

**2016 NEPSR
Pipeline Safety Seminar
South Portland, Maine
October 20, 2016**

Maine

**Gas Safety and Damage
Prevention Programs**

Maine Public Utilities Commission



Pipeline Safety & Damage Prevention Programs

Consumer Assistance and Safety Division

Derek Davidson - Director



Program Personnel

- Pipeline Safety
 - Nathan Dore - Inspector
 - Sean Watson - Inspector
 - Gary Kenny – Program Manager
 - Tammy Chamberlain – Administration
- Damage Prevention
 - Rick LeClair - Investigator
 - Barry Truman – Investigator
 - Tammy Chamberlain – Administration
- Legal
 - Jordan (Jody) McColman - Staff Attorney for Natural Gas Safety, LPG Safety, and Damage Prevention



Intrastate Pipeline Facilities Under MPUC Safety Jurisdiction

As of December 31, 2015

- Transmission Pipelines: 84 miles (four pipelines)
- Distribution Pipelines: 1,171 (four operators)
- Number of services: 34,002
- LNG: One Satellite Facility
- LPG Facilities: 715+/- (31 operators)
- CNG Facility: One Facility



Distribution Main Materials

- Plastic: 897 mi 76.7%
- Protected Steel: 208 mi 17.8%
- Cast Iron: 45 mi 3.8%
- Unprotected Steel: 20 mi 1.7%

Cast Iron and Unprotected Steel
Replacement to be Complete in 2024.
Approx. 7 miles retired in 2015.



Inspections

- 254 Inspection Person Days in 2015
- 2016 and 2017 Focus
 - Transmission pipeline record review.
 - Greater emphasis on the OQ inspections of O&M tasks.
 - Greater emphasis on the inspection of O&M records.
 - Ongoing review of LPG O&M Procedures
 - Five year cycle for LPG system inspections



Enforcement Statistics 2015

- Civil Penalties Issued: \$24,750
 - LPG DIMP deficiencies: \$1,000
 - LPG DIMP deficiencies: \$1,250
 - LPG facility deficiencies: \$8,000
 - Inadequate cover (Maine rule): \$1,000
 - Inadequate separation (Maine rule): \$1,000
 - Inadequate leak surveys (Maine rule): \$5,000
 - Inadequate valve maintenance: \$7,500



Enforcement Statistics 2015

(Continued)

- Civil Penalties Collected: \$113,500
 - Failure to locate other utilities when using HDD: \$100,000 (2014) Reduced from \$150,000
 - LPG DIMP deficiencies: \$1,000 (2015)
 - Inadequate leak surveys: \$5,000 (2015)
 - Inadequate valve maintenance: \$7,500 (2015)
- Civil Penalties Pending from 2014: \$50,000
 - Failure to follow electrofusion procedures: \$30,000
 - Failure to follow butt fusion procedures: \$20,000

Both NOPVs were to the same Operator and were kept open due to subsequently discovered fusion Issues.



Enforcement Statistics 2016 to Date

- Civil Penalties Issued: \$258,000
 - Failure to locate other utilities when using HDD: \$250,000 (Maine Rule)
 - Inadequate OQ when using specialized tapping equipment: \$5,000
 - Inadequate OQ when conducting station maintenance: \$3,000



Enforcement Statistics 2016 to Date (Continued)

- Civil Penalties Collected: \$310,000
 - All 2016 2016 assessed penalties.
 - \$50,000 carried over from 2014
 - The replacement of several hundred electrofusion tees and couplings were associated with these penalties
 - \$2,000 carried over from 2015



Top Enforcement Issues 2015 and 2016 To Date

- Lack of Qualification Documentation
- Failure to Follow Procedures
 - Pipe joining
 - Depth of cover (Maine Rule violations)
- Numerous NFPA 58 Violations (LPG Systems)
- HDD Cross Bores



Plastic Pipe Joining

- It has been observed that the joiner sometimes initials the joint for himself and the inspector.
- **THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE!**



HDD Cross Bore



Pipe Joining Procedures



**Scratches in
Fusion zone**

Damage Prevention Program

Year	Total Locate Requests	Total Incidents (May not Include Damage)	Total Incidents per 1,000 Locates	Gas Locate Requests	Gas Damages	Gas Damages per 1,000 Locates	Total Penalties Collected
2009	55,434	315	5.68	21,568	44	2.04	\$230,000
2010	60,206	446	7.41	15,586	24	1.54	\$230,650
2011	60,108	446	7.42	16,158	33	2.04	\$181,350
2012	60,420	421	6.97	17,481	31	1.77	\$180,600
2013	65,250	452	6.93	19,735	33	1.67	\$151,750
2014	63,843	419	6.56	25,281	39	1.54	\$118,850
2015	66,417	387	5.83	24,731	46	1.86	\$119,500

Damage Prevention Program

(continued)

For 2016 to date, there appears to be an increase in the amount of damages to gas facilities.



Incidents

**We've been very fortunate to have
another incident free year.**



2016 & 2017 Program Goals

- Increased utilization of PHMSA's Inspection Assistant.
- Implementation of the Spotter software for non IA inspections (LPG & Construction).
- Improve the tracking of Compliance Actions and Inspection Activities.



Questions or Comments?

Thank You!

