CALIFORNIA STATE FIRE MARSHAL ANNUAL INSPECTION PROCEDURES

Objective:

Senate Bill (SB) 295 was chaptered into law last year which mandates the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to adopt regulations and conduct annual inspections to reduce the potential for jurisdictional hazardous liquid pipeline accidents in California and protect the people of California and the environment.

Authority/Jurisdiction:

Government Code §51015.1(a) and Title 19, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 14, Article 2.

Process:

The OSFM annual inspection will ensure compliance with federal and State regulations, enhance public safety, protect California's vital natural resources, and reduce the risk of future jurisdictional hazardous liquid pipeline accidents. The OSFM annual inspection is a two phase risk-based inspection approach intended to reduce the number of jurisdictional hazardous liquid pipeline accidents and reduce the consequence of jurisdictional hazardous liquid pipeline releases. The process consists of 4 main components:

1. Gather Operator Information: Beginning in 2017, each pipeline operator will be required to annually complete and submit to the OSFM the Form PSD-101 by July 1st. The completed form will contain data and validated inspection results from the previous calendar year for each jurisdictional pipeline and scheduled projects for the next calendar year. Operators must maintain documentation to substantiate the information provided in their Form PSD-101. If an operator is unable to submit the Form PSD-101 by July 1st, they may submit a written request to the OSFM asking for a 30-day extension.

2. Internal OSFM Review/Identify Inspection Modules: OSFM staff will review each submitted Form PSD-101 for completeness. OSFM will also review leak, violation, and inspection history from internal databases to identify risks, trends, and other pipeline safety issues on each pipeline.

The OSFM will assign inspection modules for each jurisdictional hazardous liquid pipeline based on pipeline operating history, integrity testing, preventative and mitigative measures, construction activities, and the OSFM internal review.

3. Annual Operator Inspection: The OSFM will schedule an Annual Operator Inspection after the OSFM has assigned inspection modules to an operator's jurisdictional hazardous liquid pipelines. This Operator Inspection will include reviewing records associated with the completed Form PSD-101 and discussing the inspection modules that have been assigned to each of the operator's pipelines for the coming year. Prior to the inspection, operators will be informed as to which documents must be available during the Annual Operator Inspection. This will allow the operator to compile the required documentation from regional offices and have essential personnel available during the inspection.

NOTE: Additional inspection modules may be assigned to a pipeline based on information obtained during the Annual Operator Inspection.

4. Annual Pipeline Inspection: The OSFM staff will conduct an Annual Pipeline Inspection on each pipeline listed on the Operator's Form PSD-101 using the Annual Inspection Modules that were assigned to each pipeline.