



## PHMSA's Rulemaking – Natural Gas Pipeline Leak Detection and Repair

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The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is planning a natural gas pipeline leak detection and repair rulemaking for later this year. PHMSA is currently conducting a stakeholder process, including a [public meeting on May 5-6, 2021](#). Topics of discussion will include:

- Sources of methane emissions from gas pipeline systems;
- Current regulatory requirements for managing fugitive and vented emissions;
- Industry leak detection and repair practices; and
- Use of advanced technologies and practices to reduce methane emissions from gas pipeline systems.

Meeting attendees must [register](#) by April 30, 2021.

PHMSA will accept written comments on the meeting topics through May 24, 2021.

The Pipes Act of 2020, passed in late December 2020, requires the Secretary of Transportation to promulgate regulations that require operators of regulated gathering lines in a Class 2, Class 3, or Class 4 location, operators of new and existing gas transmission pipeline facilities, and operators of new and existing gas distribution facilities to conduct leak detection and repair programs.

The final regulations must include minimum performance standards that reflect capabilities of commercially available advanced leak detection technologies (continuous monitoring or period surveys using hand-held, mobile mounted, or other means using commercially available technology).

For additional information, please contact [Nicole Blevins](#).