

Oil and Natural Gas Industry Safety Commission

Suggested Recommendations for Consideration by Subcommittees

I. Regulations & Investigation

- Develop a web-based system whereby mapping data for pipeline infrastructure is maintained and accessible by agencies and emergency responders.
- Consider an “impact fee” on well drilling and pipeline infrastructure that would help fund fire/emergency responder training and equipment.
- Establish a requirement that well site/pipeline construction safety/emergency contact information be posted at nearest entrance from a public road leading to construction or drilling location. (*Similar to Pennsylvania requirement*)
- Communication
 - Establish ways to enhance inter-agency notifications/communications among federal (OSHA) and state (WVDEP, PSC and other agencies) when incidents/accidents take place.
 - Map out, review and affirm “natural gas incident” notification/communications protocols within state government.

II. Safety, Training & Best Practices

- Require more LEL detection devices and increased monitoring during certain seasons, climate or atmospheric conditions.
- Toughen penalties (OSHA?) in cases where ignition sources are found at a site. Plan and establish hazard zones around each well location.
- Have the commission undertake a related study on the fire control and suppression capabilities and practices that would be in place and undertaken in the event of catastrophic events at horizontal drilling sites, pipelines or natural gas processing plants.
- Training (From: WVU Safety and Health Extension)
 - Develop statewide training requirements that have clear learning objectives and also meet current industry training requirements.
 - Consider three tracks (site prep, drilling, production). A training model was developed by the original oil and gas safety alliance group that WVU can share.
 - Identify agency to approve curriculum / verify quality of instruction.
 - Include an evaluation component to measure the true impact of the training program on worksite safety.
- Mandate that owners, estimators and mid-level managers complete OSHA 10-hour course.

III. Emergency Response & Notification

- Prior to commencement of activities, require well drilling and pipelines companies to meet in-person and share safety plans with local emergency responders. This gives emergency response personnel with a face-to-face contact to ask questions and a “go to” person if something happens.
- Evaluate the cost-benefit of having the natural gas industry subject to the state’s 811 one-call system.
 - Require for natural gas well/gathering lines in municipalities
- Require that the state’s 15-minute notification law apply to drilling and pipeline construction (over 3 inch lines) activities.
- Require local emergency responders be provided with GPS locational data and updates on construction projects/progress...and regular updates on directions in the event of an emergency.
 - Mandate weekly reports on all gas well/pipeline activities in each of our counties.
- Map out, review and affirm “natural gas incident” notification/communications protocols within state government.

IV. Transportation

- Examine development of an integrated system that can serve as a collection point industry-related accidents and vehicular incidents from among law enforcement, PSC and W.Va. Dept. of Transportation.