



AGA Actions Supporting the Secretary's Call to Action and NTSB Recommendations

Pipe Fitness for Service – Developed guidance on how to determine a distribution or transmission pipeline's fitness for service, including critical records needed for this determination. The initial documents were submitted for consideration in the DOT Report to the Nation. More comprehensive documents for transmission fitness for service have been finalized and documents for distribution fitness for service are under development which will assist with service considerations, level of accuracy needed for critical records, and how to address record gaps and update records. The distribution documents are expected to be completed in early 2012.

Transmission MAOP Records Verification – Developed guidance on determining a transmission pipeline's MAOP. Technical paper finalized in April and distributed to operators and federal and state regulators. A more detailed document on records review for transmission pipeline MAOPs was completed in October 2011.

Safety Information Sharing Study – Working with INGAA, API, AOPL, Canadian Gas Association and Canadian Energy Pipeline Association on a comprehensive study to explore safety sharing initiatives currently utilized by other sectors, as well as the pipeline industry. The results of the study may help to identify and implement a model that will measurably improve the sharing of pipeline safety information. The study is expected to be completed in February of 2012.

Gas Utility Emergency Response – Finalizing a checklist that will enable operators to enhance emergency response communications and education programs. Checklist will be available December 2011.

Automatic Shutoff and Remotely Controlled Shutoff Valves (ASV/RCV) – Developed ASV/RCV technical paper that presents the benefits and disadvantages of their installation on new, fully replaced and existing transmission pipelines, especially as it relates to gas transmission pipelines embedded in distribution systems. The initial technical document was completed March 2011 and a more comprehensive technical paper is expected to be completed in early 2012.

Safety Culture Statement – In February 2011, the AGA Board of Directors adopted a Safety Culture Statement. All employees, as well as contractors and suppliers providing services to AGA members, are expected to place the highest priority on employee, customer, public and pipeline safety. The Safety Culture Statement addresses the commitment by management to promoting open and honest communications across all levels of an organization, identifying hazards, managing risks, planning the work and working the plan, and promoting a learning environment and personal accountability.

Infrastructure Replacement Rate Mechanisms – AGA, INGAA and API developed a document to explain to the public the ratemaking mechanisms used for the pipeline infrastructure. A well designed rate reflects the input of all stakeholders and the importance of factors such as expanded safety programs, infrastructure repair and replacement. Such a rate design also recognizes the changing methods of cost recovery and other factors.

Events to Share Information – In the past year, AGA has held a number of events to share information, including workshops on emergency response, transmission integrity management, utility contractor management and vintage pipe; regional operations executives' roundtables, roundtables on external corrosion, damage prevention and marking and locating, and technical committee meetings and sessions on the management of vintage pipe, distribution and transmission integrity management, emergency management, pipe replacement, welding repair qualification procedures, leak detection, corrosion assessment, MAOP, qualification of personnel, control room management, sewer cross bores, mechanical fittings, worker safety, weld failure mechanisms, safety culture, and new construction. AGA also participated in PHMSA workshops on transmission pipeline weld seams, transmission integrity management risk assessments and its revised annual and incident reporting forms.

AGA's Commitment to Enhancing Safety – Developed *AGA's Commitment to Enhancing Safety* which identifies additional actions that distribution and intrastate transmission pipeline operators are committed to take to improve pipeline safety. Approved by the AGA Board October 2011.

The Safety Path Forward

- AGA supports timely reauthorization of the pipeline safety law.
- Actions under AGA's Commitment to Enhancing Safety. This includes actions that will help ensure pipelines are built for safety, existing pipelines operate safely, and work to enhance pipeline safety

Damage Prevention – AGA is a founder of the Common Ground Alliance and supports programs that address excavation damage, historically the leading cause of significant pipeline incidents. A number of initiatives have reduced excavation damage by 50% over the last 6 years and that work must continue if we are to further reduce excavation damages. This includes promoting 811, the national number for people to call before they dig; working at the state level to promote participation in One-Call programs by all underground operators and excavators; and strengthening state damage prevention legislation.

Transmission Integrity Management Enhancements - AGA members are committed to engaging in public discussions to evaluate whether transmission integrity management should be expanded beyond high consequence areas (HCAs), and the benefits and disadvantages of applying integrity management principles to additional areas. Many AGA members are required to manage Distribution Integrity Management Programs (DIMP) and Transmission Integrity Management Programs (TIMP) programs, so the effectiveness, inefficiencies and duplication of multiple integrity management programs must also be explored. AGA members are committed to evaluating how various low-stress pipelines (those with MAOPs below 30 percent SMYS) would benefit by using elements from either or both programs.

Data Collection and Sharing - AGA is committed to working with PHMSA, state regulators and the public to create a data quality team made up of representatives from government, industry and the public, similar to the PHMSA technical advisory committees. The team could analyze the data PHMSA collects and determine opportunities to improve pipeline safety based on conclusions reached by data analysis. The team could also identify gaps in the data that are collected by PHMSA and others, identify ways to improve the collected data, and communicate consistent messages about pipeline incident data.

Research & Development – Continue funding and collaboration on research, development and deployment of technologies to improve safety, including in-line inspection tool capabilities, operator use of tool data, direct assessment tools, non-destructive testing and leak detection.

Emergency Response - AGA members are committed to finding new and innovative ways to inform and engage stakeholders, including emergency responders, public officials, excavators, consumers and safety advocates and members of the public living in the vicinity of pipelines.

Executive Leadership Engagement in Safety Improvement – Continue the work of the Board of Directors Safety Committee that focuses on pipeline, customer, employee, contractor and vehicular safety. This includes holding an annual Executive Leadership Safety Summit, sharing lessons learned, reviewing safety statistics, identifying ways to further improve safety, and furthering the Safety Information Resource Center that includes safety alerts, safety messages, statistics, information on motor vehicular safety and case studies.

Sharing Safety Information – Continue sharing safety information through AGA technical committees, the operations managing committee, and the AGA Best Practices Programs. The Best Practices Programs focus on identifying superior performing companies and innovative work practices that can be shared with others to improve operations.

State Safety and Rate Mechanisms – Continue to promote effective cost-recovery mechanisms that states can use to fund infrastructure maintenance and replacement projects. Continue to serve as a clearinghouse of state rate mechanisms.

Publications – Continue to develop publications dedicated to improving safety and operations.