



Dustin Johnson, Chair  
Steve Kolbeck, Vice Chair  
Gary Hanson, Commissioner

## **SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070  
[www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov)

Capitol Office  
(605) 773-3201  
1-866-757-6031 fax

Warehouse  
(605) 773-5280  
(605) 773-3225 fax

Consumer Hotline  
1-800-332-1782

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TO: South Dakota Jurisdictional Gas Pipeline Operators

RE: Incident Procedures

Although some operators currently have procedures in place, in an effort to pursue consistency and safety throughout South Dakota and in compliance with 49 CFR 192.615 and SDCL 49-34B-3, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Pipeline Safety Program suggests necessary additions to leak incident procedures. In the event of an underground leak incident, the Pipeline Safety Program will review operator procedures for inclusion of the following:

- Bar hole readings in sufficient number to establish underground gas levels and outline the gas migration pattern
- If there are readings above the lower explosive limit and the location and other factors contribute to more than minimal risk to people, venting is expected in one of the following manners:
  - Backhoe digging
  - Air injection and gas recovery wells
  - Venturi tube soil aerator
  - Other methods available to operator and appropriate to the situation

If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Nathan D. Solem*

Nathan D. Solem  
South Dakota Pipeline Safety Program Manager