

Alert Notice

Alert Notice #: ALN-91-01 **File Code:** ALN

Date: 04/15/91
CFR Reference(s): 191.5; 195.52
Keyword(s): Accident, Report

Subject:

Reemphasize each pipeline operator's responsibility to report promptly; criteria specified in 49 CFR 191.5/195.52.



US Department of Transportation
Research and Special Programs Administration

400 Seventh Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20590

PIPELINE SAFETY ALERT NOTICE

Alert Notice: ALN-91-01

Date: 04/15/91

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

Subject:

Purpose:

Recent experiences suggest a need to reemphasize the responsibility of each pipeline operator to report promptly, by telephone, pipeline incidents or accidents meeting the criteria specified in 49 CFR Sections 191.5 and 195.52. Failure to perform the required reporting may result in fines up to \$10,000 a day, not to exceed a maximum of \$500,000.

Notice:

Background:

Recent experiences suggest a need to reemphasize the responsibility of each pipeline operator to report promptly, by telephone, pipeline incidents or accidents meeting the criteria specified in 49 CFR Sections 191.5 and 195.52. Failure to perform the required reporting may result in fines up to \$10,000 a day, not to exceed a maximum of \$500,000.

Sections 191.5 and 195.52 require each operator to give direct telephonic notice to the National Response Center (NRC), telephone number 800-424-8802 (in Washington, DC, 202-426-2675), at the earliest practicable moment following discovery of certain types of events described therein, and provide the required information. In most cases, this telephonic report can and should be made within 1-2 hours after discovery. This prompt notice is necessary in part for OPS and NTSB to make timely determination regarding the need for possible action.

A number of state agencies have identical or similar telephonic reporting requirements which are separate and in addition to the federal requirement. An operator's telephonic report to a state agency, with the state agency relaying the report to NRC, OPS, or NTSB, does not meet the requirements of the federal regulations. An operator must telephonically report any event subject

to Section 191.5 or 195.52 directly to the NRC even though he also may be required to report the same incident to a state agency.

George W. Tenley, Jr., Associate Administrator, Office of Pipeline Safety