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For more information contact:

Kenneth Clarkson
Communications & Outreach Director
kenneth@pstrust.org
360-543-5686 x104

NEWS RELEASE

PHMSA Rejects Petition from API and GPA Midstream that would Reduce Important Safety Measures

BELLINGHAM, Washington [April 11, 2022] – The Pipeline Safety Trust (PST) applauds the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration’s (PHMSA) decision to deny an egregious petition filed by GPA Midstream and the American Petroleum Institute (API) that looked to slash crucial safety measurements proposed in PHMSA’s Final Rule, “Safety of Gas Gathering Pipelines: Extension of Reporting Requirements, Regulation of Large, High-Pressure Lines, and Other Related Amendments.”

The rule, which would regulate some gas gathering pipelines such as adding corrosion control efforts and leak surveys, was challenged by GPA Midstream and API last December. With their petition, GPA Midstream and API claimed that there is “little to no safety benefit” to regulating pipelines such as the 10-inch diameter one that killed three-year-old Delaney Tercero in Midland, Texas in 2018. They also claimed that PHMSA had failed to fully consider their industry-funded cost-benefit analysis when producing the new rule.

PHMSA disagreed with the findings presented in API and GPA’s petition and in addition to declining the petition also denied their motion to stay and any of API and GPA’s proposed revisions to the final rule.

Bill Caram, executive director of PST, adds, “PHMSA has demonstrated its commitment to keeping rural residents safer from these previously unregulated pipelines. Gathering lines also play an outsized role in methane releases from pipelines, so this rule will not only help keep people safer, but reduce climate-wrecking methane leaked to the atmosphere. We hope the industry will get on board and stop trying to hamstring real safety and climate progress.”