

**SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION****National Small Business Development Center Advisory Board**

**AGENCY:** Small Business Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice of open Federal Advisory Committee meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The SBA is issuing this notice to announce the date, time and agenda for a meeting of the National Small Business Development Center Advisory Board. The meeting will be open to the public; however, advance notice of attendance is required.

**DATES:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. EDT.

**ADDRESSES:** Meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rachel Karton, Office of Small Business Development Centers, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 Third Street SW, Washington, DC 20416; *Rachel.newman-karton@sba.gov*; 202-619-1816.

If anyone wishes to be a listening participant or would like to request accommodations, please contact Rachel Karton at the information above.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), the SBA announces the meetings of the National SBDC Advisory Board. This Board provides advice and counsel to the SBA Administrator and Associate Administrator for Small Business Development Centers.

**Purpose**

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the following issues pertaining to the SBDC Program:

- Cybersecurity
- Outreach to underserved communities
- Strategies for getting Small Business back to normal

**Andrienne Johnson,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2021-12222 Filed 6-9-21; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration**

[Docket No. PHMSA-2021-0050]

**Pipeline Safety: Statutory Mandate To Update Inspection and Maintenance Plans To Address Eliminating Hazardous Leaks and Minimizing Releases of Natural Gas From Pipeline Facilities**

**AGENCY:** Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA); DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of advisory bulletin.

**SUMMARY:** PHMSA is issuing this advisory bulletin to remind each owner and operator of a pipeline facility that the “Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of 2020” (PIPES Act of 2020) contains a self-executing mandate requiring operators to update their inspection and maintenance plans to address eliminating hazardous leaks and minimizing releases of natural gas (including intentional venting during normal operations) from their pipeline facilities. Operators must also revise their plans to address the replacement or remediation of pipeline facilities that are known to leak based on their material, design, or past operating and maintenance history. The statute requires pipeline operators to complete these updates by December 27, 2021.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sayler Palabrica, by phone at 202-366-0559 or by email at *Sayler.Palabrica@dot.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Natural gas is composed primarily of methane, therefore leaks and other releases of natural gas emit methane gas into the atmosphere. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), methane is a potent greenhouse gas with a global warming potential (GWP) of 28–36 over 100 years.<sup>1</sup> Compared to carbon dioxide, methane gas has a stronger warming effect, but a shorter lifespan in the atmosphere. Due to the high GWP and short lifespan of methane gas in the atmosphere, minimizing releases of natural gas (both fugitive and vented emissions) has relatively near-term benefits to mitigating the consequences of climate change. Likewise, remediation or replacement of pipeline facilities that

are known to leak based on material, design or past operating and maintenance history can result in enhanced public safety, environmental protection, and economic benefits.

The “Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of 2020” (Pub. L. 116-260, Division R; “PIPES Act of 2020”) was signed into law on December 27, 2020. This law contains several provisions that specifically address the elimination of hazardous leaks and minimization of releases of natural gas from pipeline facilities. Section 114(b) of the PIPES Act of 2020 contains self-executing provisions that apply directly to pipeline operators. This section requires each pipeline operator to update its inspection and maintenance plan required under 49 U.S.C. 60108(a) no later than one year after the date of enactment of the PIPES Act of 2020 (*i.e.*, by December 27, 2021) to address the elimination of hazardous leaks and minimization of releases of natural gas (including, and not limited to, intentional venting during normal operations) from the operators’ pipeline facilities (49 U.S.C. 60108(a)(2)(D)). The PIPES Act of 2020 also requires those plans to address the replacement or remediation of pipelines that are known to leak due to their material (including cast iron, unprotected steel, wrought iron, and historic plastics with known issues), design, or past operating and maintenance history (49 U.S.C. 60108(a)(2)(E)). In addition, 49 U.S.C. 60108(a)(2) requires that operators continue updating these plans to meet the requirements of any future regulations related to leak detection and repair that are promulgated under 49 U.S.C. 60102(q).

**Advisory Bulletin (ADB-2021-01)**

*To:* Owners and Operators of Gas and Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Facilities.

*Subject:* Statutory Mandate to Update Inspection and Maintenance Plans to Address Eliminating Hazardous Leaks and Minimizing Releases of Natural Gas from Pipeline Facilities.

*Advisory:* The PIPES Act of 2020 contains self-executing provisions requiring pipeline facility operators to update their inspection and maintenance plans to address the elimination of hazardous leaks and minimization of releases of natural gas (including, and not limited to, intentional venting during normal operations) from their systems before December 27, 2021. PHMSA expects that operators will comply with the inspection and maintenance plan revisions required in the PIPES Act of 2020 by revising their operations and

<sup>1</sup>“Understanding Global Warming Potentials,” U.S. EPA, available at <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/understanding-global-warming-potentials>.

maintenance (O&M) plans required under 49 CFR 192.605, 193.2017, and 195.402, to address the elimination of hazardous leaks and minimize releases of natural gas from pipeline facilities. The plans must also address the replacement or remediation of pipelines that are known to leak due to their material (including cast iron, unprotected steel, wrought iron, and historic plastics with known issues), design, or past O&M history. The plans must in be in writing, tailored to the operator's pipeline facilities, supported by technical analysis where necessary, and sufficiently detailed to clearly describe the manner in which each requirement is met. For additional guidance on O&M plans for hazardous liquid and natural gas pipeline facilities, see "Operations & Maintenance Enforcement Guidance," part 192 subparts L and M, page 17, available at <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/sites/phmsa.dot.gov/files/docs/regulatory-compliance/pipeline/enforcement/5776/o-m-enforcement-guidance-part-192-7-21-2017.pdf>; and "Operations & Maintenance Enforcement Guidance," part 195 subpart F, page 18, available at <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/sites/phmsa.dot.gov/files/docs/regulatory-compliance/pipeline/enforcement/5781/o-m-enforcement-guidance-part-195-7-21-2017.pdf>.

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 60108(a)(3), as amended by section 114(a) of the PIPES Act of 2020, PHMSA and state authorities with a certification under 49 U.S.C. 60105 will inspect operators' revised O&M plans in calendar year 2022, and such inspections must be completed by December 27, 2022. During these inspections, PHMSA, or the relevant state authority, is required to evaluate whether the plans adequately address items listed in section 114 of the PIPES Act of 2020.

Operators need to consider the following items as they update their plans to comply with section 114 of the PIPES Act of 2020:

- O&M plans must be detailed to address the elimination of hazardous leaks and minimization of releases of natural gas from the operators' pipeline facilities; meaning pipeline operators must update their plans to minimize, among other things, fugitive emissions and vented emissions from pipeline facilities. PHMSA and state inspections, therefore, will evaluate the steps taken to prevent and mitigate both unintentional, fugitive emissions as well as intentional, vented emissions. Fugitive emissions include any unintentional leaks from equipment such as pipelines, flanges, valves, meter sets, or other equipment. Vented

emissions include any release of natural gas to the atmosphere due to equipment design or operations and maintenance procedures. Common sources of vented emissions include pneumatic device bleeds, blowdowns, incomplete combustion, or overpressure protection venting (e.g., relief valves).

- O&M plans must address the replacement or remediation of pipelines that are known to leak based on the material (including cast iron, unprotected steel, wrought iron, and historic plastics with known issues), design, or past operating and maintenance history of the pipeline. PHMSA and state inspections will include an evaluation of how the material present in the pipeline system, design of the system, as well as the past O&M history of the system, contribute to the leaks that occur on the system. PHMSA and states will evaluate whether the plans adequately address reducing leaks on operators' pipeline systems due to the aforementioned factors.

- Operators must carry out a current, written O&M plan to address public safety and the protection of the environment. In addition to the new statutory requirement that PHMSA and state inspections consider the extent to which the plans will contribute to the elimination of hazardous leaks and minimizing releases of natural gas from pipeline facilities, PHMSA's inspections will continue to include an evaluation of the extent to which the plans contribute to both public safety and the protection of the environment.

Developing and implementing comprehensive written O&M plans is an effective way to eliminate hazardous leaks and minimize the release of natural gas from pipeline systems. PHMSA anticipates these self-executing statutory mandates will result in enhanced public safety and reductions in pipeline emissions thereby reducing impact on the environment.

Issued in Washington, DC, on June 4, 2021, under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.97.

**Alan K. Mayberry,**

*Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.*

[FR Doc. 2021-12155 Filed 6-9-21; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-60-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

### Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

[Docket ID OCC-2021-0010]

#### Mutual Savings Association Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Department of the Treasury, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC).

**ACTION:** Notice of federal advisory committee meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The OCC announces a meeting of the Mutual Savings Association Advisory Committee (MSAAC).

**DATES:** A virtual public meeting of the MSAAC will be held on Tuesday, June 29, 2021, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

**ADDRESSES:** The OCC will host the June 29, 2021 meeting of the MSAAC virtually.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Michael R. Brickman, Deputy Comptroller for Thrift Supervision, (202) 649-5420, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Washington, DC 20219. You also may access prior MSAAC meeting materials on the MSAAC page of the OCC's website at Mutual Savings Association Advisory Committee.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the authority of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, and the regulations implementing the Act at 41 CFR part 102-3, the OCC is announcing that the MSAAC will convene a virtual meeting on Tuesday, June 29, 2021. The meeting is open to the public and will begin at 9:00 a.m. EDT. The purpose of the meeting is for the MSAAC to advise the OCC on regulatory or other changes the OCC may make to ensure the health and viability of mutual savings associations. The agenda includes a discussion of current topics of interest to the industry.

Members of the public may submit written statements to the MSAAC. The OCC must receive written statements no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on Thursday, June 24, 2021. Members of the public may submit written statements to [MSAAC@occ.treas.gov](mailto:MSAAC@occ.treas.gov).

Members of the public who plan to attend the virtual meeting should contact the OCC by 5:00 p.m. EDT on Thursday, June 24, 2021, to inform the OCC of their desire to attend the meeting and to obtain information about participating in the meeting. Members of the public may contact the OCC via email at [MSAAC@OCC.treas.gov](mailto:MSAAC@OCC.treas.gov) or by