



## WHY PIPELINES MATTER TO YOU

Pipelines, like roads, are for the public benefit and are an essential component of our modern infrastructure. Through pipelines, the primary transportation mechanism of the oil and gas industry, we are able to safely and reliably transport the hydrocarbons – such as crude oil, petroleum products and natural gas – that fuel our economy.

**Pipelines reduce the burden on our infrastructure. A moderate 20” pipeline running 50 miles through a county can displace 1,650 trucks – lessening congestion, pollution, traffic accidents and highway damage.**

## PIPELINES ARE HIGHLY REGULATED

The pipeline industry is highly regulated by state and federal agencies, including the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

TPA member companies support regulatory oversight and work in partnership with these agencies to ensure full regulatory compliance. However, in order to construct and maintain the infrastructure necessary to meet the dramatically increasing demands of end-users and producers, the industry must be able to rely on sound, consistent and science-based policies. Inconsistency and unpredictability result in unnecessary delays and increased costs for pipeline companies, ultimately increasing the prices paid by the public for the fuels on which we are reliant, including gasoline, natural gas and natural gas liquids.

## PIPELINES ARE SAFE AND RELIABLE



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

Placing the highest priorities on safety, the industry continuously strives for improvement through ongoing training and awareness programs designed to ensure compliance with regulations and industry standards. In partnership with state and federal governments, pipeline companies work aggressively to enhance pipeline safety awareness through programs such as "811: Call Before You Dig."

TPA member companies monitor pipelines using advanced technologies and techniques, including smart pigs, drone surveillance, advanced laser leak detection and telecommunications and computer systems such as SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition). The industry also employs Cathodic Protection, a technique used to control the corrosion of a metal surface by placing an electrical current on the pipeline that reduces external corrosion.

Additionally, in accordance with company policies, as well as state- and federally-mandated requirements, the industry meets regularly with, and trains, first responders to test and refine emergency equipment.

**Pipelines are the safest, most reliable, efficient and economic means of transporting natural gas, crude and refined petroleum products.**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Pipeline safety is improving. Over the past five years, pipeline operators have **reduced the number of liquids pipeline incidents** impacting people or the environment by 20 percent – even as pipeline mileage and barrels delivered have both increased by more than 10 percent, according to the American Petroleum Institute (API) and the Association of Oil Pipe Lines (AOPL) 2019 Pipeline Safety Excellence Performance Report.

The liquids pipeline industry spent more than \$1.6 billion in one year alone to enhance pipeline safety measures, according to the AOPL, which also found that the industry **safely delivered 99.999 percent of products transported annually.**

**Texas was the first state in the nation to mandate a pipeline integrity management program**, which requires pipelines to be inspected, both physically and visually, for safety and reliability and covers more miles of pipeline on each system than the federal integrity program. These integrity assessment and management plans are reviewed every three years. TPA member companies also voluntarily inspect their pipelines regularly.

Information provided by the *Railroad Commission of Texas*. [Updated Sept. 14, 2020]



MORE THAN **479,798**  
TOTAL PIPELINE MILES IN TEXAS

MORE THAN **427,513**  
TOTAL INTRASTATE PIPELINE MILES IN TEXAS

## PIPELINES HELP PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, WITH METHANE EMISSIONS REMAINING FLAT – DESPITE A DRAMATIC GROWTH IN PRODUCTION

Since 2006, natural gas production in the U.S. has increased by 46 percent, yet total domestic methane emissions and methane emissions from oil and gas activity have remained flat during that same period, according to a 2019 study based on data collected by a research team from NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory in Boulder, Colorado, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in Berkeley, California.<sup>1</sup>

These results are consistent with 2019 greenhouse gas emissions data published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),<sup>2</sup> which found that methane emissions from the oil and natural gas production, natural gas processing and natural gas transmission and storage segments decreased by two percent between 2008 and 2017, even though that was a period of substantial increases in oil and natural gas production.

This has been achieved by, among other things, voluntary efforts to integrate emission reduction practices into company operating procedures, participation in voluntary industry programs focused on reducing emissions and installation of more efficient, lower-emitting equipment. Pipelines also help to protect our environment and health by reducing pollution associated with other methods of fuel transportation. Here in Texas, TPA is one of seven trade associations, along with more than 45 companies, who are part of the Texas Methane & Flaring Coalition, which is working to identify and promote operational and environmental recommended practices to minimize flaring and methane emissions.

## PIPELINES HELP BUILD TEXAS INFRASTRUCTURE

As pipelines are a necessary component of the state's energy infrastructure, the Texas pipeline industry commits to safe operation, environmental stewardship and respect for landowners and the communities in which it operates.

Because pipelines are considered common carriers or gas utilities for public use, pipeline companies have the right to invoke eminent domain when necessary. However, the use of eminent domain is never the industry's first preference. Eminent domain has the potential to hinder the construction of a pipeline and drive up construction and project costs. Recognizing that it is important to cultivate good neighborly relations, pipeline companies much prefer to obtain property rights-of-way through fair, market-driven negotiations with landowners. In fact, the vast majority of pipeline miles built in Texas were not constructed using condemnation.

In 2017, TPA conducted a sampling of 15,000 miles of pipeline that were constructed over the past six years from almost 35,000 tracts of land. The data shows that the industry sent condemnation filings less than four percent of the time, illustrating a 96 percent success rate in negotiating with landowners; less than one percent ever went to a special commissioners' hearing and less than three hundredths of one (0.03) percent ever went to trial.

This underscores that negotiations between landowners and pipeline companies are overwhelmingly successful. We are very proud of that. To further ensure the delivery of these vital resources to Texans, the 85th Texas Legislature passed the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act, which attaches liability to those who potentially damage or destroy critical infrastructure facilities. However, HB 3557 does not affect those who engage in peaceful protest. It does protect vital state infrastructure activities by enhancing safety measures for local communities, law enforcement and industry employees, while ensuring that peaceful protests can continue.

1. [Long-Term Measurements Show Little Evidence for Large Increases in Total U.S. Methane Emissions Over the Past Decade](#), Geophysical Research Letters 10.1029/2018GL081731 (May 15, 2019).

2. [84 Fed. Reg. 50270](#) (Sept. 24, 2019) (citing methane emissions data from Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 2008-2017 (published April 11, 2019)).

3. [Update to the Economic Impacts of the Texas Oil and Gas Pipeline Industry](#) (September 2020). Prepared for the Texas Pipeline Association by Texas Tech University.

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**2%**

DESPITE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN PRODUCTION<sup>2</sup>

## HB 3557 ENSURES PEACEFUL PROTESTS CAN CONTINUE.

THE TEXAS PIPELINE INDUSTRY HAS A  
**96%**  
SUCCESS RATE IN NEGOTIATING WITH LANDOWNERS

## WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT THEM?

The Texas pipeline industry is a vital component of Texas' job creation, investment and overall economic growth. In a TPA-commissioned 2020 study, Texas Tech University found that in 2019 the pipeline industry contributed:

**\$48.6 billion**  
in economic output

Over **238,000**  
jobs

Over **\$29.3 billion**  
in additional gross state product

Over **\$2.7 billion**  
in state & local government revenues

In the next 40 years, the pipeline industry is estimated to inject significant revenue and thousands of jobs into the Texas economy:

**\$1.49 trillion**  
in economic output

**\$903 billion**  
in additional gross state product

**\$84 billion**  
in state & local government revenues

Of those state and local government revenues, the cumulative property tax revenues generated per mile of pipeline for a typical Texas county is  
**\$380,000**

Updated October 2020.



The Texas Pipeline Association (TPA) is the largest state trade association in the country, representing solely the interests of the intrastate pipeline network. TPA is the primary resource for information regarding the Texas pipeline industry and provides advocacy on issues related to pipeline safety, environmental regulations, taxation and legislation. Member companies and their representatives commit to conducting their business in accordance with integrity, honest communication, fair right-of-way acquisition, respectful construction and safe operations. For more information, please visit [www.texaspipelines.com](http://www.texaspipelines.com).