

## Summary of HR 5782 “Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement and Safety Act of 2006” (PIPES)

First of all, they finally found an acronym I can remember!

The key sections are:

Sec 2 prohibits excavators from digging before notifying the operator and from disregarding markings while excavating. Damage must be promptly reported to the operator and, if there is a release, to 911.

Provides for incentives for states to develop effective damage prevention programs.

Sec 3 allows OPS to promote awareness of 811 as a nationwide one-call number

Sec 6 requires OPS to make publicly available information on open enforcement actions

Sec 9 requires OPS to issue distribution integrity management rules by Dec 31, 2007. Included in this section is a requirement that the DIMP rule require the installation of excess flow valves on service lines to that are newly installed or “entirely replace” after June 1, 2008. This is limited to single residential services operating over 10 psig where there are not liquids or contaminants that could interfere with the EFV or operations like purging liquids. OPS may determine which pipelines these DIMP requirements apply to.

Sec 10 allows OPS to issue emergency waivers of pipeline safety rules under certain conditions (e.g. an emergency involving pipeline transportation)

Sec 12 requires OPS to issue rules on pipeline control room management by June 1, 2008. The rule will require that each operator having a control center develop a human factors management plan to address controller fatigue including establishing a maximum hours of service limit for controllers.

The reauthorization extends through the end of fiscal year 2010.