



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL

State of Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control Gas Pipeline Safety Unit

Pipeline Safety Jurisdiction

The United States Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has the regulatory safety authority over interstate natural gas transmission companies (such as Algonquin Gas Transmission, Iroquois Gas Transmission, and Tennessee Gas Pipeline) and intrastate natural gas distribution companies (such as Yankee Gas, Connecticut Natural Gas, and Southern Connecticut Gas) operating in the United States. Under the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, as amended, the State of Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) obtains annual certification from PHMSA to take back the jurisdiction over intrastate gas operators in Connecticut. In addition, the DPUC operates under an interstate agent agreement (agreement) with PHMSA, and acts as the inspection agent for PHMSA for interstate gas pipelines in Connecticut. Under the terms of the agreement, the DPUC performs safety inspections of interstate gas pipelines operating within the State of Connecticut. PHMSA retains regulatory enforcement authority under the terms of the agreement. The DPUC's safety jurisdiction includes the design, installation, commissioning, operation, maintenance, integrity management, decommissioning of gas pipeline facilities and the qualification of personnel that operate those facilities. The DPUC receives a Federal grant from PHMSA that covers approximately 60% of all safety-related expenses.

Gas Pipeline Safety Unit

The Gas Pipeline Safety Unit (GPSU) of the DPUC is responsible for the safety inspection and oversight of gas operators in Connecticut and the enforcement of the state's damage prevention program. The GPSU consists of a staff of 3.5 employees dedicated to pipeline safety and 1.5 employees dedicated to the damage prevention program. The Gas Pipeline Safety Unit uses a combination of field inspections of new construction, and operation and maintenance of pipeline facilities and plants, as well as reviews of company plans, procedures, standards, policies and records, to ensure compliance with the applicable safety requirements, Department orders and any additional safety measures that are deemed appropriate by the Department.

The GPSU is staffed by professionals with over 50 years of combined experience in the field of gas pipeline safety and damage prevention. Connecticut is one of only nine states within the United States operating under an interstate agent agreement with PHMSA to inspect interstate gas pipelines. Each year PHMSA dispatches a representative to perform a comprehensive audit of Connecticut's gas pipeline safety program. The latest audit was performed in June 2009 and Connecticut received yet another perfect score of 100% for its implementation and management of its gas pipeline safety program.