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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 677 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, LEACH, MUTH AND SCHWANK, JUNE 5, 2019

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REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,  
JUNE 5, 2019

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AN ACT

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

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

10 Sec.

11 1541. Definitions.

12 1542. Pipeline remaining life evaluation.

13 § 1541. Definitions.

14 The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter  
15 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
16 context clearly indicates otherwise:

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

18 "Hazardous liquid." As defined in 49 CFR 195.2 (relating to

1 definitions).

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

6 § 1542. Pipeline remaining life evaluation.

7 (a) Remaining life evaluation required.--Each public utility  
8 owning or operating a facility engaged in the transmission of  
9 gas or hazardous liquids in this Commonwealth shall consult a  
10 qualified independent consultant to conduct and submit to the  
11 commission an evaluation of the remaining safe life of the  
12 public utilities pipeline, as the commission shall require.

13 (b) Evaluation requirements.--No later than 90 days  
14 following the effective date of this section, the commission  
15 shall establish, by regulation or order, the procedures to  
16 implement this section. A remaining life evaluation conducted  
17 under this section must include the following components:

18 (1) the corrosion growth rate of the pipeline based on  
19 the most recent In-Line-Inspection run sectionalized as  
20 appropriate and supporting documentation;

21 (2) retirement thickness calculations that consider  
22 pressure design thickness and minimum structural thickness;

23 (3) remaining life calculations by segment, age, coating  
24 type and soil conditions;

25 (4) a schedule identifying portions of the pipeline to  
26 be replaced or remediated over the next five years;

27 (5) a summary of the portions of the pipeline that were  
28 previously retired with an explanation of the characteristics  
29 of the pipeline sections that led to the replacements;

30 (6) a listing and description of threats specific to the

1 pipeline, with a summary of how each threat and the  
2 associated risks are mitigated;

3 (7) a summary of the top 10 highest risks identified on  
4 the pipeline with an explanation as to how the risks are  
5 mitigated;

6 (8) an explanation of how anomalies, dents and ovalities  
7 are formed on the pipeline and addressed by mitigative  
8 measures;

9 (9) a summary of the leak history on the pipeline  
10 including a description of the size of each leak;

11 (10) a discussion of the history of the pipeline,  
12 including when cathodic protection was installed, when  
13 coating was applied and the various measures performed by the  
14 public utility, including the implementation of new  
15 procedures;

16 (11) a discussion illustrating how managing integrity  
17 lengthens pipeline life; and

18 (12) any other information required by the commission.

19 (c) Qualified independent consultant.--The commission shall  
20 establish, by regulation or order, the procedure by which a  
21 qualified independent consultant is selected under this  
22 subsection. The commission, after consultation with the public  
23 utility, shall select the qualified independent consultant to  
24 conduct the remaining life evaluation and require the public  
25 utility to enter into a contract with the selected consultant  
26 providing for payment of the consultant by the public utility.  
27 The terms of the contract shall include all reasonable expenses  
28 directly related to the completion and review of the evaluation.  
29 A selected qualified independent consultant must have experience  
30 conducting independent studies for, but not limited to,

1 governmental entities with regulatory authority over public  
2 utilities engaged in the transmission of gas or hazardous  
3 liquids.

4 (d) Public report.--The commission shall post a summary of  
5 the remaining life evaluation on its publicly accessible  
6 Internet website. The summary shall exclude any proprietary or  
7 confidential security information as determined by the  
8 commission.

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