§192.5
Guide Material

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3 CLASS LOCATION DETERMINATION

(a) Class locations for onshore gas pipelines are determined through the use of class location units (§192.5 (a)) that are continuous pipeline segments one (1) mile in length, extend 220 yards on either side of the centerline of a pipeline, and which move along the pipeline. Notwithstanding the provisions of §192.5 (c), the number of buildings suitable for human occupancy or certain buildings or outdoor areas meeting the requirements as stated in §192.5 (b)(3)(ii) within a class location unit determines the class location for the entire mile of pipeline contained within the class location unit.

(b) Operators equate the concept of a “sliding mile” with class location units.

(c) When higher dwelling concentrations are encountered during the continuous sliding of this mile-long unit, the class location of the pipeline rises commensurately. When the building counts lower, the class location will decrease.

(d) Whenever there is a change in class location that will cause an apparent overlapping of class locations, the higher-numbered class location applies.

(e) Actual calculated class locations will vary from several tens of feet to several miles in length.

(f) Class locations can change as buildings are added, removed, or change function over time and also when the use of an outside area changes over time.

(g) Tools and techniques that can be used to perform class location surveys include the following.

(1) Aerial or satellite imagery.

(2) GIS datasets land parcels, land use, building types, population density.

(3) On-the-ground survey.

(h) In the absence of a clear regulatory definition for the term “prevalent,” operators should establish objective criteria in their operating procedures or class location evaluation plans for determining when buildings with four or

more stories constitute a Class 4 location. The criteria should support a repeatable, consistently applied, and well-documented process, allowing the operator to demonstrate a reasonable and defensible basis for compliance with the regulations.