

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION****Office of the State Fire Marshal**

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 653-7772
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



December 23, 2016

WORKSHOP NOTICE**Public Workshop for**

The Adoption of Requirements for New or Replacement Pipeline Near Environmentally and Ecologically Sensitive Areas in Coastal Zone; Plan to Retrofit Existing Pipelines; Adoption of Regulations; Notification to State Fire Marshal of New Construction or Retrofit of Pipeline; Consultation with Office of Spill Prevention and Response.

The CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal invites you to participate in a public workshop to discuss draft proposed regulations requiring the Use of Best Available Technology on New, Replacement, or Retrofit of Pipelines Near Environmentally and Ecologically Sensitive Areas in the Coastal Zone (Title 5, California Government Code § 51013.1). The workshop is open to the public and full participation by all parties is encouraged. The workshop will be held at the following location:

DATE: January 5, 2017

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: California Natural Resources Agency
1416 9th Street, Public Hearing Auditorium 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Background

In 2015, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law Assembly Bill 864 (AB 864), authored by Assembly Member Das Williams. AB 864 was drafted in response to a pipeline rupture near Refugio Beach in Santa Barbara on May 20, 2015. That rupture released over 100,000 gallons of crude oil that impacted over 25 miles of coast line and ocean water. In addition to the environmental and economic impacts to southern Santa Barbara County, the spill closed two state beaches and an offshore fishing area, which impacted the livelihood of many people in the fishing industry. According to the author, had the pipeline been equipped with automatic shutoff valves or remote controlled sectionalized block valves, the impact of the oil spill would have been controlled and limited.

Draft Proposed Regulations Requiring Best Available Technology

The OSFM is in the process of developing the regulations as required by AB 864.

The legislation requires, by January 1, 2018, any new or replacement pipeline near environmentally and ecologically sensitive areas in the coastal zone to use best available technologies to reduce the amount of oil released in an oil spill to protect state waters and wildlife.

Furthermore, by July 1, 2018, an operator of an existing pipeline near environmentally and ecologically sensitive areas in the coastal zone shall submit a plan to retrofit the pipeline by January 1, 2020, with the best available technology. Best available technology includes, but is not limited to, installation of leak detection technologies, automatic shutoff systems, or remote controlled sectionalized block valves, or any combination of these technologies based on a risk analysis conducted by the operator to reduce the amount of oil released in an oil spill to protect state waters and wildlife.

The OSFM plans on holding two (2) additional workshops in February 2017, which will be separately noticed. These workshops are intended to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on proposed regulatory language. Alternatives to the current draft approach are welcome, and the OSFM invites any comments, suggestions, and recommendations which encourage development of regulatory language that will better protect environmentally and ecologically sensitive areas in the coastal zone while also considering the economic impacts to regulated pipeline operators.

Workshop Information

The workshop will be informational only; the OSFM will not take any action at the workshop. To ensure a productive and efficient workshop, oral comments may be limited to three (3) minutes or otherwise limited at the discretion of the workshop facilitator.

If you require special accommodation for the workshop, or need this document in an alternate format (e.g. Braille, large print), or another language, please contact Daniel Hastert, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, at (562) 497-9100 or via email at daniel.hastert@fire.ca.gov as soon as possible, but no later than 5 days before the workshop.

For those unable to attend in person, a live internet broadcast (webcast) will be available. The workshop broadcast can be accessed at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7021356289933333252>. The webcast for the workshop allows users to submit comments electronically during that workshop.

Sir/Madam
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Please check the website:

http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/codedevelopment/codedevelopment_title19development for updates, including the publication of revised draft regulatory language and other related documents. To subscribe to further notices, please submit your contact information to daniel.hastert@fire.ca.gov

Further Information

Interested members of the public may present comments orally or in writing at the workshop and may provide comments by postal mail or by electronic submittal before the workshop. To be considered at the workshop, written comments not physically submitted at the workshop must be received **no later than 5:00 pm, January 2, 2017**, and addressed to the following:

Postal Mail: Daniel Hastert, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
CAL FIRE-Office of the State Fire Marshal
Pipeline Safety Division
3950 Paramount Boulevard, Suite 210
Lakewood, California 90712

Email: daniel.hastert@fire.ca.gov

Please note that under the California Public Records Act (Government Code § 6250 et seq.), your written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g., your address, phone, email, etc.) become part of the public record and can be released to the public upon request.

If you have any questions about the public workshop or about the draft AB 864 regulations, please contact Ben Ho, Pipeline Safety Engineer at (916) 445-8348, ben.ho@fire.ca.gov, or Doug Allen, Supervising Pipeline Safety Engineer at (916) 445-8345, doug.allen@fire.ca.gov.