSA is reopening the comment period for the joint Pipeline Advisory Committee (PAC) proceedings related to the 13 regulatory modernizing NPRMs to September 4, 2026.

DATES: The comment period for the document published July 17, 2026 at 91 FR 44965 is reopened. The closing date for filing comments on the joint PAC meetings is September 4, 2026. Consistent with 49 CFR 190.323, the agency will consider late-filed comments to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments identified by the docket number PHMSA-2026-1156 and the docket number corresponding to the relevant

proposal listed below in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section by any of the following methods:

- *E-Gov Web:* <https://www.regulations.gov>.

This site allows the public to enter comments on any **Federal Register** notice issued by any agency. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- *Mail or Hand Delivery:* Docket Management System: U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001. Hand delivery is available between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Submit two copies if you submit your comment by mail, and, include a self-addressed stamped postcard if you wish to receive confirmation of receipt.

- *Fax:* 202-493-2251.

For commenting instructions and additional information about commenting, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joe Berry by phone at 720-601-3577 or by email at joseph.berry1@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 17, 2026, PHMSA published a **Federal Register** notice (91 FR 44965) announcing a joint public meeting of the Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee, also known as the Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee (GPAC), and the Technical Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Standards Committee, also known as the Liquid Pipeline Advisory Committee (LPAC), to discuss 13 NPRMs related to regulatory modernization. In the notice, PHMSA announced that the public meeting would be held on July 30, 2026, and specified that comments on the proceedings of the Committees must be submitted by August 31, 2026.

Following the conclusion of the meeting, PHMSA received comment extension requests from the Pipeline Safety Trust (PST) and the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). PST and EDF requested an additional 30 days to provide comment on the proceedings of the Committees, which would bring the comment deadline to October 1, 2026.

Based off these requests, PHMSA will reopen the comment submission deadline for the joint proceedings of the GPAC and the LPAC on the 13 NPRMs from August 31, 2026, to September 4, 2026. Consistent with 49 CFR 190.323, PHMSA will consider late-filed comments to the extent practicable.

Instructions: Identify the docket number PHMSA-2026-1156 and the

docket number corresponding to the relevant proposal at the beginning of your comments. The rulemakings and their dockets are as follows:

(1) *Pipeline Safety: Rationalize Special Permit Conditions*, Docket Number PHMSA-2025-0135. PHMSA proposed amendments to ensure that special permit conditions are connected directly to the provision being waived.

(2) *Pipeline Safety: Integration of Innovative Remote Sensing Technologies for Right-of-Way Patrols on Gas and Hazardous Liquid Pipelines*, Docket Number PHMSA-2025-0118. PHMSA proposed to clarify that right-of-way patrol requirements for gas, hazardous liquid, and carbon dioxide pipelines are technology neutral, and that operators can use remote sensing technologies, such as unmanned aerial systems and satellites, to satisfy those requirements.

(3) *Pipeline Safety: Property Damage Definition for Reporting Incidents on Gas Pipelines and Accidents on Hazardous Liquid and Carbon Dioxide Pipelines*, Docket Number PHMSA-2025-0109. PHMSA proposed to revise the definition of property damage for determining when a release from a gas, hazardous liquid, or carbon dioxide pipeline facility meets the definition of a reportable incident or accident, including for immediate notifications to the National Response Center.

(4) *Pipeline Safety: Adjustment to OPID Notifications for Construction*, Docket Number PHMSA-2026-1551. PHMSA proposed to increase the monetary threshold for Operator Identification Number (OPID) notifications for certain construction and maintenance tasks on gas, hazardous liquid, and carbon dioxide pipeline facilities. PHMSA also proposed to provide a mechanism in 49 CFR part 191, appendix A for annual updates to these thresholds.

(5) *Pipeline Safety: Timeframe to Make RMVs Operational*, Docket Number PHMSA-2026-1553. PHMSA proposed to amend the required timeframes for making rupture-mitigation valves and alternative equivalent technology operational on gas transmission, hazardous liquid, and carbon dioxide pipelines.

(6) *Pipeline Safety: Exception for In-Plant Piping Systems*, Docket Number PHMSA-2025-0112. PHMSA proposed amendments to codify an exception in the gas pipeline safety regulations for in-plant piping systems.

(7) *Pipeline Safety: Adjust Annual Report Deadlines*, Docket Number PHMSA-2025-0108. PHMSA proposed to extend from March 15 to June 15 the annual report data submission deadline