



PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

July 15, 2019

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
PA Public Utility Commission
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: L-2019-3010267 - Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Regarding Hazardous Liquid Public Utility Safety Standards at 52 Pa. Code Chapter 59

Dear Secretary Chiavetta,

We write to offer our comments on the Public Utility Commission's recently released Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANOPR) regarding the design, construction, operations, and maintenance of public utilities transporting petroleum products and other hazardous liquids under the jurisdiction of the PUC. PSATS appreciates this opportunity to share the opinion of our members on this important issue.

The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors is a non-partisan, non-profit member service organization. Our member townships represent 5.6 million Pennsylvanians — more residents than any other type of Pennsylvania municipal government. PSATS member townships cover 95 percent of the commonwealth's land mass.

PSATS is most concerned about improving communication between pipeline companies and municipalities, as well as equipping local fire and EMS personnel to respond to pipeline-related emergencies. We would consider supporting future proposals that align with these priorities.

At our annual conference, PSATS members have approved policy statements that articulate support for improvements to Pennsylvania's communication processes and regulatory environment in the pipeline industry. Any progress that can be made to improve communication between industry participants, state agencies, local government, and the public are welcome, especially about matters concerning emergency preparedness. Below is the text of PSATS standing resolutions concerning pipelines:

19-08 RESOLVED, That PSATS urge the Commonwealth to establish a communication process between commonwealth agencies to 1) collect and disseminate information regarding planning, siting, construction, operation, maintenance, management, inspection, safety, and emergency response procedures for pipelines; and 2) coordinate



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communications related to pipelines activities with federal state and local government agencies, regulatory authorities, pipeline companies, and the public.

19-31 RESOLVED, that PSATS seek legislation to provide a regulatory environment for siting pipelines not currently administered by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, including a notification framework that would require pipeline companies to provide written notice to municipalities, counties, easement-holding non-government entities, and property owners where pipeline activities are planned, AND FURTHER, that such written notice shall be provided to these entities before submittal to a regulatory agency for review or approval.

Previously, PSATS collaborated with Governor Wolf in crafting a series of policy recommendations intended to improve pipeline development procedures in Pennsylvania. PSATS members voted to express their support for recommendations relating to emergency preparedness and local government. Below is a brief summary of the 2016 Task Force recommendations for local government and emergency preparedness. Additionally, you will find the text of the resolutions our members adopted to endorse the recommendations on local government and emergency preparedness issues.

Governor Wolf's Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force Local Government Work Group Recommendations

1. Communicate Early and Often with Local Government Officials
2. Minimize Impact on Local Roads
3. Clarify and Examine Need for Local Regulation of Surface Facilities

Governor Wolf's Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force Emergency Preparedness Workgroup Recommendations

1. Standardize Emergency Response Plans
2. Train Emergency Responders
3. Require Infrastructure Mapping
4. Coordinate Pipeline Mapping Plans
5. PUC Should Develop a Comprehensive List of Pipeline Classifications
6. Enhance Emergency Response Training for Responder Agencies
7. Create County/Regional Safety Task Forces
8. Provide Training to Local Emergency Responders
9. Assess Need for Additional Training for Local Responders
10. Establish Protocol for Emergency Movement of Heavy Equipment during Off-Hours
11. Assigning a 9-1-1 Address to Pipeline-Related Facilities
12. Authorize a Fee for Emergency Response to Pipeline Incidents



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16-45 RESOLVED, That PSATS support those Local Government Workgroup recommendations to Governor Wolf's Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force that would require industry participants to foster cooperation, collaboration, and coordination with municipalities and/or local governments early and often in the pipeline development process; AND FURTHER, to strongly encourage the Governor and Department of Environmental Protection to prioritize this important local collaborative effort as a "top tier initiative" from the Task Force Report.

16-46 RESOLVED, That PSATS support the Emergency Preparedness Workgroup recommendations that were made to Governor Wolf's Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force that provide aid to local governments and local emergency responders for pipeline and other natural gas-related emergencies.

PSATS welcomes this opportunity to comment on the PUC ANOPR. Our members have spoken that they would be best served by policies that improve communication practices and emergency preparedness, as well as any policies that incorporate the recommendations of Governor Wolf's Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force. We look forward to the opportunity to review the proposed regulation and offer additional comments when it is published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Sincerely,

David M. Sanko
Executive Director