Pipeline Safety TRUST

Credible.
Independent.
In the public interest.

June 23, 2026

The Honorable Paul Roberti
Administrator
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Comment of the Pipeline Safety Trust regarding PHMSA's Direct Final Rule, Pipeline Safety: Standards Update—NACE SP0502 (Docket No. PHMSA-2026-1533)

Dear Administrator Roberti:

Pipeline Safety Trust,[1] a nonprofit watchdog organization of the pipeline industry and its regulators, has prepared the comments below in response to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA's) Direct Final Rule (DFR), Pipeline Safety: Standards Update—NACE SP0502 (Docket No. PHMSA-2026-1533). PST has concerns about the availability of the standard referenced in this DFR and as a result, the public's ability to comment on this rulemaking.

In the section of PHMSA's notice regarding "Availability of Materials to Interested Parties," PHMSA restates its statutory requirement that "the Secretary may not issue a regulation pursuant to this chapter that incorporates any documents or portions thereof unless the documents or portions thereof are made available to the public, free of charge."[2] PHMSA states that "[t]he standard incorporated in this direct final rule is available from the following website: https://ibr.ansi.org/Standards/nace.aspx."[3] As of June 23, 2026, the standard proposed to be incorporated by reference is not and has not been made available on the website indicated in the DFR. Only the 2010 edition, which is currently incorporated by reference, has been available from the time the DFR was published and the time of drafting this comment.

PHMSA does not state in the DFR as it does in other similar actions[4] that individuals and organizations may access the standard incorporated by reference in this direct final rule by contacting the PHMSA standards library at the following email address: *phmsaphpstandards@dot.gov."*[5] Notwithstanding this omission, PST contacted PHMSA's

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[1] Pipeline Safety Trust is a nonprofit watchdog organization dedicated to pipeline safety. We do this through education and advocacy, increasing access to information, and building partnerships with residents, safety advocates, government, and industry to promote safe communities and a healthy environment.
[2] 91 Fed. Reg. 22,026; 49 U.S.C. § 60102(p).
[3] 91 Fed. Reg. 22,026.
[4] 91 Fed. Reg. 22,040.
[5] 91 Fed. Reg. 22,026.

standards library and was directed to a different web address that was not publicly noticed.[6]

PHMSA must follow its statutory directive to not issue any rulemaking, including DFRs, when the documents being considered for incorporation by reference or portions thereof are not available to the public, free of charge. In this case, PHMSA has issued a direct final rule that contains an incorrect web address for where to view the current and proposed standard to be incorporated by reference. Notwithstanding, PST is supportive of updating the edition of NACE SP0502 incorporated by reference. Accordingly, PST believes that this comment constitutes an adverse comment on the basis of the availability issue identified above. Therefore, PHMSA must advise the public and withdraw this direct final rule in whole or in part in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 190.339(e).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this rulemaking. Please contact me if you have any questions at clayton@pstrust.org or (360) 543-5686 x111.

Sincerely,



Clayton Bodell
Technical Director

[6] https://ibr.ansi.org/Standards/ampp.aspx.