



## Gas Leak Event Notification and Reporting Requirements involving Jurisdictional Propane Pipeline Systems in Vermont

### Regulatory Reference

- 49CFR191.3 Definitions
- 49CFR191.5 Immediate notice of certain incidents
- 49CFR191.9 Distribution system: Incident report
- PSBR 6.160 Accidents and Emergencies

Gas Leak Incidents/Emergencies, as defined by the Code of Federal Regulations Title 49(49CFR) and the Vermont Public Service Board Rules (PSBR), must be reported to the state of Vermont and the US Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). Please note the property damage criteria for notification are different for Vermont and PHMSA reports. When damage is \$5,000 or more, the state of Vermont must be immediately notified by telephone. When damage is \$50,000 or more, both the state of Vermont and PHMSA must be notified and a completed PHMSA F 7100.1 form must be provided to the Vermont Public Service Department (PSD) within 48 hours of discovery of the incident.

49CFR defines a reportable gas leak incident.

### §191.3

**Incident** means any of the following events:

*(1) An event that involves a release of gas from a pipeline, or of liquefied natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, refrigerant gas, or gas from an LNG facility, and that results in one or more of the following consequences:*

*(i) A death, or personal injury necessitating in-patient hospitalization;*

*(ii) Estimated property damage of \$50,000 or more, including loss to the operator and others, or both, but excluding cost of gas lost;*

*(iii) Unintentional estimated gas loss of three million cubic feet or more;*

*(2) An event that results in an emergency shutdown of an LNG facility. Activation of an emergency shutdown system for reasons other than an actual emergency does not constitute an incident.*

*(3) An event that is significant<sup>1</sup>, in the judgment of the operator, even though it did not meet the criteria of paragraphs (1) or (2) of this definition.*

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<sup>1</sup> See page 3, of this document, for description of significant event



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49CFR describes the notification responsibilities of a gas operator in the event of a gas leak incident.

*§191.5 Immediate notice of certain incidents.*

*(a) At the earliest practicable moment following discovery, each operator shall give notice in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section of each incident as defined in Sec. 191.3.*

*(b) Each notice required by paragraph (a) of this section must be made to the National Response Center either by telephone to 800-424-8802 (in Washington, DC, 202-267-2675) or electronically at <http://www.nrc.uscg.mil> and must include the following information:*

- (1) Names of operator and person making report and their telephone numbers.*
- (2) The location of the incident.*
- (3) The time of the incident.*
- (4) The number of fatalities and personal injuries, if any.*
- (5) All other significant facts that are known by the operator that are relevant to the cause of the incident or extent of the damages.*

The PSBR also addresses notification of gas leak emergencies.

### *6.160 Accidents and Emergencies*

*Accidents occurring on gas transmission or distribution systems and facilities and causing in-patient hospitalization or death to any person or persons, or damage to property in excess of \$5,000, shall be reported immediately to the Board and Department of Public Service by telephone or other means of prompt notification.*

*Every Gas Corporation operating a gas transmission or distribution system in the State of Vermont shall file with the Department of Public Service and the Board and with every municipality within which the gas transmission distribution system is located, the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two responsible officials of such gas corporations who may be contacted in the event of an emergency.*



## **Gas Leak Event Notification and Reporting Requirements involving Jurisdictional Propane Pipeline Systems in Vermont**

Upon knowledge of an incident/emergency (as described in 49CFR.191.3 and PSBR 6.160) or a significant event (situations involving a gas leak where the general public is evacuated, a road is closed or the media is involved), the gas operator must make immediate personal contact with a representative of the Vermont Department of Public Service.

The gas operator must also contact the Vermont Public Service Board to report these events.

### **1. The Vermont Department of Public Service**

- A. GC Morris, Gas Engineer:  
(802) 828- 4073, or cell (802) 343-3758

If direct contact is not made by calling the phone numbers above, leave a message (including the information elements described in §191.5 (see pg.2)), then proceed to the next number until an actual person is contacted.

- B. Bill Jordan, Acting Director of Engineering:  
(802) 828- 4038, or cell (802) 522-3959

### **2. The Vermont Public Service Board**

- A. John Bentley: (802) 828- 2358.

If this is not during normal business hours, the gas operator should leave a message at this number (including the five information items described in §191.5), then place an additional call to the number below.

- B. John Bentley:  
(802) 223- 2291.

If he is not available, leave a message (including the five information items described in §191.5)