

Transparency Review of Pipeline Safety Websites

The Trust has surveyed state pipeline safety agency websites since 2011, and scored them based on the ease of finding what an interested citizen might want to find. Nearly all states have a regulatory body focused on some aspect of pipeline safety within their state, though the specifics vary a great deal.

We use scoring criteria to review state agency websites on the transparency of their pipeline safety information. Our seventh annual review is presented here, and is on our website under “Transparency of Pipeline Information.”

This year we again have a three-way tie for first place with perfect scores from Arkansas, Nevada and Washington. But New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (PUC), California PUC, and Colorado PUC deserve special recognition. All three agencies made a genuine effort to improve their websites since the last update by implementing recommendations the Trust made as part of our pipeline safety website auditing program. They now join Minnesota in our “good” website category. Want to improve your state’s score next year? Contact Kate Blystone (kate@pstrust.org) for tips!

	Finding agency web site	Contacts for agency staff	Access to statutes, regulations	Describe what state regulates	Transmission pipeline maps	Pipeline company contact info	Inspection records	Incident data	Enforcement data	Excavation damage data	Siting & routing info	Total Score
Arkansas	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	33
Nevada	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	33
Washington	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	33
New Hampshire	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	2	3	3	3	30
Minnesota	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	28
California Gas*	0	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	25
Colorado	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	0	25
Maine	3	3	2	3	3	3	1	2	2	0	2	24
West Virginia	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	2	2	2	0	24
Connecticut	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	1	2	2	0	23
South Dakota	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	2	3	0	0	23
Mississippi	2	3	3	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	0	22
Louisiana	3	2	2	2	3	1	1	2	2	2	1	21
Illinois	2	3	3	3	3	1	3	0	1	1	0	20
Kentucky	3	0	3	2	3	2	0	2	2	2	0	19
Oregon	3	3	3	2	0	1	1	2	2	2	0	19
Texas	2	0	3	3	3	2	0	2	2	1	1	19
Georgia	3	3	0	2	0	1	3	2	2	2	0	18
Iowa	3	1	1	2	3	1	3	1	1	0	2	18
North Carolina	2	3	2	1	3	1	0	2	2	2	0	18
South Carolina	3	3	1	1	3	1	0	2	2	2	0	18
California Liquid*	3	3	3	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	15
New York	2	0	3	3	0	1	0	2	2	2	0	15
Utah	3	3	1	2	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	15
Indiana	3	3	2	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	14
Nebraska	2	3	1	2	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	14
North Dakota	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	14
Missouri	2	0	1	0	3	1	0	2	2	2	0	13
Ohio	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	2	2	13
Arizona	2	1	1	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	12
New Mexico	2	3	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Rhode Island	2	3	1	0	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	12
Oklahoma	2	1	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Tennessee	3	3	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
Pennsylvania	2	3	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	10
Massachusetts	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	9
Michigan	0	1	1	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	1	9
Virginia	2	1	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	9
Alabama	3	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	8
Idaho	3	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	8
Kansas	3	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	8
Maryland	2	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	7
Wisconsin	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	7
Vermont	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	6
Montana	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Puerto Rico	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
Wyoming	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
DC	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Florida	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
New Jersey	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Delaware	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Alaska **	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2

0

1

2

3

* California is the only state that has different agencies for natural gas and liquid pipelines. ** Hawaii and Alaska do not have PHMSA certified pipeline safety programs. We are not including PHMSA in this review in anticipation of the rollout of their new website.