Approved additions and revisions to guide material under §192.616. Ready for 4th LB.

PRIMARY: 192.616
RESPONSIBLE GROUP: Damage Prevention/Emergency Response Task Group
PURPOSE: Review GM 192.616 to determine if the information in 196.109 should be included to leak reporting in 2(iii).
ORIGIN/RATIONALE: 2016 – March 15 DP/ER Task Group minutes
(2) Response to a pipeline leak or emergency.
   (iii) Report pipeline damage that results in a release of gas to the local 911 or, where there is no local 911, to the local emergency response agency. In addition, consider providing information to excavators advising them of their responsibilities for reporting damage according to the PIPES Act of 2006 (49 USC 60114(d)).

§196.109 What must an excavator do if damage to a pipeline from excavation activity causes a leak where product is released from the pipeline?
If damage to a pipeline from excavation activity causes the release of any PHMSA regulated natural and other gas or hazardous liquid as defined in Parts 192, 193 or 195 from the pipeline, the excavator must promptly report the release to appropriate emergency response authorities by calling the 911 emergency telephone number.

LB Processing Note: Adjustments to the version previously balloted in LB4-2018 (3rd LB) are highlighted below.

Section 192.616

2 API RP 1162
2.1 Recommended Practice (RP). …
2.2 Stakeholder audiences. …
2.3 Message content.
API RP 1162 identifies several “Baseline Messages” and “Supplemental Messages” to be communicated to the stakeholder audiences. Operators are required by §192.616(b) and (c) to follow these general program recommendations, except as exempted by §192.616(c). It is often more effective to emphasize one or two messages at any given time rather than overwhelm the stakeholder audience with a “laundry list” that might be easily forgotten. If the operator chooses to convey the required messages in multiple communications to stakeholder audiences, the operator should consider including a plan, schedule, or timetable in its program for addressing each of the recommended messages.

Guidance is provided in API RP 1162, Section 4 for message content and components. Additional considerations for some of the message components include the following.
(a) Pipeline purpose — Facts about the gas distributed or transported.
(b) Leaks and pipeline emergencies – Transmission and regulated gathering lines.
   (1) Possible indicators might include the following.
      (i) thru (vii) …
   (2) Response to a pipeline leak or emergency.
      (i) Leave the area quickly and warn others to stay away.
      (ii) Report a leak or an emergency to the pipeline operator and local 911 or local emergency response agency from a safe place.
(iii) Report pipeline damage that results in a release of gas to the local 911 or, where there is no local 911, to the local emergency response agency. In addition, consider providing information to excavators advising them of their responsibilities for reporting damage according to the PIPES Act of 2006 (49 USC 60114(d)). Communicate periodic messages to the known excavator community in their territory. Each message should inform excavators of the requirement to promptly report damages that result in the release of gas as well as reporting all other damage (especially when required by state requirements/regulations) to appropriate emergency response authorities by calling 911 (49 CFR §196.109) or, where there is no local 911, the local emergency response agency.

(iv) Actions to take until the operator can respond. These might include the following.

(A) thru (C) …

(c) Leaks and pipeline emergencies — Distribution systems.

(1) Possible indicators might include the following.

(i) thru (ix) …

(2) Response to a pipeline leak or emergency.

(i) Importance of reporting any odor of gas no matter how slight.

(ii) Report an odor or emergency to the system operator.

(iii) Report pipeline damage that results in a release of gas to the local 911 or, where there is no local 911, to the local emergency response agency. In addition, consider providing information to excavators advising them of their responsibilities for reporting damage according to the PIPES Act of 2006 (49 USC 60114(d)). Communicate periodic messages to the known excavator community in their territory. Each message should inform excavators of the requirement to promptly report damages that result in the release of gas as well as reporting all other damage (especially when required by state requirements/regulations) to appropriate emergency response authorities by calling 911 (49 CFR §196.109) or, where there is no local 911, the local emergency response agency.

(iv) Actions to take until the operator can respond. These might include the following.

(A) thru (l) …

(d) …

(e) …

2.4 Additional information. …

2.5 Message delivery methods. …