



SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS.  
EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME.



# How Did We Get Here

## The Journey of the Office of Pipeline Safety

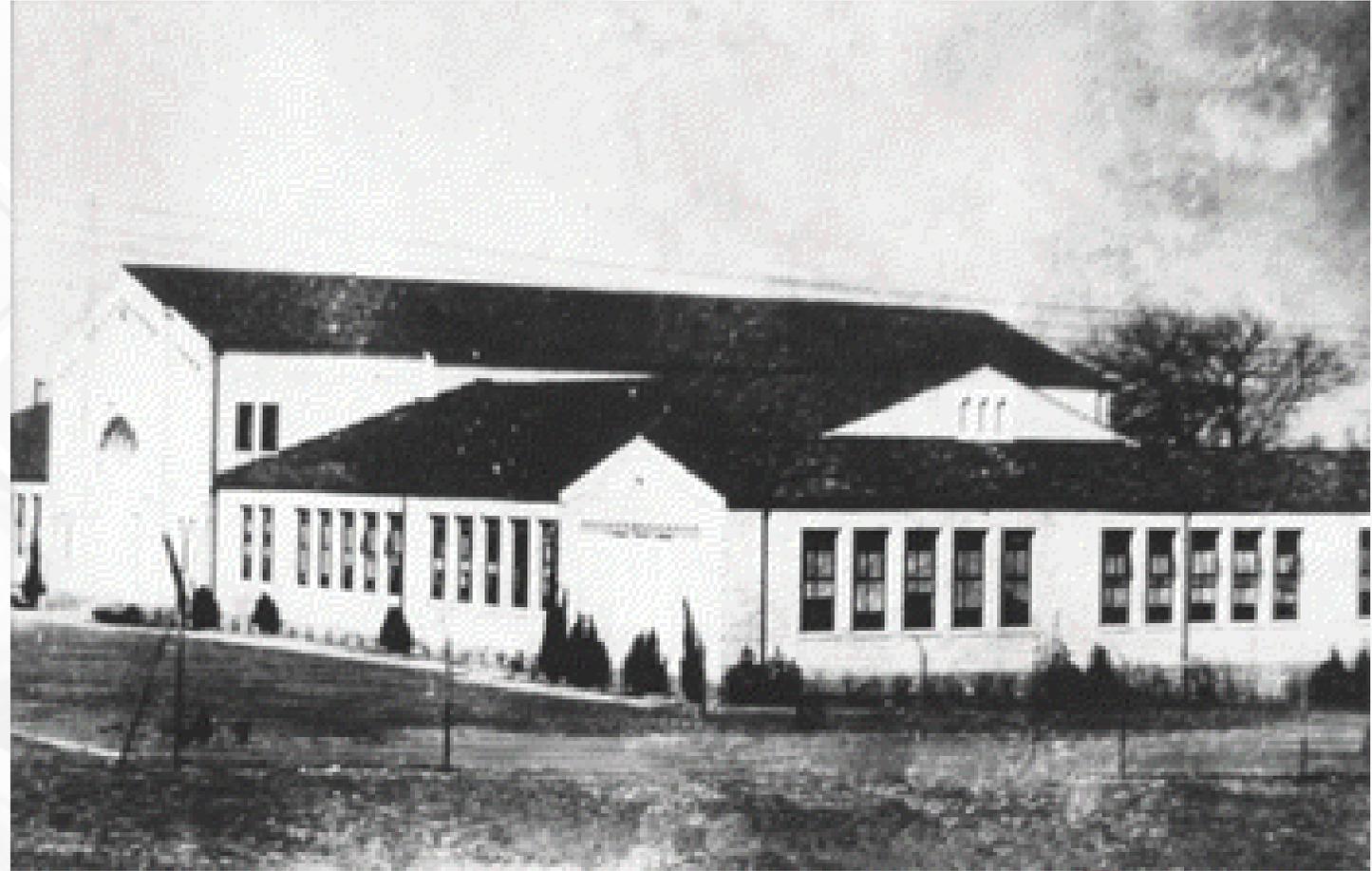


# Introduction



# First Major Incident Involving Pipelines

- March 18, 1937  
at 3:17pm
- New London, Texas



# First Major Incident Involving Pipelines



March 19, 1937: the day after the gas explosion in New London, Texas, kills approximately 300, mostly children. This incident led to the first law for pipelines, which added odorant to natural gas.



# Other Incidents

- March 4, 1965
- Natchitoches, LA
- Transmission line rupture
- 17 fatalities



The fireball and part of the aftermath.



# Other Incidents

- January 13, 1967
- Leaking gas main
- South Jamaica section of Queens, NY
- 13-alarm fire



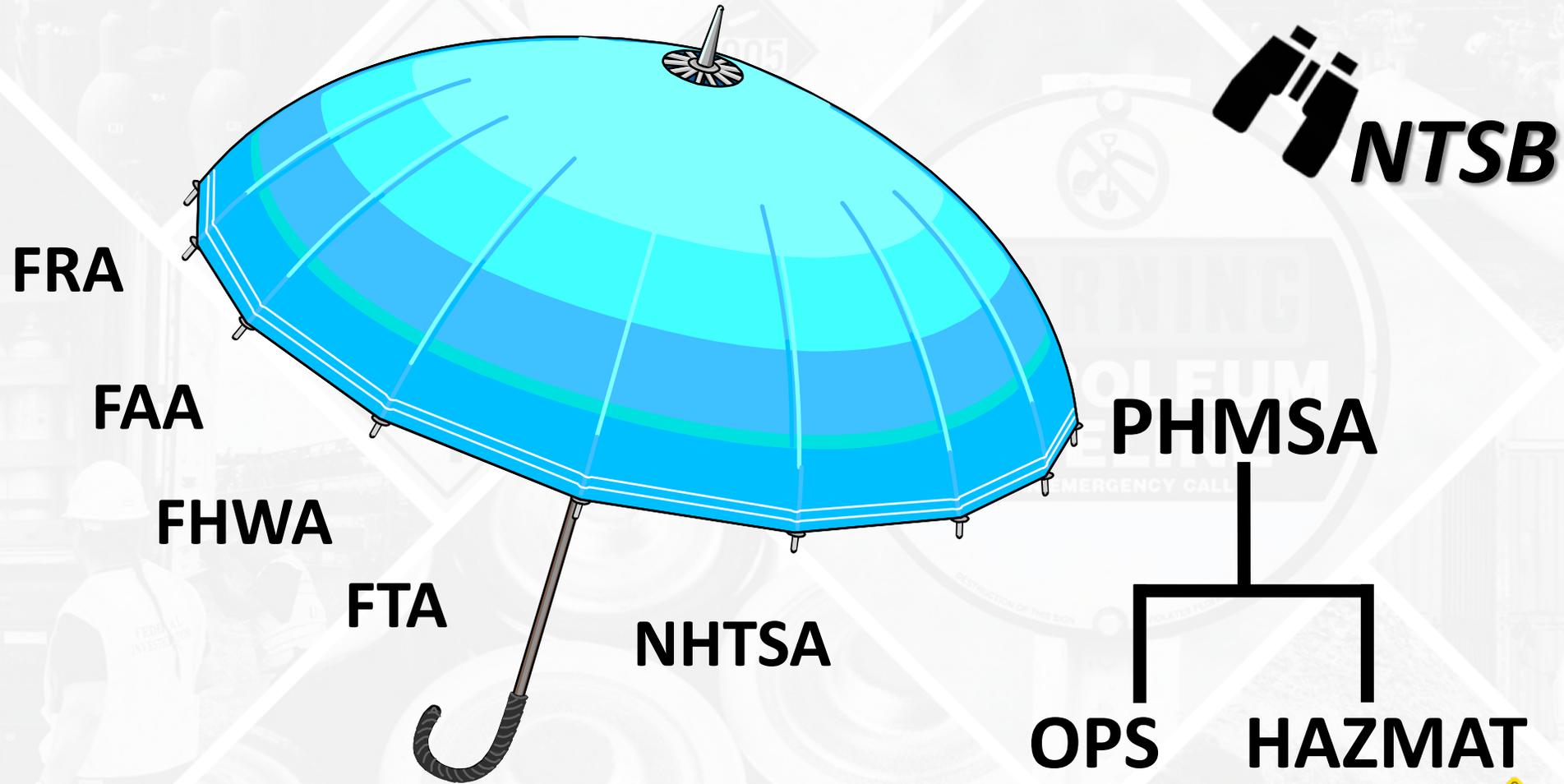
# Call For Public Safety

49 U.S.C. 1671 ET SEQ., PL 90-481, APPROVED AUGUST 12, 1968

In a special message to Congress titled “To Protect the American Consumer” and dated February 16, 1967, President Johnson wrote: “I now call upon the 90<sup>th</sup> Congress...in the public interest...for there is important and new business on the agenda to:  
-Ensure the safety of natural gas pipelines.”



# DOT Umbrella



# Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act Of 1968

- Authorization to regulate pipeline transportation of gas (natural, flammable, toxic, or corrosive)
- Section 3(a) provides as follows: As soon as practicable but not later than 3 months after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, by order, adopt as interim minimum Federal safety standards for pipeline facilities and the transportation of gas...



# Start Of Pipeline Safety Regulations

01



**ASME B31.8**  
Dec. 1968

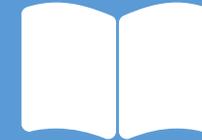
02



**FIRST PART**  
**192**

**Nov. 1969**  
**(Mostly Reporting)**

03

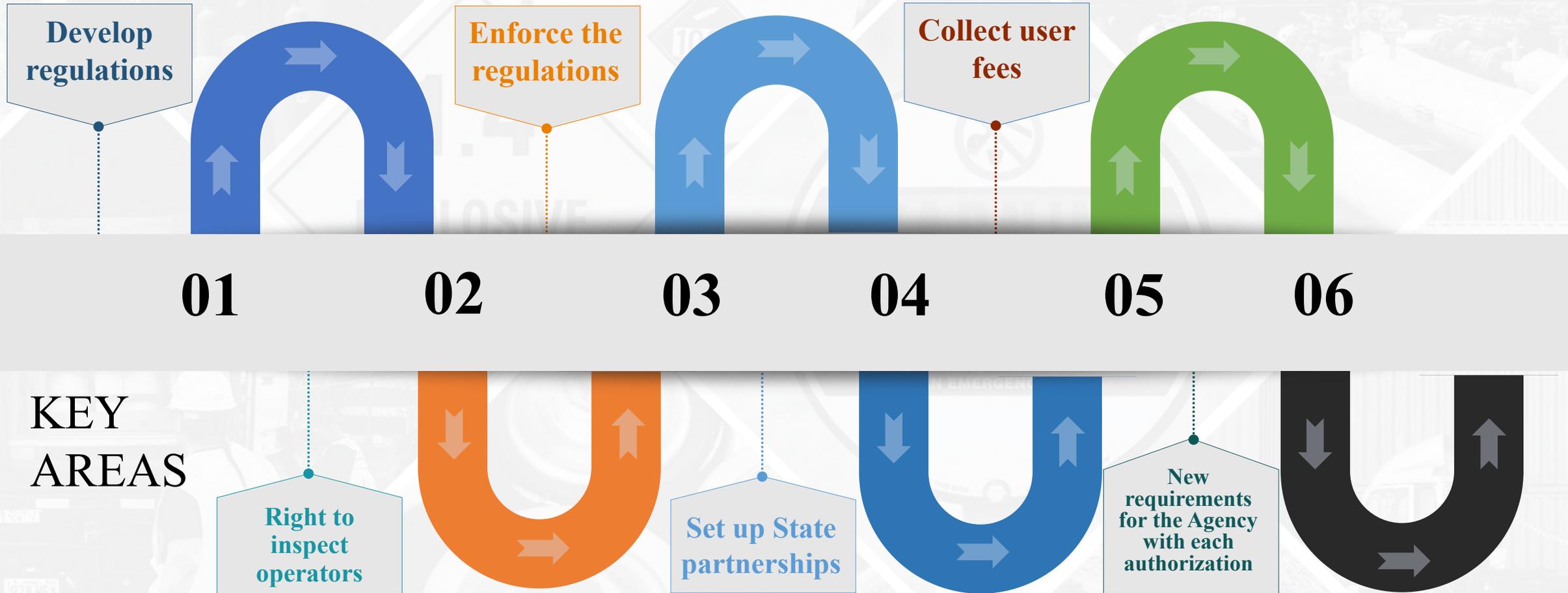


**MAIN PART**  
**192**

**Aug. 1970**  
**Effective**  
**Mar. 1971**



# Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act Of 1968



# Safety Act Of 1968 - Key Areas

## §60118. Compliance and waivers

- **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.** – A person owning or operating a pipeline facility shall—
  - comply with applicable safety standards prescribed under this chapter,...
  - prepare and carry out a plan for inspection and maintenance...
  - allow access to or copying of records, make reports and provide information, and allow entry or inspection...



# Safety Act Of 1968 - Key Areas

## §60123. Criminal penalties

- **GENERAL PENALTY.** –A person knowingly and willfully violating section 60114(b), 60118(a), or 60128 of this title or a regulation prescribed or order issued under this chapter shall be fined under title 18, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.



# REGULATIONS FROM ACTS

PART 190

**Enforcement Procedures for PHMSA**

PART 191

**Reporting Requirements**

PART 192

**Gas Pipeline Minimum Safety Standards**

PART 193

**LNG Facility Safety**

PART 194

**Response Plans for Onshore Oil Pipelines**

**PETROLEUM PIPELINE**  
IN AN EMERGENCY CALL



# REGULATIONS FROM ACTS

**PART 195**

**Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Minimum Safety Standards**

**PART 198**

**Grants to State Pipeline Programs**

**PART 199**

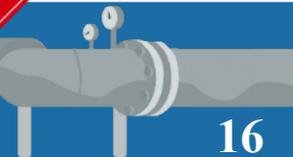
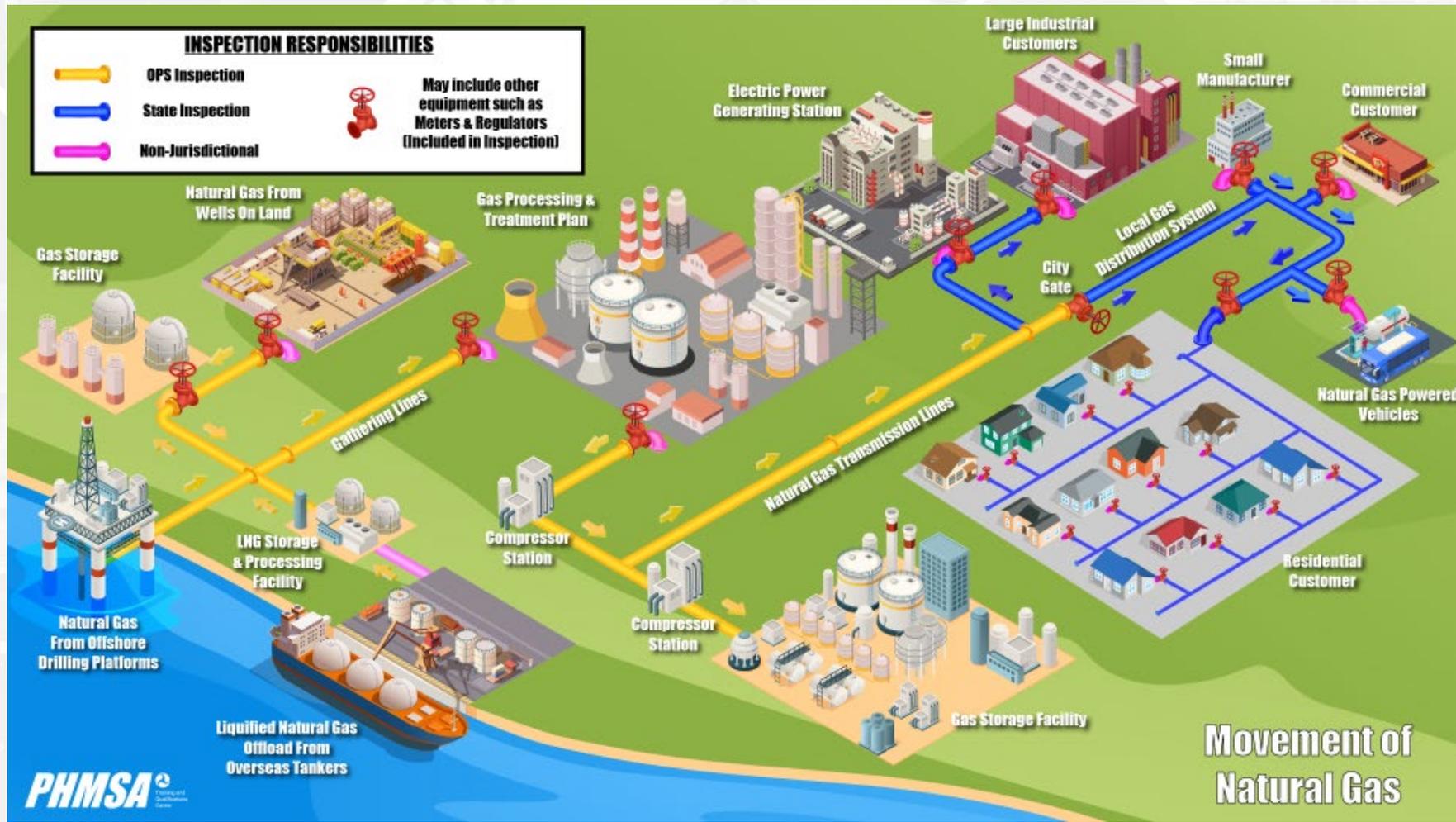
**Drug and Alcohol Testing**

**PART 40**

**Procedures – Drug and Alcohol Testing (OST)**



# Movement Of Natural Gas



# Incidents Affecting Regulations

## Edison, NJ

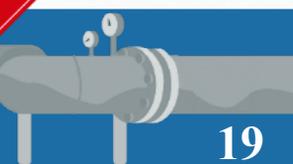
March 23, 1994

Mechanical damage to  
surface of the pipe



# Bellingham, WA - June 10, 1999

- Over 4,761 barrels of gasoline released
- Two 10-year-old boys and one 18-year-old
- Total damages at least \$45 million



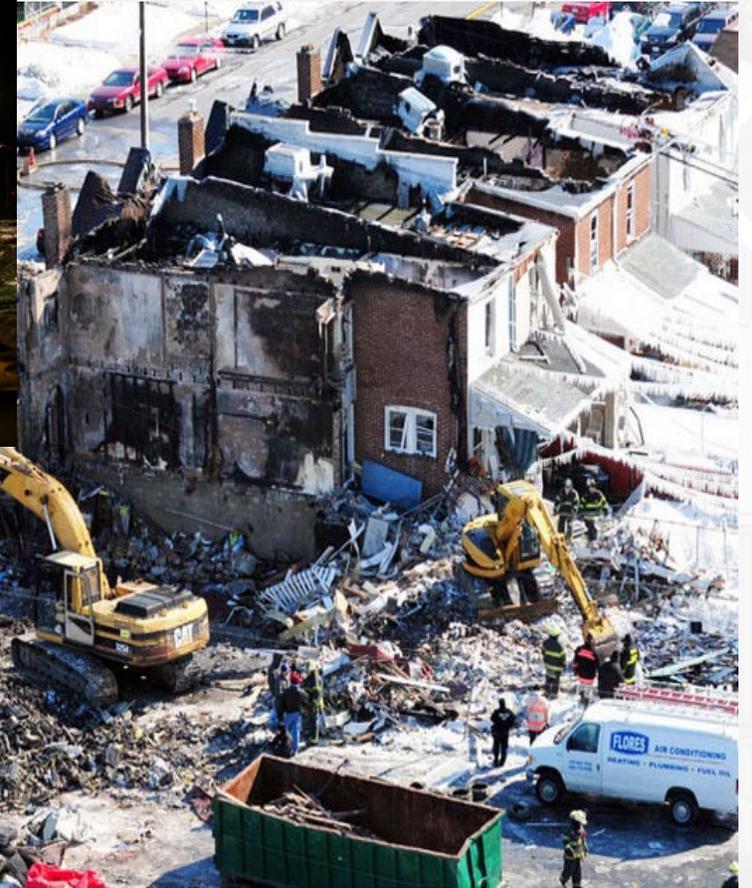
# Carlsbad, NM - August 19, 2000

- Burned for 55 minutes
- Killed 12 people
- Damaged nearby steel suspension bridges



# Allentown, Pa - February 9, 2011

- 5 hours to shut off gas due to reinforced concrete
- 5 people killed
- \$2.5 million in damages



# Yellowstone River, Mt - January 17, 2015

- 738 barrels of crude oil
- Oil remained in river until after March thaw



# Marshall, MI - July 25, 2010

- 19,867 barrels of crude oil
- Undiscovered for over 17 hours
- Over \$767 million



# Sissonville, Wv - December 11, 2012

- About 20 feet of pipe ejected from underground
- 76 million standard cubic feet of natural gas released



PIPELINE  
EMERGENCY CALL



# San Bruno, CA - September 9, 2010

- About 28 feet of pipe ejected from underground
- 47.6 million standard cubic feet of natural gas released
- 8 people killed



# Aliso Canyon - October 23, 2015

- Largest natural gas storage in CA
- Leak finally stopped on February 12, 2016



# Merrimack Valley, MA – Sept. 13, 2018

- Killed one person, 29 injured
- Damaged 131 structures
- 5 homes destroyed



# Pipeline Safety Acts

## Accountable Pipeline Safety and Partnership Act of 1996

- Risk management plans
- Instrumented internal inspection devices (commonly referred to as ‘smart pigs’)

## Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002

- Integrity management programs
- Public education programs

## Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement and Safety Act of 2006

- Control room management
- Distribution integrity management



# Pipeline Safety Acts

## Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011

- Automatic and remote-controlled shut-off valves
- Expand integrity management programs on transmission
- Excess flow valves to multi-family dwellings
- Verification of MAOP records
- Reconfirm MAOP

## Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of 2016

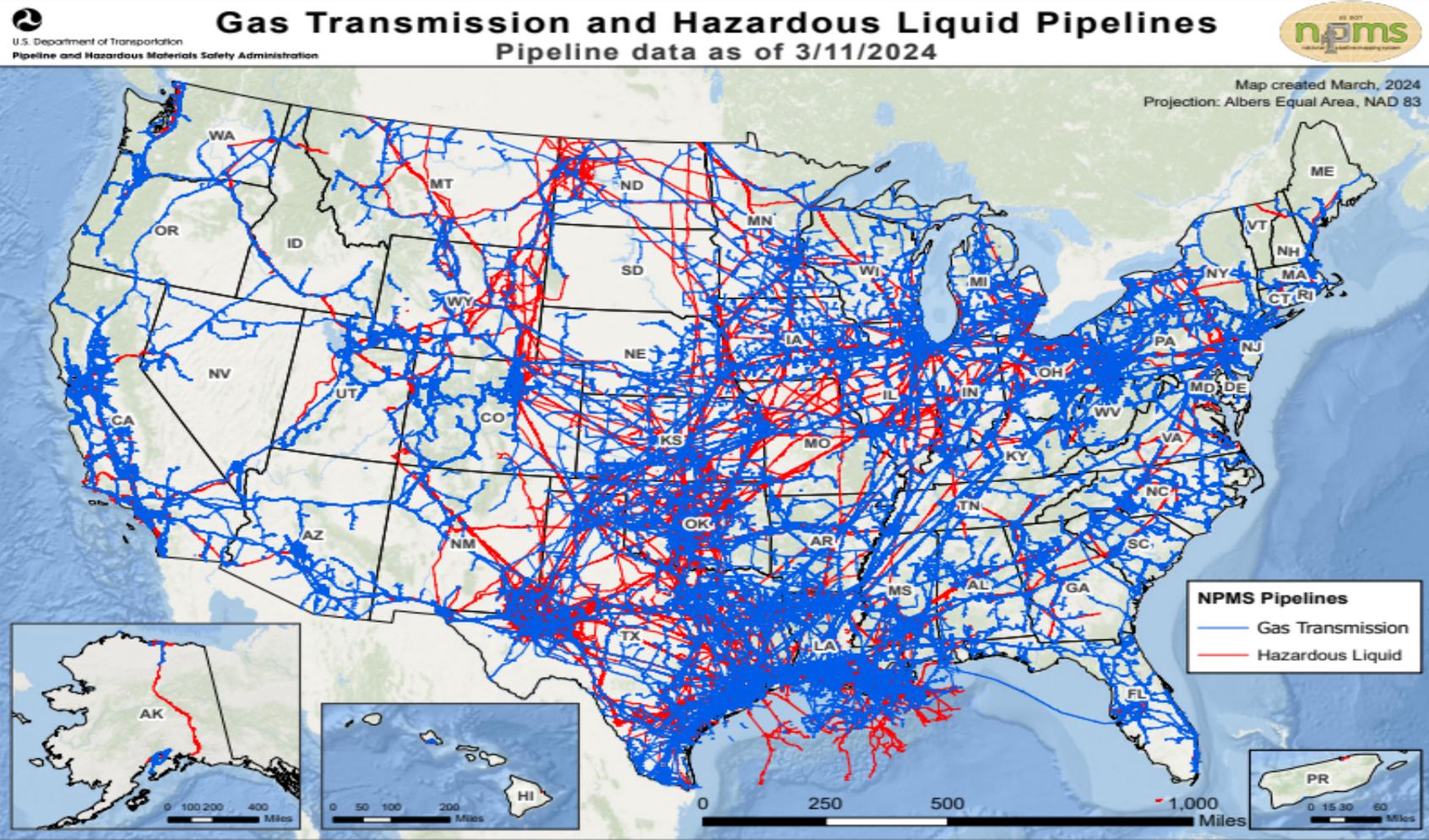
- Underground natural gas storage facilities
- Study to odorize all pipelines
- Task force to report on Aliso Canyon storage facility

## Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2020

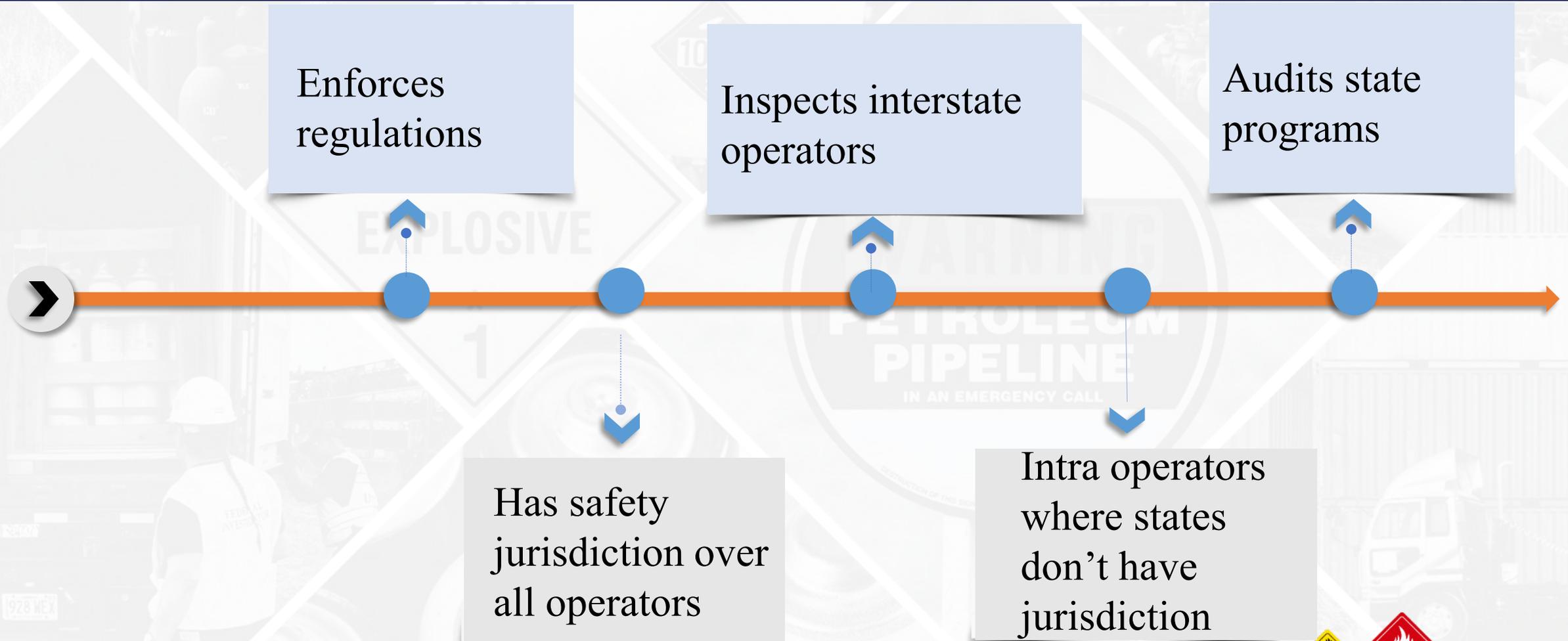
- (Gas) Protection of the environment – methane reductions
- Low-pressure systems
- Gas gathering



# Pipeline Regulatory Structure



# PHMSA Jurisdiction



# State Jurisdiction



States may be certified to inspect and enforce pipeline safety for intrastate systems if:

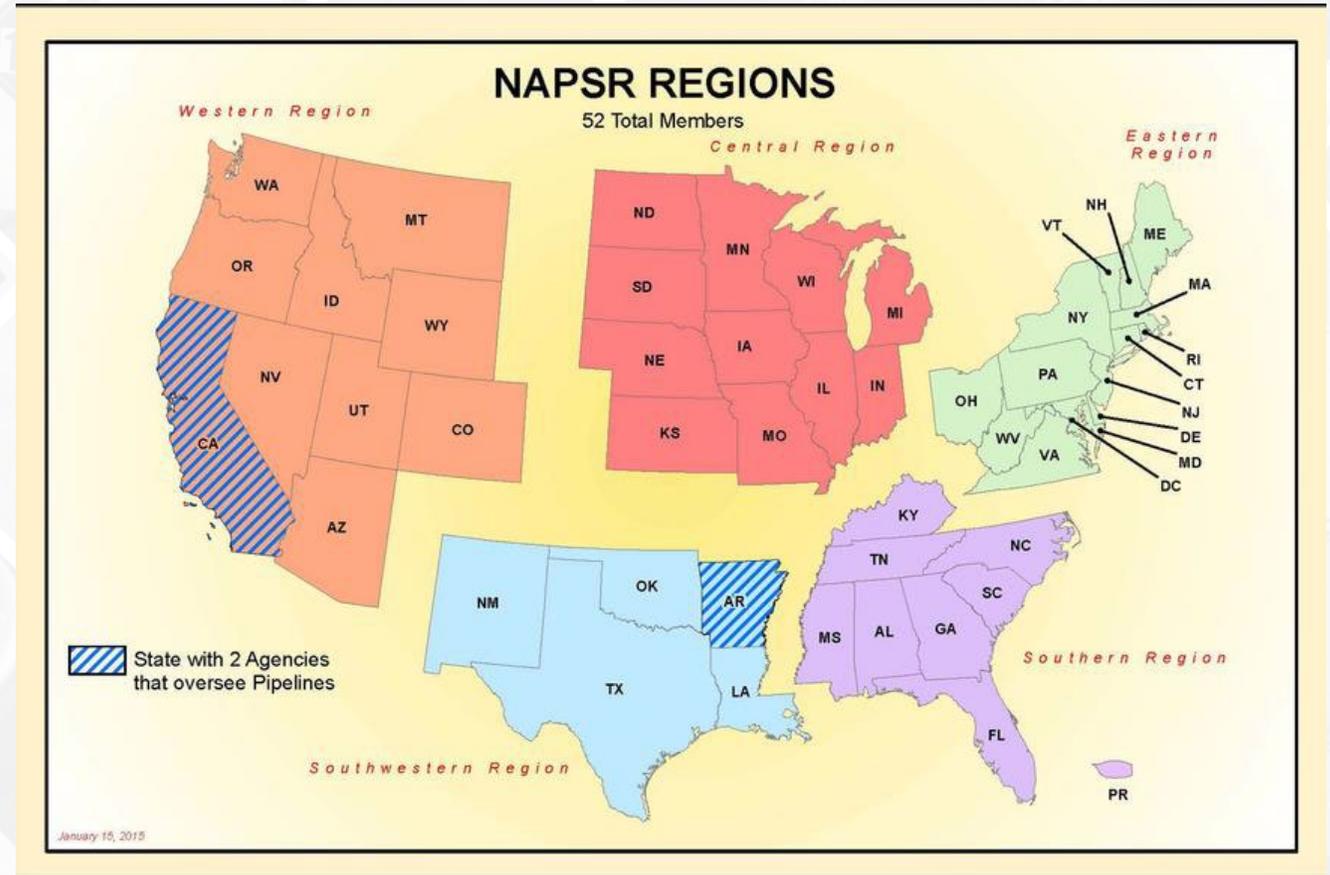
- The State adopts regulations at least as stringent as Federal regulations
- The State provides for injunctive and monetary sanctions substantially the same as Federal regulations



# NAPSR Compendium

## Compendium

- 4<sup>th</sup> Edition
- 2025 Online Only
- <https://www.napsr.org/compendium.html>





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**Thank you**

