Department of Transportation
Office of the Chief Information Officer

Supporting Statement

"National Registry of Pipeline and LNG Operators"
OMB Control No. 2137-0627
Docket No. PHMSA-2024-0137

INTRODUCTION

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) requests approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for renewal, without change, of a currently approved collection entitled "National Registry of Pipeline and LNG Operators" currently under OMB Control No. 2137-0627. The current expiration date for this information collection is March 31, 2025.

Part A. Justification

1. Circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

PHMSA's statutory authority to collect pipeline facility information from operators is found in 49 U.S.C. 60102. This authority allows for the collection of information such as pipeline location, description, transported products, and any other information pertaining to the safe operation of a pipeline facility under PHMSA jurisdiction.

Moreover, 49 CFR 191.22 and 195.64, require operators to notify PHMSA when they experience significant asset changes, including new construction, that affect PHMSA's ability to accurately monitor and assess pipeline safety performance. Certain types of changes to, or within, an operator's facilities or pipeline network represent potential safety-altering activities for which PHMSA may need to inspect, investigate, or otherwise oversee to ensure that any public safety concerns are adequately and proactively addressed. In these cases, timely notification will allow PHMSA to efficiently manage its inspection resources or notify one of its partner state pipeline safety agencies if needed.

The accurate and timely representation of the scope and make-up of the nation's pipeline and LNG facility infrastructure is not only critical to PHMSA, but it is also critical to the various oversight bodies, Congress, the GAO, the DOT Inspector General, and the NTSB.

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

PHMSA will use two forms to collect the applicable registration and notification information from operators for the Registry. The forms and the purpose of the resulting information are identified below:

Operator Assignment Request Form (PHMSA F 1000.1)
The information provided in this form is broken into four different steps as detailed below:

Step 1 "..Basic Report Information"
This step allows for the operator to provide basic information that PHMSA will use to determine whether the requesting operator has regulated assets and currently exists in the registry. PHMSA will also use this information to distinguish relationships between companies and reduce the potential for assigning unnecessary OPIDs to companies.
Step 2 "…Description of Pipelines and/or Facilities"
PHMSA will use this information to collect asset type and location to determine oversight authority (PHMSA region staff or State partners). Once the oversight authority is determined, PHMSA will contact the appropriate entity to assist in the approval process for issuing OPIDs.

Step 3 "…PHMSA-Required Pipeline Safety Program …. Information"
PHMSA will use this information to quickly identify whether the requesting operator's program is part of any programs for existing operators (i.e., whether the requesting operator is operationally related to other operators under PHMSA jurisdiction). PHMSA will use this information to efficiently coordinate future inspections.

Step 4 "Provide Contact Information"
PHMSA will use this information to maintain direct lines of communication with key Operator personnel. Contact information is invaluable and vital to the efficient handling of pipeline emergencies and regulatory compliance.

Operator Registry Notification Form (PHMSA F 1000.2)
The purpose of this form is to provide PHMSA with notifications as required under §§ 191.22(c) and 195.64(c). PHMSA will use the information from this form to update the Registry and equip PHMSA and state regulatory staff with relevant and up-to-date information on the operators subject to applicable jurisdictions.

Summary
This Registry is necessary to compile an integrated national pipeline inventory of operator contact and facility information that is current. The Registry will also enable PHMSA to distribute up-to-date pipeline safety information for various technology applications used in the performance of inspections, regulatory oversight, reporting, and other safety-based needs, and

will provide the accurate and up-to-date compilation of operating entities and facilities that is a critical element of PHMSA's pipeline safety mission.

3. Extent of automated information collection.

Operators will be required submit the required forms (OPID Assignment Request and Operator Registry Notification) electronically. Operators unable to submit electronically can contact PHMSA for an alternate means of submission.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

To date, PHMSA is the only entity that compiles a national database of regulated pipeline operators

5. Efforts to minimize the burden on small businesses.

PHMSA expects affected operators to be both large and small businesses. However, this information is necessary for safety and tracking purposes regardless of business size. There are currently no exceptions for small businesses.

6. Impact of less frequent collection of information.

The information collection is event driven and therefore cannot be conducted less frequently. PHMSA would be unable to appropriately and properly assess its regulated community. Less frequent information collection could compromise the safety and economic viability of the U.S. pipeline system.

7. Special Circumstances.

No special circumstances apply with this regulation.

8. Compliance with 5 CFR 1320.8(d).

PHMSA maintains an "open-door" policy with its stakeholders where continual engagement on ways to improve pipeline safety are routine. On October 10, 2024, PHMSA published a Federal Register notice (89 FR 82294) with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on its intent to request OMB's renewed approval of this information collection. PHMSA received no comments regarding this information collection request.

9. Payments or gifts to respondents.

PHMSA will not provide payments or gifts to respondents.

10. Assurance of confidentiality.

PHMSA does not have the authority to guarantee confidentiality, moreover, the requirements of this information collection do not include anything of a sensitive nature or of any matters considered confidential.

11. Justification for collection of sensitive information.

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

12. Estimate of burden hours for information requested.

Currently Approved Responses: 744 hours	Estimated Annual Responses: 744
Currently Approved Hours: 744 hours	Estimated Burden Hours: 744 hours

Burden for OPID Assignment Registry (Form PHMSA F 1000.1)
Currently Approved burden: 275 responses and 275 burden hours
Estimated total burden: 275 responses and 275 burden hours

PHMSA currently receives an estimated 275 OPID requests annually. There are no plans to adjust the estimated burden at this time.

Burden for Operator Notifications (Form PHMSA F 1000.2)
Currently Approved burden: 469 responses and 469 burden hours
Estimated total burden: 469 responses and 469 burden hours

PHMSA requires pipeline operators to make notifications by way of form PHMSA F1000.2 when certain events occur. PHMSA currently receives an estimated 469 operator notifications each year. There are no plans to adjust the estimated burden at this time.

IC	Responses	Burden Per Response	Total Burden
OPID Assignment Registry	275	1 hour	275 hours
Operator Notifications	469	1 hour	469 hours
Total	**744 annual responses**		**744 annual burden hours**

13. Estimate of the total annual costs burden.

Operator Registry and Notifications are assumed to be filled out by a senior engineer. Based on the industry-specific occupational and wage estimates provided by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, median hourly wage of an engineering manager (for NAICS 486000 – pipeline transportation)[a] is estimated as $77.50. Using an estimated fringe benefit of approximately 35 percent, the registry and notification requirements for pipeline operators are prepared at the average rate of $104.63 per hour.

The cost burden associated with this information collection is estimated to $104.63 x 744 hours = $77,844.72.

14. Estimates of costs to the Federal Government.

PHMSA expects to incur no additional costs due to the collection of this information.

15. Explanation of the program change or adjustments.

There are no program changes or adjustments at this time.

16. Publication of results of data collection.

PHMSA will publish basic information at www.phmsa.dot.gov. "Basic Information" will be focused on summary data such as:

- # of operators per state/county
- # of operators by transported commodity
- # of operators for all commodities
- # of miles for each commodity
- # of miles for each operator

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

PHMSA is not requesting approval to not displaying the expiration date.

18. **Exceptions to the certification statement.**

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

[a] https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/naics3_486000.htm