

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**INFORMATION COLLECTION
SUPPORTING STATEMENT**

**Reporting Requirements for Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Operators: Hazardous Liquid
Annual Report**

OMB Control Number 2137-0614/ Docket No. PHMSA 2015-0009

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) requests approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for an extension of an approved collection entitled “Reporting Requirements for Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Operators: Hazardous Liquid Annual Report” (OMB Control No. 2137-0614). The current expiration date for this information collection is December 31, 2015.

Part A. Justification

1. Circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

The Hazardous Liquid Annual Report supports the Department of Transportation's strategic goal of safety. PHMSA shares responsibility for inspecting and overseeing the safety of hazardous liquid and carbon dioxide pipelines with many state pipeline safety offices. Pipeline operators are currently required to document safety incidents and report them to PHMSA. In past years, Congress and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) tasked PHMSA to improve the quality of pipeline data analyses. The hazardous liquid annual reports support this goal.

Authority for 49 CFR Part 195 includes 49 U.S.C. 5103, 60102, 60104, 60108, 60109, 60118; and 49 CFR 1.53.

2. How, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used.

PHMSA uses the information to compile a national pipeline inventory, identify and determine the scope of safety problems, and target inspections. Additionally, State agencies and the Federal government use this information to identify pipeline systems or operators that have repeated issues with safety. The information is shared via the PHMSA website (<http://phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/library/data-stats>).

3. Extent of automated information collection.

As specified in 49 CFR § 195.58, PHMSA requires operators to submit all required reports electronically with an exception for those operators to whom electronic submissions would pose an undue burden and hardship. Pipeline operators are encouraged to file the annual reports online at www.opsweb.phmsa.dot.gov. PHMSA expects 100 percent of the affected universe to submit their annual reports electronically.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

This information is not currently being collected by any other agency. Operators of hazardous liquid and carbon dioxide pipelines are only required to complete one annual report per pipeline system.. The annual report compiles the entire year's data in a single source.

5. Efforts to minimize the burden on small businesses.

PHMSA expects impacted operators to include both large and small businesses and therefore the requirements will impact small businesses. For PHMSA to be able to effectively carry out its legislative mandate and monitor natural gas pipeline safety, it is essential that both large and small operators of pipelines provide annual reports.

6. Impact of less frequent collection of information.

PHMSA would not be able to appropriately and properly assess the integrity of the pipeline system without the annual reports. Less frequent information collection could compromise the safety and economic viability of the U.S. pipeline system.

7. Special Circumstances.

No special circumstances for reporting are expected.

8. Compliance with 5 CFR 1320.8(d).

PHMSA published a notice in the Federal Register on February 19, 2015 [80 FR 8944] requesting comments on PHMSA's intent to request an extension of this information collection. The comment period end on April 20, 2015. PHMSA received no comments on this collection.

9. Payment or gifts to respondents.

There are no payments or gifts to respondents associated with this information collection.

10. Assurance of confidentiality.

PHMSA does not have the authority to guarantee confidentiality.

11. Justification for collection of sensitive information.

The information collection requirements do not involve questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Estimate of burden hours for information requested.

Based on the revisions to the information collection, PHMSA estimates the following burden:

Responses: 447
Burden Hours: 8,457

PHMSA estimates that approximately 335 HL operators file an estimated 447 reports each year at a rate of 18 hours per report for a burden of 8,046 hours annually.

PHMSA also estimates that ten percent of reporting companies will abandon or replace pipe in high consequence areas in any given year. PHMSA estimates that 30 minutes would be required to collect and report this information, resulting in a burden of 16.75 hours (335 total operators \times .10 affected \times .5 hours). For the purpose of calculating burden hours, this amount has been rounded up to 17 hours.

Currently, 44% of hazardous liquid operators (approx. 197 operators) submit interstate data. These are the operators that would primarily be affected by the “by-state” reporting requirements in Parts D & E. PHMSA estimates that it will take these operators an additional 2 hours to collect and disseminate this information on a by-state basis resulting in a burden of 394 hours (197 operators \times 2 hours) for the collection of “by state” data.

The revisions detailed above will result in an overall burden of **8,457 hours**.

13. Estimate of the total annual costs burden.

It is expected that a senior engineer will complete the form. PHMSA estimates the engineer’s hourly wages at \$63.00 per hour (fully loaded). This will result in a cost estimate \$532,791.00 (63.00*8,457).

14. Estimates of costs to the Federal Government.

PHMSA will continue to review the annual reports from the pipeline operators, and does not expect any additional administrative costs associated with these revisions.

15. Explanation of the program change or adjustments.

There have been no program changes made at this time.

16. Publication of results of data collection.

Annual reports summaries for hazardous liquid pipelines are available at the PHMSA website (<http://phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/library/data-stats>).

17. Approval for not displaying the expiration date of OMB approval.

PHMSA does not seek approval to not display expiration date.

18. Exceptions to the certification statement.

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.