



## 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 significantly decrease wear and tear on infrastructure. Fifty miles of a 20-inch pipeline can displace 1,650 trucks – reducing congestion, pollution, road damage and traffic accidents.**

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

## 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.

**There are 488,564 total miles of pipeline in Texas – enough to reach the moon and back.**

Information provided by the *Railroad Commission of Texas*. [Updated February 2023]

## DID YOU KNOW?

Pipeline safety continues to improve. Thanks to an industry culture of "safety first, safety always" and a commitment to zero incident operations, liquids pipeline incidents impacting people or the environment have **declined by 31 percent** over the past five years, even while pipeline mileage and barrels per day have increased by nearly 10 percent.

The liquids pipeline industry spent more than \$1.6 billion in one year alone to enhance pipeline safety measures, according to the Association of Oil Pipe Lines (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.



MORE THAN **488,564**  
TOTAL PIPELINE MILES IN TEXAS

MORE THAN **437,747**  
TOTAL INTRASTATE PIPELINE MILES IN TEXAS

## PIPELINES HELP PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT BY REDUCING METHANE EMISSIONS

Recently released data from the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) shows a plummet in the number of total venting and flaring exceptions requested and issued statewide by the agency. These numbers are made possible due to a commitment by operators to environmental sustainability, including employing advanced technologies that mitigate venting and flaring, developing improvements to industry best practices and building new pipeline infrastructure.

Increased takeaway capacity means less need to flare. To that end, five Texas pipeline projects are expected to increase takeaway capacity out of the Permian Basin by a combined 4.18 billion cubic feet per day over the next two years, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).

“A critical step towards reducing flaring is expanding energy infrastructure” through pipelines, reports Texans for Natural Gas (TNG). Methane intensity in the Permian Basin fell more than 76 percent from 2011 to 2021—even as production increased over 345 percent in that same period, says TNG.

These improvements have been achieved by, among other things, voluntary efforts to integrate emission reduction practices into company operating procedures and participation in voluntary industry programs focused on reducing emissions, as well as the investment in and installation of more efficient, lower-emitting equipment.

In addition to helping to protect the environment, pipelines lessen the disruption associated with other methods of fuel transportation.

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## PIPELINES HELP BUILD TEXAS' ESSENTIAL 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.

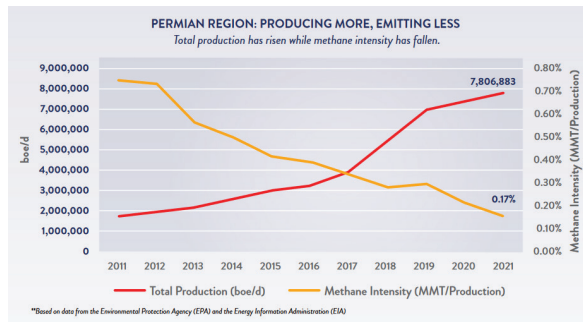
Because pipelines are considered common carriers or gas utilities for public use, pipeline companies may invoke eminent domain when necessary. However, the use of eminent domain is never the industry's first preference. Eminent domain has the potential to hinder the construction of a pipeline and drive 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.

Recognizing the need for essential infrastructure, in 2021 the Texas Legislature passed HB 2730, which strikes the right balance between protecting private property rights, while ensuring the essential infrastructure needed for a growing Texas can continue to be built.

HB 2730 strengthens the Landowner Bill of Rights, requires additional education and training for certified easement right-of-way agents and provides more information for landowners earlier in the process of working with condemning entities that are building essential infrastructure.

To meet the needs of the state to grow and thrive while protecting property rights, TPA member companies regularly meet with landowners to work through project details, such as road access, temporary easements and compensation. Through open communication, landowners are assured of having a voice in the process. We are very proud of that.



“CURRENTLY, THE LARGEST VOLUMES OF ASSOCIATED FLARED NATURAL GAS ARE DUE TO A LACK OF AVAILABLE PIPELINE INFRASTRUCTURE.”  
– U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

HB 2730 PROTECTS PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS, WHILE ENSURING THE ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED FOR A GROWING TEXAS.

## WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT PIPELINES?

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 February 2023.