

5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

If you wish to receive confirmation of receipt of your written comments, please include a self-addressed, stamped postcard with the following statement: "Comments on PHMSA–2017–0094" for the USA definitions and/or "Comments on PHMSA–2018–0026" for public awareness and engagement. The docket clerk will date stamp the postcard prior to returning it to you via the U.S. mail.

Privacy Act Statement

DOT may solicit comments from the public regarding certain general notices. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to <https://www.regulations.gov>, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL–14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <https://www.dot.gov/privacy>.

Services for Individuals with Disabilities: The public meeting will be physically accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals requiring accommodations, such as sign language interpretation or other ancillary aids, are asked to notify Dr. Christie Murray at christie.murray@dot.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about the meeting, contact Dr. Christie Murray by phone at 202–366–4996 or by email at christie.murray@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 19 of the Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of 2016 (Pub. L. 114–183) required PHMSA to amend the USA definition to include the Great Lakes, coastal beaches and marine coastal waters. Proximity to a USA is one method to determine whether a pipeline could affect an HCA. GIS data of USAs are available by request for liquid pipeline operators. The definition of a USA is established in 49 CFR 195.6. Hazardous liquid pipelines that could affect HCA areas are subject to certain integrity management and reporting regulations. To address this mandate, PHMSA must define, identify data sources, and maintain a map of these areas in the National Pipeline Mapping System. In November 2017, PHMSA held a public meeting where stakeholders provided feedback on definition and data source options. Since then, PHMSA conducted research to determine the availability and quality of source data recommended at the November 2017 public meeting, and the level of effort to create and maintain the

proposed GIS data. Additionally, PHMSA analyzed HCA data, including a July 2018 update to the Ecological USA data, to identify existing gaps and overlaps of coverage in the coastal areas of interest.

PHMSA advances pipeline safety by providing oversight of public awareness safety regulations and sets the national safety outreach and engagement agenda by engaging with pipeline stakeholders to proactively determine the most effective methods to inform the public, emergency responders, excavators, land use planners and others regarding the shared responsibility of pipeline safety. Sections 192.616 and 195.440 require pipeline operators to develop and implement public awareness programs that follow the guidance provided by the American Petroleum Institute (API) Recommended Practice 1162, "Public Awareness Programs for Pipeline Operators." Stakeholders will have an opportunity to participate in pipeline safety discussions, including federal and state regulators, trade associations, pipeline operators, the public, emergency response officials, land planners, and excavators.

II. Meeting Details and Agenda

The meeting agenda will include briefings on topics such as amending applicable USA definitions, pipeline safety, public awareness and engagement, risk communications, API RP 1162, voluntary information sharing, risk communications, national pipeline mapping system, and more.

PHMSA will publish the agenda on the PHMSA meeting page at <https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/meetings/MtgHome.mtg?mtg=142>, once it is finalized.

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 22, 2019, under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.97.

Alan K. Mayberry,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

[Docket No. PHMSA–2017–0044; Docket No. PHMSA–2017–0045; Docket No. PHMSA–2017–0046; Docket No. PHMSA–2017–0047]

Pipeline Safety: Request for Special Permit; Alaska Gasline Development Corporation

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: PHMSA is publishing this notice to seek public comments on four special permit requests received from the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC). AGDC is seeking compliance relief from certain requirements in the federal pipeline safety regulations for the construction of an integrated liquefied natural gas project with interdependent facilities for transporting and liquefying supplies of natural gas in Alaska.

DATES: Submit any comments regarding this special permit request by July 29, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Comments should reference the docket number for the specific special permit request and may be submitted in the following ways:

- *E-Gov website:* <http://www.Regulations.gov>. This site allows the public to enter comments on any **Federal Register** notice issued by any agency.
- *Fax:* 1–202–493–2251.
- *Mail:* Docket Management System: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.
- *Hand Delivery:* Docket Management System: U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M–30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays.

Instructions: At the beginning of your comments, you should identify the docket number for the special permit request you are commenting on. If you submit your comments by mail, please submit two copies. To receive confirmation that PHMSA has received your comments, please include a self-addressed stamped postcard. Internet users may submit comments at <http://www.Regulations.gov>.

Note: Comments are posted including any personal information provided, without changes or edits to <http://www.Regulations.gov>. There is a privacy statement published on <http://www.Regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

General: Ms. Kay McIver by telephone at 202–366–0113, or email at kay.mciver@dot.gov.

Technical: Mr. Joshua Johnson by telephone at 816–329–3825, or email at Joshua.Johnson@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: AGDC plans to construct one integrated liquefied natural gas (LNG) project

(Project) with interdependent facilities for transporting and liquefying supplies of natural gas in Alaska, from the Point Thompson Unit (PTU) and Prudhoe Bay Unit (PBU) production fields on the Alaska North Slope to the proposed LNG Liquefaction Facility located in the Kenai Peninsula of Alaska.

The overall proposed LNG Project includes:

- Approximately 807-miles of 42-inch gas pipeline (Mainline Pipeline);
- A LNG liquefaction facility located in the Kenai Peninsula Borough and Cook Inlet Area of Alaska;
- A gas treatment plant (GTP) with the Prudhoe Bay Unit (PBU) on the North Slope;
- Approximately 63-mile gas transmission line connecting the GTP to the PTU gas production facility, and
- Approximately 1-mile gas transmission line connecting GTP to the PBU gas production facility.

The route of the 42-inch pipeline originates in the North Slope Borough and traverses the Yukon-Koyukuk

Census Area, the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the Denali Borough, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and terminates at the LNG Liquefaction Facility. The LNG Project will offer natural gas that has been processed into LNG for export in foreign commerce and opportunities for in-state deliveries of natural gas. The maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) of the Mainline Pipeline will be 2,075 psi. The Mainline Pipeline is essential for the export of natural gas in foreign commerce and will have a nominal design life of 30 years.

PHMSA has received four special permit requests from the AGDC seeking relief from compliance with certain Federal pipeline safety regulations. The requests apply to the following areas:

- (1) Strain Based Design;
- (2) Transmission Mainline Block Valve Spacing;
- (3) Crack Arrestor Spacing; and
- (4) Three-Layer Polyethylene Coating.

Each request includes technical analysis, draft special permit

conditions, draft environmental assessments, and location maps (other details deemed necessary) provided by the operator and filed at <http://www.Regulations.gov>, under the assigned docket numbers. We invite interested persons to participate by reviewing these special permit requests and their associated draft environmental assessments and a PHMSA prepared draft special permit with conditions at <http://www.Regulations.gov>, and by submitting written comments, data or other views. Please include any comments on potential safety and environmental impacts that may result if these special permits are granted.

Before issuing a decision on these special permit requests, PHMSA will evaluate all comments received on or before the 60-day comment period closing date. If it is possible to do so without incurring additional expense or delays, comments received after the closing date will be evaluated.

The four special permit requests are as follows:

Docket No.	Requester	Regulation(s)	Nature of special permit
PHMSA-2017-0044	Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC).	49 CFR 192.103, 192.105, 192.317, and 192.620.	To authorize AGDC to use Strain-Based Design (SBD) for the construction of discrete and specified segments of the pipeline. The proposed SBD segments would consist of a 42-inch diameter pipe with a 0.862-inch wall thickness, constructed in accordance with API 5L Grade X70 specifications. The segments are in the Yukon-Kuyokuk and Denali boroughs, are entirely within Class 1 locations, and not in any high consequence areas. The Project will be a new 42-inch diameter natural gas pipeline of approximately 807 miles. It will originate at the Gas Treatment Plant on the Alaska North Slope site and terminate at the LNG Liquefaction Facility in the Cook Inlet, Alaska. The proposed SBD segments would have a MAOP of 2,075 psi. 49 CFR 192.103 requires pipe to be designed with sufficient wall thickness, or must be installed with adequate protection, to withstand anticipated external pressures and loads that will be imposed on the pipe after installation.
PHMSA-2017-0045	Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC).	49 CFR 192.197(a)(4)	To authorize AGDC to use alternatives to mainline block valve spacing of up to 50 miles in the very sparsely populated region north of Fairbanks borough in Alaska, and up to 30 miles spacing south of Fairbanks in Class 1 locations. 49 CFR 192.179(a)(4) requires a maximum Class 1 location valve spacing of 20-miles.
PHMSA-2017-0046	Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC).	49 CFR 192.112(f)(1)	To authorize AGDC to use three-layer polyethylene coatings on all Mainline pipeline segments that are built to comply with alternative MAOP requirements. 49 CFR 192.112(f)(1) requires a non-shielding external pipe coating.
PHMSA-2017-0047	Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC).	49 CFR 192.112(b)	To authorize AGDC to use crack arrestor spacing of up to 1,600 feet on all Mainline pipeline segments that are built to comply with alternative MAOP pressure requirements. 49 CFR 192.112(b)(2)(iii) gives requirements for fracture arrest based upon pipe lengths. 49 CFR 192.112(b)(3) outlines alternative arrest methods.

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 22, 2019, under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.97.

Alan K. Mayberry,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

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