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## **PIPELINE INDUSTRY CONTINUES TO FIGHT NEW SAFETY RULE**

### **GPA Midstream Files Petition for Review with United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit**

BELLINGHAM, Washington [May 20, 2022] – New safety regulations on previously unregulated gas gathering pipelines, which have a history of causing injuries, deaths, and methane leaks, went into effect on May 16 and are already being challenged in court by the pipeline industry. GPA Midstream, a gathering pipeline trade organization, has filed a petition for review with the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in an attempt to remove crucial safety measures required by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration’s (PHMSA) Final Rule, “Safety of Gas Gathering Pipelines: Extension of Reporting Requirements, Regulation of Large, High-Pressure Lines, and Other Related Amendments.”

Both state and federal regulators have been trying to implement the new rule for over a decade. Gas gathering lines are the pipelines that transport raw gas from the extraction site to processing facilities. Since 2010, The National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR), an organization of state pipeline safety regulators, has advocated for strengthening gathering line regulations.

Almost all of the estimated 450,000 miles of gas gathering lines throughout the United States are unregulated. PHMSA’s new rule brings around 100,000 miles of these lines under regulation for the first time, and regulates lines like the 10-inch diameter pipeline that killed three-year-old Delaney Tercero in Midland, TX in 2018. In addition, PHMSA now requires all gas gathering pipelines to report their incidents and other critical information about their facilities.

“With this rule, not only will gas gathering pipeline operators need to start applying important safety measures like corrosion control and leak surveys on some of their largest lines that could impact people, but it will also provide PHMSA with extremely important information to start understanding the full scope of the risks these pipelines pose to our rural communities and our climate. As it stands, we don’t even know where these pipes are or how many of them there are,” Pipeline Safety Trust Executive Director Bill Caram said.

The Pipeline Safety Trust, representing the public perspective, views this rule as reasonable and common-sense. The rule is the result of over a decade of public process including vetting by the industry-advantaged Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee (GPAC), an advisory body that reviews each gas pipeline regulation PHMSA proposes.

“This extreme action taken by the pipeline industry seeks to allow operators to continue avoiding any and all regulation, leaving members of our rural communities at risk and spewing unconscionable amounts of methane into our atmosphere,” Caram said. “This rule is one that states have been calling for, that the public has been calling for, and that industry representatives largely agreed to at an advisory committee meeting. It’s time for some basic, common-sense regulations on the largest of these pipelines and reporting on all of these pipelines.”

**About Pipeline Safety Trust:** The Pipeline Safety Trust is a nonprofit public watchdog promoting pipeline safety through education and advocacy by increasing access to information, and by building partnerships with residents, safety advocates, government, and industry, that result in safer communities and a healthier environment.

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