

RECOMMENDED PIPELINE SAFETY PRACTICES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

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As communities develop and expand, new businesses and housing developments are affecting the nation's existing pipeline infrastructure. These changes have implications for the more than 183,000 miles of hazardous liquid pipelines and more than 299,000 miles of natural gas transmission pipelines that move energy throughout the U.S. every day.ⁱ Since county governments maintain a number of public facilities and make local land use and development decisions, it is important for county leaders be aware of how these responsibilities impact existing pipeline infrastructure.

All pipeline safety is regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). PHMSA believes that effective pipeline safety is a responsibility shared by all levels of government – federal, state and local – as well as by pipeline operators and landowners. As a result, in 2010 PHMSA convened a group of over 130 stakeholder groups and individuals made up of property developers/owners, local government officials, pipeline operators, real estate commissions and relevant national organizations, including NACo, to form the Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA). PIPA was tasked with generating recommended practices to guide development near transmission pipelines. The Alliance has since developed a suite of guidelines for local governments that review effective ways to apply land use and development authority to communicate and mitigate pipeline risks and promote pipeline safety. Application of these recommended practices provides a means for counties to address pipeline risks in their local communities.

PIPA describes its **Baseline (BL) Recommended Practices** as practices that should be implemented by stakeholders in "preparation for future land use and development," and a number of BL Recommended Practices are specific to local governments.ⁱⁱ

This fact sheet defines each of **PIPA's BL Recommended Practices** for local governments and offers corresponding resources and suggestions to support implementation of each practice.

i "Pipeline Basics" U.S. DOT PHMSA.
<http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/PipelineBasics.htm?nocache=8396>

ii Ibid.



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OBTAIN TRANSMISSION PIPELINE MAPPING DATA.

County government agencies responsible for land use and development planning can obtain mapping data for all transmission pipelines within their jurisdiction.

- Use the **National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS)**. Access the mapping tool here: <http://1.usa.gov/1eidfPU>.
- Local government officials can import the pipeline mapping information into their GIS or mapping systems by visiting this link: <http://1.usa.gov/1iRuTyV>.

UTILIZE INFORMATION REGARDING DEVELOPMENT AROUND TRANSMISSION PIPELINES.

Local government authorities overseeing development can request pipeline data and information from local pipeline operators to establish requirements regarding land use and development around transmission pipelines.

- Use the **Pipeline Association for Public Awareness** chart that explains pipeline marker flag colors and the lines they represent here: <http://bit.ly/1lis2o0>.
- Read U.S. DOT PHMSA's "Building Safe Communities: Pipeline Risk and its Application to Local Development Decisions" report here: <http://1.usa.gov/1iRunRt>.
- Read U.S. DOT PHMSA's "Partnering to Further Enhance Pipeline Safety in Communities Through Risk-Informed Land Use Planning" report here: <http://1.usa.gov/MFqfcj>.

ADOPT TRANSMISSION PIPELINE CONSULTATION ZONE ORDINANCE AND DEFINE PIPELINE CONSULTATION ZONE.

Counties can adopt a consultation zone ordinance to require property developers to consult with transmission pipeline operators throughout the development process. Counties can define the parameters of a consultation zone to ensure communication when new land uses and developments are being planned.

- Read NACo's "Creating Consultation Zones for Pipeline Safety" fact sheet here: <http://bit.ly/RSKtm9>.

IMPLEMENT NEW DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AREAS AROUND TRANSMISSION PIPELINES.

Counties can consider implementing a 'planning area' when new land use or development is planned near transmission pipelines.

- Use PIPA's "Land Use and Development Near Transmission Pipelines: Checklist for Planning, Design, Communication, Permitting, and Site Plan Review" checklist here: <http://bit.ly/1bO02lp>.

HELP IMPROVE STATE EXCAVATION DAMAGE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

Local government stakeholders can help make improvements to state excavation damage prevention programs by supporting the 'Call Before you Dig' Campaign and reducing exemptions from participation in One-Call systems. In most states, One-Call is a free service required by law that can be accessed by calling '811.' A local One-Call representative coordinates with local pipeline operators to mark the location of pipelines before any new excavation (including tree planting, fence and swimming pool installation or any activity requiring digging) takes place. Many counties support the campaign by placing 'Call Before You Dig' information on county websites.

- Learn more about the 'Call Before you Dig' Campaign here: <http://www.call811.com/>.

HALT DANGEROUS EXCAVATION ACTIVITIES NEAR TRANSMISSION PIPELINES.

Local emergency managers and enforcement agencies can work with transmission pipeline operators to thwart dangerous excavation activities that could potentially damage existing pipeline infrastructure.

- Visit the Pipeline Association for Public Awareness's **Tips for Safe Digging Near Pipelines** webpage here: <http://bit.ly/1qMmWwV>.

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