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NEWS RELEASE

API Appeals Rejected Petition, Continue to Seek to Remove Important Safety Measures

BELLINGHAM, Washington [May 2, 2022] – The American Petroleum Institute (API) has appealed the recent denial of their egregious petition, which attempts to slash crucial safety measures 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”, scheduled to become effective in two weeks. The appeal was released following the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) response to their petition, which denied their sought-after emendations.

As it stands, almost all of the 450,000 miles of gas gathering lines throughout the United States are unregulated. Gas gathering lines are the pipelines that transport product from the extraction site to processing facilities. PHMSA’s new rule would bring around 100,000 miles of these lines under regulation for the first time. In addition, PHMSA would require all gas gathering pipelines to report their incidents and critical information about their systems and processes.

The petitioners state that PHMSA’s final rule “contains requirements that are not the product of reasoned decision making, supported by substantial evidence in the record, or likely to provide any appreciable benefit to public safety.” Stated in spite of the fact that PHMSA’s new rule would, for the first time, regulate lines like the 10-inch diameter pipeline that killed three-year-old Delaney Tercero in Midland, TX in 2018.

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

"The industry continues its effort to prevent progress," Pipeline Safety Trust Executive Director Bill Caram said. "The petition by API seeks to gut key parts of the new rule, allowing the industry to continue to get away with negligent practices, leading to further loss of life in our rural communities and unconscionable amounts of methane emissions destabilizing our climate."