

- v. The potential for third party damage;
- vi. The right-of-way conditions;
- vii. The corrosion history of the transmission line;
- viii. The design of the transmission line;
- ix. The operating conditions of the transmission line;
- x. The cost of the installation or retrofit; and
- xi. Any other factors that the pipeline operator considers appropriate, subject to the approval of these factors by the Board staff;

3. A timetable for the installation or retrofit, at each high priority location, of remotely controlled or automatically controlled valves within two years of the date the plan is approved; and

4. A training program for the appropriate operating personnel to ensure that they have a thorough knowledge of, and are qualified to implement, the plan's emergency procedures.

(d) Upon receipt of an operator's valve assessment and emergency closure plan, the Board's Bureau of Pipeline Safety shall review and approve the plan, with such modifications as the staff deems necessary, including changes in the prioritization of the valve locations, to ensure the rapid closure in an emergency of any sectionalizing valve on the transmission pipeline.

(e) The transmission pipeline operator shall update the valve assessment and emergency closure plan annually to account for changes in population density, new transmission lines, new valve technology, and other material changes. The operator shall submit the plan to the Board at the following times:

1. If significant changes do not occur, the operator shall submit the plan at least once every two calendar years, and within an interval not to exceed 27 months; and
2. If significant changes occur during the period described in (e)1 above, the operator shall submit the plan to the Board staff at least once each calendar year, and within an interval not to exceed 15 months.

(f) An emergency closure drill that simulates shutting down a selected section of transmission line shall be performed at least once in a calendar year, but within an interval not to exceed 15 months. The operator may conduct a table-top emergency closure drill to meet this requirement for no more than two out of each three calendar years. The operator shall conduct a site-specific emergency closure drill at a field site at least once in every three calendar years.

(g) The operator shall notify Board staff at least five business days prior to performing any emergency closure drill under (e) above. A final audit report of each emergency closure drill shall be submitted to Board staff for review within two months after the emergency closure drill is performed.

(h) If an operator believes that information contained in the valve assessment and emergency closure plan merits confidential treatment pursuant to the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. (OPRA), any such purportedly confidential information submitted to the Board shall be specifically identified and marked by the operator and submitted to the Board in compliance with the Board's rules at N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.

(i) Each transmission pipeline operator shall designate a representative or representatives in New Jersey who are familiar with the location and operation of all of the transmission valves required by this section. The names and telephone numbers of these representatives shall be furnished to the Board staff as part of the operator's emergency procedures required by 49 CFR 192.615.

(j) The transmission pipeline emergency representatives required under (i) above shall be available for Board staff to contact as needed during an emergency response.

(k) In addition to any other requirements in the Federal Code, each transmission pipeline operator shall furnish the clerk of each municipality through which the pipeline passes with a 24-hour emergency telephone number.

The following annotations apply to former N.J.A.C. 14:7-1.10 repealed by R.2009 d.69:

Amended by R.1997 d.128, effective March 17, 1997.

See: 28 N.J.R. 5146(a), 29 N.J.R. 104(b), 29 N.J.R. 903(b).

In (a), substituted "Sectionalizing valves for distribution pipelines" for "Shut-off valves" and added last sentence; deleted (b), relating to certain areas outside of cities and villages; recodified former (c) and (d) as (b) and (c); and in (c), substituted "valves required by this section" for "shut-off valves".

Amended by R.1998 d.146, effective March 16, 1998.

See: 29 N.J.R. 5184(a), 30 N.J.R. 1050(a).

In (c), substituted references to operators for references to companies throughout.

The following annotations apply to N.J.A.C. 14:7-1.10 after its recodification from N.J.A.C. 14:7-1.11 by R.2009 d.69:

Repeal and New Rule, R.1997 d.128, effective March 17, 1997.

See: 28 N.J.R. 5146(a), 29 N.J.R. 104(b), 29 N.J.R. 903(b).

Section was "Automatic valves".

Amended by R.1998 d.146, effective March 16, 1998.

See: 29 N.J.R. 5184(a), 30 N.J.R. 1050(a).

In (b), substituted "Upon" for "Within three months of" at the beginning; and in (c), inserted "by the Board staff" following "review".

Amended by R.2003 d.360, effective September 15, 2003.

See: 35 N.J.R. 1505(a), 35 N.J.R. 4307(b).

In (a), rewrote the introductory paragraph; in (b) and (c), substituted references to Bureau of Pipeline Safety for references to the Board; rewrote (e).

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 14:7-1.11 and amended by R.2009 d.69, effective March 2, 2009.

See: 40 N.J.R. 4915(a), 41 N.J.R. 1083(a).

Section was "Valve assessment and emergency closure". Rewrote the section. Former N.J.A.C. 14:7-1.10, Valve requirements, repealed.

14:7-1.11 Installation of pipe

(a) All gas pipelines shall be installed with at least 12 inches separation from any other subsurface structure or facility, unless it is not reasonably practicable to so.

(b) If a pipeline operator wishes to install gas pipe along with other utilities in a single trench, the operator shall first prepare and submit a joint-trench installation procedure to the Bureau of Pipeline Safety for review under the procedure established in N.J.A.C. 14:7-1.23 for revisions to operating and maintenance standards. No pipeline operator shall perform a joint-trench installation except in accordance with a joint-trench procedure previously reviewed by the Bureau for consistency with 49 CFR 192.325.

(c) Backfill around gas pipelines shall consist of a minimum six-inch cushion that surrounds the pipeline on all sides with smooth, clean soil or select fill. It shall be free from rock, stones, cinders, paving material, construction debris, wood, contaminated soil, frozen soil, rubbish or other substances that may damage the pipeline or its coating. Backfill material shall be well compacted under, over and around the sides of the pipe. Compaction of backfill material may be accomplished by mechanical tamping, vibration tamping or other methods approved by the operator.

(d) Whenever pipe coating is applied, the pipeline operator shall take the following additional precautions:

1. Tests and inspections shall be made before backfill to ensure that the coating is adequate and satisfactory; and
2. During backfill, precautions shall be taken to ensure the coating is not damaged.

(e) Any tracer wire installed for locating plastic pipe in accordance with 49 CFR 192.321 shall meet the following requirements, as applicable:

1. Where tracer wire is installed by direct burial, the tracer wire shall be a minimum of #12 AWG solid copper wire with a polyethylene coating, or another coating approved by the operator; and/or
2. Where tracer wire is installed by boring or drilling, the tracer wire shall be #10 AWG solid copper wire with a polyethylene coating, or another coating approved by the operator.

(f) An operator shall place a yellow subsurface marking or warning tape in the backfill material above a transmission or distribution pipeline whenever the pipeline is installed, repaired or replaced, except that this requirement shall not apply to a transmission or distribution pipeline that is being installed, repaired or replaced using techniques that do not disturb the backfill above the pipeline, such as directional drilling, insertion or boring. For pipes of less than 16 inches in diameter, the operator shall install one six-inch wide tape. For pipes of 16 inches or more in diameter, the operator shall install one 12-inch wide tape, or two six-inch wide tapes installed side by side.

Amended by R.1998 d.146, effective March 16, 1998.
See: 29 N.J.R. 5184(a), 30 N.J.R. 1050(a).

Substituted "A pipeline operator shall provide for the inspection, either by the operator or by a contractor, of all pipes during installation and prior to backfilling" for "Inspection for storing and handling of pipe

shall be adequate" at the beginning, and inserted ", gouges" following "nicks".

Amended by R.2003 d.360, effective September 15, 2003.
See: 35 N.J.R. 1505(a), 35 N.J.R. 4307(b).

Added (b) and (c).

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 14:7-1.13 and amended by R.2009 d.69, effective March 2, 2009.

See: 40 N.J.R. 4915(a), 41 N.J.R. 1083(a).

Rewrote the section. Former N.J.A.C. 14:7-1.11, Valve assessment and emergency closure, recodified to N.J.A.C. 14:7-1.10.

Amended by R.2009 d.291, effective October 5, 2009.

See: 41 N.J.R. 997(a), 41 N.J.R. 3844(b).

In (c), substituted "consist of a minimum six-inch cushion that surrounds the pipeline on all sides with" for "be", deleted commas following "rubbish", "over" and the second occurrence of "tamping", deleted "foreign" preceding "substances", and inserted "that may damage the pipeline or its coating".

14:7-1.12 Minimum cover over natural gas pipelines

(a) Gas distribution mains shall be installed with a cover of not less than 30 inches above the top of the pipe, except where:

1. Interference with other subsurface structures makes it impracticable to maintain this depth of cover;
2. Short length replacement sections of distribution mains require offsets that could result in the trapping of liquids; or
3. It is not practical to install the main with at least 30 inches of cover.

(b) If a gas distribution main is installed with less than 24 inches of cover in accordance with (a) above, the installed pipe shall be protected with shielding that conforms with gas industry standards, both in respect to material and manner of installation. No shielding shall be required for a gas distribution main with 24 to 30 inches of cover.

(c) Gas transmission pipelines shall be installed with a cover of at least 48 inches above the top of the pipe, except where interference with other subsurface structures makes it impracticable to maintain this depth of cover or where short length replacement sections require offsets that could result in the trapping of liquids. In such cases, if cover is less than 42 inches, shielding shall be installed that conforms with gas industry standards, both in respect to material and manner of installation.

(d) Whenever conditions permit, gas service lines shall be installed with a cover of not less than 18 inches above the top of the pipe, except where interference with other sub-surface structures or the insertion/lining of service lines makes it impracticable to maintain this depth of cover, or where short length replacement sections require offsets that could result in the trapping of liquids. In such cases, shielding shall be installed that conforms with gas industry standards, both in respect to material and manner of installation.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 14:7-1.14 and amended by R.2009 d.69, effective March 2, 2009.

See: 40 N.J.R. 4915(a), 41 N.J.R. 1083(a).

Section was "Minimum cover of mains". Rewrote (a) and (b); and added (c). Former N.J.A.C. 14:7-1.12, Blow-offs, repealed.