



# Natural gas pipeline regulations: Keeping you safe

**Natural gas pipelines are critical to our way of life. They safely provide the energy we use every hour of the day. They keep the lights on. They heat and cool our homes. They cook our food. They keep us mobile and connected. They secure our future.**

**Pipelines are also subject to extensive regulatory, legislative and industry oversight to keep the energy flowing and communities safe.**

## **Pipeline safety and governance**

Natural gas pipelines are rigorously regulated and monitored by federal and state governments, with the process largely regulated by two federal agencies.

- The **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)** is an independent agency that is responsible for the economic regulation of the interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas and oil, and is the federal agency most responsible for approving the construction of interstate natural gas pipelines.
- The U.S. Department of Transportation's **Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)** is responsible for the regulation of interstate natural gas transmission pipeline safety. These regulations cover all phases of a pipeline's lifecycle, including materials, design, construction, operations, maintenance, integrity management and abandonment.

## **Regular inspections**

In addition to PHMSA's federal regulation oversight, each state has a pipeline safety office that oversees state jurisdictional pipelines. PHMSA routinely conducts inspections of pipeline construction, operation, maintenance and integrity management to verify that pipeline operators comply with pipeline safety regulations.

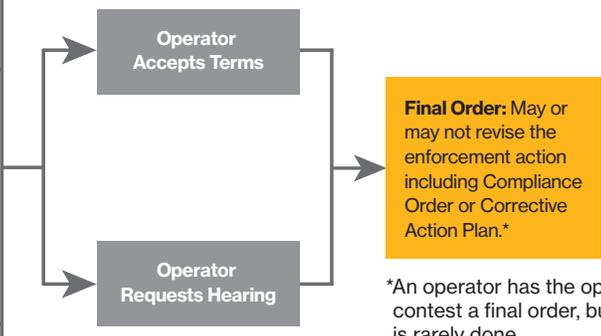
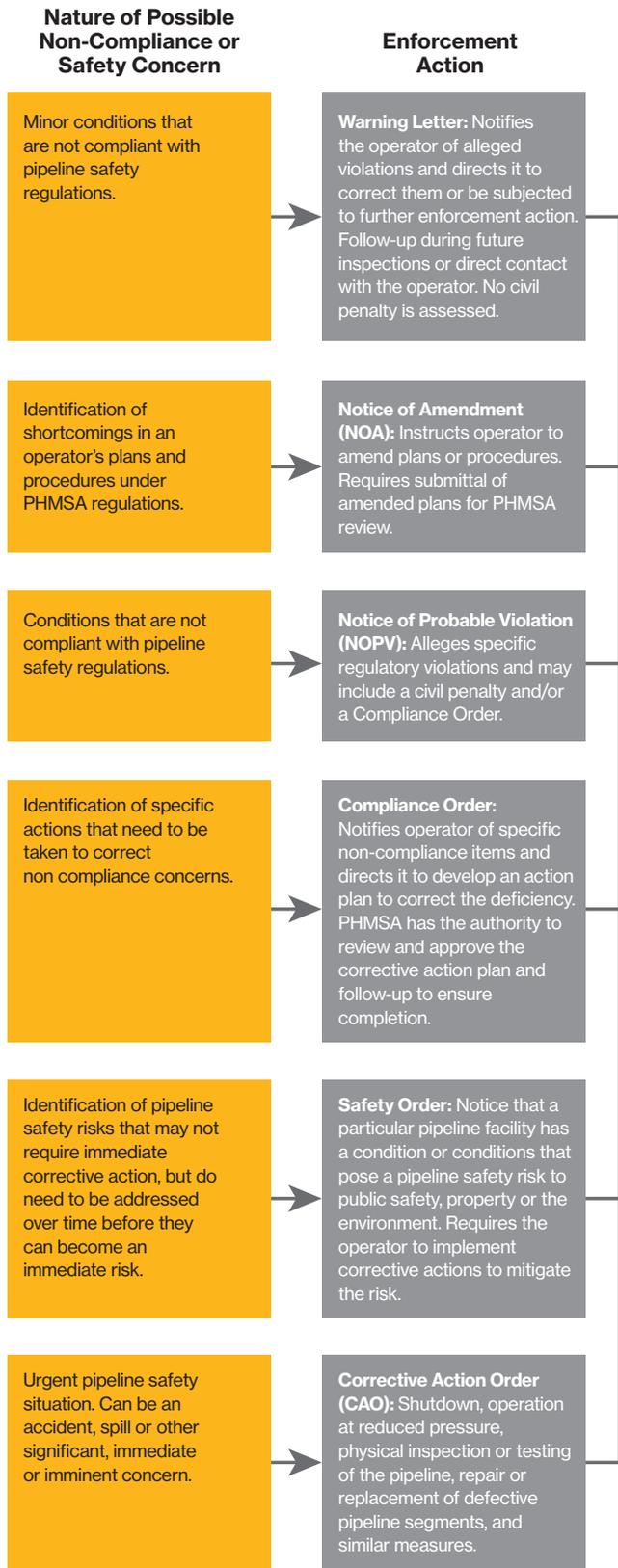
PHMSA and these state agencies collaborate to conduct about 15 to 20 weeks of inspections on pipeline facilities every year—verifying operators are complying with pipeline safety regulations and following their work procedures by observing operators' work, documentation and facility conditions.

## **PHMSA and the NTSB**

While PHMSA also conducts investigations of pipeline incidents, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) may also investigate pipeline incidents that are more serious in nature.

*(Continued on reverse)*

## If PHMSA inspection finds violations or inadequate procedures



\*An operator has the option to contest a final order, but this is rarely done.

## PHMSA and the NTSB (continued from page 1)

If an NTSB investigation identifies potential pipeline safety issues that may apply to other pipelines, the NTSB may issue action recommendations for PHMSA and other entities.

Enbridge fully cooperates with PHMSA inspectors during and following any inspections. Enbridge views these inspections as another method of identifying potential areas of improvement in our pipeline safety programs and procedures.

### The enforcement process

PHMSA has a number of enforcement options if it identifies safety concerns, finds noncompliance or if there is an incident.

To learn more about pipeline safety and regulations, visit the PHMSA website at [phmsa.dot.gov](http://phmsa.dot.gov).