CA Pipeline Safety Program

Safety and Enforcement Division
Gas Safety & Reliability Branch
California Public Utilities Commission
Mission

“To ensure that intrastate natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas (Propane) pipeline systems are designed, constructed, operated, and maintained according to safety standards set by the CPUC and the federal government”
Federal & CPUC Safety Standards

- Part 191 (Annual Reports, Incident Reports, Safety Related Condition Reports)
- Part 192 (Minimum Safety Standards)
- General Order 112F (California)
PHMSA
Authority of the CPUC

- CPUC is an Intrastate Agent for PHMSA
- 49 U.S.C. §§ 60105, 60106 certification
- Utilities, MHPs, LNG, municipalities
Jurisdictional Metrics

❖ Distribution:

2017 – 200,466 Miles (mains and services)
❑ 1st in the Nation (TX, IL, OH, MI)
Jurisdictional Metrics

- Transmission:
  - 2017 – 10,400 Miles
  - 5th behind (TX, LA, KS, OK)
- HCA – 2,838 Miles (~27%)
Operators

- Plastic 56%
- Steel 36%
- Other 8%

Note – “Other” = bare steel protected/unprotected, coated steel unprotected, wrought iron & copper
Operators

- 11 NG Operators
- 11 Storage Fields
- 2,415 Master Meters
- 651 LPG
- 11 Municipalities
Pipeline Safety Team

- 34 Gas Safety Engineers
- 1 Damage Prevention Expert
- 6 Supervisory
- 3 Administrative Staff
CPUC – Safety Assurance
Core Work

- Inspections (Audits)
- Incident investigations
- Whistleblower investigations
- Field Inspections (Construction, TIMP, DIMP, Distribution maintenance)
- Gas Safety Enforcement
Inspection Types

- O&M
- TIMP, DIMP, OQ
- Emergency Management
- D&A, CRM, PAP, Damage Prevention
- Construction
San Bruno Incident
(September 9, 2010)

- Pipeline Failure of 30” Transmission Line in San Bruno, CA
- 8 Fatalities, numerous injuries
- Pipeline had MAOP established under 49 CFR §192.619C
- NTSB Accident Report identified exemptions for pre-code pipelines from pressure testing as a contributing factor to the failure
Post San Bruno Pipeline Safety Enhancements

- In 2011, Public Utilities Code Section 958 was Passed (Hydro-test or replace pipelines).
- The CPUC inspectors with the assistance of PHMSA conducted special inspections of Pacific Gas and Electric.
- In April 2014, the CPUC contracted with Crowe and Horwath to conduct an operations and management review of the CPUC.
Post San Bruno Pipeline Safety Enhancements

- CPUC has implemented an acceptable response to the five NTSB recommendations, and three of those recommendations have been successfully closed
  - Closed NTSB recommendation P-10-7 on notifications to utilities,
  - Closed NTSB recommendation P-10-5 on PG&E Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure,
  - Closed NTSB recommendation P-11-22 to conduct audits of PG&E with PHMSA
Progress Update of PU Code §958
CA – NG Transmission

- Pressure Tested: ~875 Miles, 12 Failures
- Replaced: ~190 Miles
- Remaining Transmission Lines to be either Pressure Tested or Replaced: ~3,027 Miles

- Estimated time to completion:
  - SouthWest Gas: Completed
  - PG&E: 2026
  - SoCalGas and SDG&E: 2036
NG Transmission - Safety Measures

- New Automated Valves (RCV and ASV)
  - 268 (PG&E)
  - 131 (Sempra)
Goals

- Better technology on Inspections
- Process Owners for Specialized Areas
- Continuous Improvement in Pipeline Safety Assurance and Program Performance
- Regionally based Inspectors
Thank you!
For Additional Information:
www.cpuc.ca.gov