



U. S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Research and
Special Programs
Administration

ALN-92-02

6/26/92

PIPELINE SAFETY ALERT NOTICE

To: Each Owner or Operator of a Gas Pipeline Facility and Every State Pipeline Safety Representative

Subject: Cast Iron Pipe (Supplementary Alert Notice)

Purpose: To address concerns arising out of a recent accident.

Background: On October 11, 1991, the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) issued a Pipeline Safety Alert Notice alerting pipeline operators of the recently issued Recommendation P-91-12 by the National Transportation Safety Board related to an August 1990 explosion and fire in Allentown, Pennsylvania, caused by a crack in a 4-inch cast iron gas main.

That Alert Notice stated that RSPA believes that each gas pipeline operator should have a program to identify and replace those cast iron piping systems that may threaten public safety. The Notice included information regarding material developed by the Gas Piping Technology Committee that was being sent by the American Gas Association (AGA) to all pipeline distribution operators with cast iron pipe to assist them in developing procedures for determining the serviceability of the cast iron pipe and to identify the cast iron segments that may need replacement. If an operator has cast iron pipe and has not received the material, contact either Larry Ingels (703-804-8454) or John Erickson (703-841-8612) of AGA and request the information.

Notice: As stated in that Alert Notice, the regulations require that -

- (a) If a segment of pipeline, including cast iron, is determined to be in unsatisfactory condition but no immediate hazard exists, the operator shall initiate a program to recondition or phase out the segment involved.

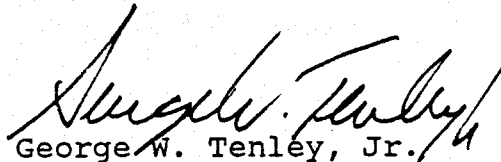
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- (b) Cast iron pipe on which general graphitization is found to a degree where a fracture might result, must be replaced.
- (c) Cast iron pipe that is excavated must be protected against damage.

In addition to the above information included in the October 11, 1992, Alert Notice pipeline operators should know that § 192.613 requires that each operator have a procedure for continuing surveillance of its pipeline facilities to identify problems and take appropriate action concerning failures, leakage history, corrosion, and other unusual operating and maintenance conditions. This procedure should also include surveillance of cast iron to identify problems and take appropriate action concerning graphitization.

JUN 26 1992

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George W. Tenley, Jr.
Associate Administrator
for Pipeline Safety

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Special Programs
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