
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 931 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, COSTA, RAFFERTY, FOLMER AND MENSCH,
NOVEMBER 1, 2017

REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
NOVEMBER 1, 2017

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 66 (Public Utilities) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in service and facilities, providing
3 for pipeline safety valves.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Chapter 15 of Title 66 of the Pennsylvania
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subchapter to read:

8 SUBCHAPTER C

9 PIPELINE SAFETY VALVES

10 Sec.

11 1541. Definitions.

12 1542. Automatic or remote controlled shutoff valves for gas
13 transmission pipelines.

14 1543. Automatic or remote controlled shutoff valves for
15 hazardous liquids transmission pipelines.

16 1544. Penalties.

17 § 1541. Definitions.

18 The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter

1 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
2 context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Gas." As defined in 49 CFR 192.3 (relating to definitions).

4 "Gas high consequence area." A "high consequence area" as
5 defined in 49 CFR 192.903 (relating to what definitions apply to
6 this subpart?).

7 "Hazardous liquid." As defined in 49 CFR 195.2 (relating to
8 definitions).

9 "Hazardous liquid high consequence area." Any of the
10 following:

11 (1) A commercially navigable waterway where a
12 substantial likelihood of commercial navigation exists.

13 (2) A high population area defined and delineated by the
14 United States Census Bureau, as containing 50,000 or more
15 people and has a population density of at least 1,000 people
16 per square mile.

17 (3) An other populated area defined and delineated by
18 the United States Census Bureau, as containing a concentrated
19 population, including, but not limited to, an incorporated or
20 unincorporated city, town, village or other designated
21 residential or commercial area.

22 (4) An unusually sensitive area as defined in 49 CFR
23 195.6 (relating to Unusually Sensitive Areas (USAs)),
24 including a Class 1b aquifer, a lithology of which includes
25 limestone, dolomite and locally evaporitic units that contain
26 documented karst features or solution channels regardless of
27 size.

28 "Shutoff valve." A mechanical device used to control the
29 flow of gas or liquid that may be used solely for fully open or
30 closed applications, to control the direction of flow or to

1 throttle flow or regulate pressure. The term includes a plug
2 valve, ball valve, globe valve and gate valve.

3 "Transmission." The transportation, other than gathering, of
4 gas through a transmission line as that term is defined in 49
5 CFR 192.3 (relating to definitions) or of hazardous liquids
6 through a pipeline as that term is defined in 49 CFR 195.2
7 (relating to definitions).

8 § 1542. Automatic or remote controlled shutoff valves for gas
9 transmission pipelines.

10 (a) General rule.--All facilities of a public utility
11 engaged in the transmission of gas placed into service after the
12 effective date of this section shall have automatic or remote
13 controlled shutoff valves installed as provided in this section.

14 (b) Installation.--In addition to any other valves installed
15 by the public utility, the public utility shall install at least
16 one automatic or remote controlled shutoff valve at each of the
17 following locations and at such other locations as the
18 commission may direct by regulation:

19 (1) within 100 feet of each municipal boundary crossed
20 by the facility; and

21 (2) within 100 feet of the facility's entry and exit of
22 a gas high consequence area.

23 (c) Testing frequency.--The public utility shall test each
24 automatic and remote controlled shutoff valve on an annual
25 basis. Records of the testing shall be provided annually to each
26 municipality in which the automatic or remote controlled shutoff
27 valve is tested.

28 (d) Replacement.--If an automatic or remote controlled
29 shutoff valve does not operate properly when tested, the public
30 utility shall:

1 (1) repair or replace the valve within 72 hours; or
2 (2) if the valve cannot be repaired or replaced within
3 72 hours, place the facility out of service until the valve
4 is repaired or replaced.

5 § 1543. Automatic or remote controlled shutoff valves for
6 hazardous liquids transmission pipelines.

7 (a) General rule.--All facilities of a public utility
8 engaged in the transmission of hazardous liquids placed into
9 service after the effective date of this section shall have
10 automatic or remote controlled shutoff valves installed as
11 provided in this section.

12 (b) Installation.--In addition to any other valves installed
13 by the public utility, the public utility shall install at least
14 one automatic or remote controlled shutoff valve at each of the
15 following locations and at such other locations as the
16 commission may direct by regulation:

17 (1) within 100 feet of each municipal boundary crossed
18 by the facility; and

19 (2) within 100 feet of the facility's entry and exit of
20 a hazardous liquid high consequence area.

21 (c) Testing frequency.--The public utility shall test each
22 automatic and remote controlled shutoff valve on an annual
23 basis. Records of the testing shall be provided annually to each
24 municipality in which the automatic or remote controlled shutoff
25 valve is tested.

26 (d) Replacement.--If an automatic or remote controlled
27 shutoff valve does not operate properly when tested, the public
28 utility shall:

29 (1) repair or replace the valve within 72 hours; or

30 (2) if the valve cannot be repaired or replaced within

1 72 hours, place the facility out of service until the valve
2 is repaired or replaced.

3 § 1544. Penalties.

4 The commission may, after notice and opportunity to be heard,
5 impose civil penalties under section 3301 (relating to civil
6 penalties for violations) and other appropriate remedies for
7 violations of this subchapter and the regulations and orders of
8 the commission.

9 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.