

By: Burnam

H.B. No. 1537

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to safety requirements applicable to gas pipelines in certain counties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 121, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Section 121.2017 to read as follows:

Sec. 121.2017. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR PIPELINES IN CERTAIN POPULOUS COUNTIES. (a) This section applies only to a gas pipeline located or proposed to be located in a county that:

(1) has a population of more than 1.4 million; and

(2) is located wholly or partly above a hydrocarbon-producing geological formation in which during the preceding year the Railroad Commission of Texas issued more than 2,000 drilling permits authorizing gas wells to be completed.

(b) A gathering or transmission pipeline may not be constructed within 300 feet of an established permanent structure that is used by human beings on a regular basis.

(c) Notwithstanding Section 121.252, gas produced from a well located in a county described by Subsection (a) of this section must be odorized at the wellhead in accordance with the methodology prescribed by 49 C.F.R. Section 192.625 before the gas enters a gathering pipeline.

(d) The pipe used in a gathering or transmission pipeline must be constructed of high-grade materials.

1       (e) A gathering or transmission pipeline must be protected  
2 from exterior corrosion through the use of adequate coatings and  
3 cathodic protection.

4       (f) Gas produced from a well located in a county described  
5 by Subsection (a) must be dehydrated at the wellhead before the gas  
6 enters a gathering pipeline, or a pipeline integrity assessment by  
7 in-line inspection or a pressure test of the gathering pipeline  
8 transporting the gas must be conducted every two years.

9       (g) The railroad commission shall adopt rules to implement  
10 this section.

11       (h) This section and railroad commission rules adopted to  
12 implement this section shall be enforced in the same manner as  
13 Section 121.201 and safety standards or other rules prescribed or  
14 adopted under that section.

15       SECTION 2. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective  
16 date of this Act, the Railroad Commission of Texas shall adopt rules  
17 to implement Section 121.2017, Utilities Code, as added by this  
18 Act.

19       (b) Section 121.2017(b), Utilities Code, as added by this  
20 Act, applies only to a pipeline constructed on or after the  
21 effective date of this Act.

22       (c) A pipeline subject to this Act that is in existence on  
23 the effective date of this Act is not required to be brought into  
24 compliance with Sections 121.2017(c)-(f), Utilities Code, as added  
25 by this Act, until January 1, 2012.

26       SECTION 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 2010.