

Master Meter Public Awareness

PHMSA released the public awareness regulation on May 19, 2005. This regulation required all pipeline operators to develop a written public awareness plan following the American Petroleum Institute Recommended Practice 1162 (APIRP 1162). Following this regulation, the American Public Gas Association (APGA) requested an amendment that master meter operators be exempt from this regulation. On December 13, 2007 an amendment released by PHMSA became effective that relaxed the public awareness rule for master meter operators. The amendment states that master meters do not have to comply with the requirements of the public awareness rule in the same fashion as all other gas operators. However the master meter is required to develop and implement a written procedure to provide its customers public awareness messages twice annually. This message must include:

- (1) A description of the purpose and reliability of the pipeline;
- (2) An overview of the hazards of the pipeline and prevention measures used;
- (3) Information about damage prevention;
- (4) How to recognize and respond to a leak; and
- (5) How to get additional information.

The final rule states that the master meters must be compliant within 6 months of the date of publication. This gives the master meters until June 13, 2008 to be in compliance.