RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
Oversight and Safety Division

NOTICE TO PIPELINE OPERATORS

Update to T4 Shapefile Requirements

In response to Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's rule amendments to 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 192, regarding Transportation of Natual and Other Gas By Pipeline, all T4 shapefiles with NGG (Natural Gas Gathering) lines will be required to include several new attribute fields. The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) has launched a new internal GIS toolbar to validate these new attributes at the end of January 2024. After this date, any shapefiles submitted to the RRC missing the new required attribute fields will be rejected.

The RRC will be holding an educational webinar in early January 2024 to review the new shapefile requirements.

Shapefiles for NGG lines will require seven additional attribute fields to be included, which will be outlined in the updated guide to shapefile submissions.

1. PL_MAT_MTL
2. MAOP_PSIG
3. SMYS
4. AREA_2A
5. AREA_2B
6. AREA_2C
7. PL_TYPE (as defined by the table below):

Gas Gathering Pipeline Table Courtesy of 49CFR 192.8(c)(2)

Type	Feature	Area	Additional Safety buffer
A	—Metallic and the MAOP produces a hoop stress of 20 percent or more of SMYS. —If the stress level is unknown, an operator must determine the stress level according to the applicable provisions in subpart C of this part. —Non-metallic and the MAOP is more than 125 psig (862 kPa).	Class 2, 3, or 4 location (see § 192.5).	None.

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B	—Metallic and the MAOP produces a hoop stress of less than 20 percent of SMYS. If the stress level is unknown, an operator must determine the stress level according to the applicable provisions in subpart C of this part —Non-metallic and the MAOP is 125 psig (862 kPa) or less	*Area 1*. Class 3, or 4 location *Area 2*. An area within a Class 2 location the operator determines by using any of the following three methods: (a) A Class 2 location; (b) An area extending 150 feet (45.7 m) on each side of the centerline of any continuous 1 mile (1.6 km) of pipeline and including more than 10 but fewer than 46 dwellings; or (c) An area extending 150 feet (45.7 m) on each side of the centerline of any continuous 1000 feet (305 m) of pipeline and including 5 or more dwellings.	If the gathering pipeline is in Area 2(b) or 2(c), the additional lengths of line extend upstream and downstream from the area to a point where the line is at least 150 feet (45.7 m) from the nearest dwelling in the area. However, if a cluster of dwellings in Area 2(b) or 2(c) qualifies a pipeline as Type B, the Type B classification ends 150 feet (45.7 m) from the nearest dwelling in the cluster.
C	Outside diameter greater than or equal to 8.625 inches and any of the following: —Metallic and the MAOP produces a hoop stress of 20 percent or more of SMYS; —If the stress level is unknown, segment is metallic and the MAOP is more than 125 psig (862 kPa); or —Non-metallic and the MAOP is more than 125 psig (862 kPa).	Class 1 location	None
R	—All other onshore gathering lines	Class 1 and Class 2 locations	None.

The updated guide to shapefile submissions will be available on our website in January 2024. The current version is available on the RRC website at https://www.rrc.texas.gov/pipeline-safety/permitting-and-mapping.

If there are any questions or to request the updated requirements document, please contact the RRC's Pipeline Mapping Department at tpms@rrc.texas.gov or 512-463-6802.

Please Forward to the Appropriate Section of Your Company