

Nebraska State Fire Marshal Pipeline Safety Seminar

# Pipeline Safety Management Systems (PSMS)

Kearney, Nebraska | February 4, 2026



# Topics to be Covered Today

Background and Overview of PSMS

API RP1173 Revisions

NTSB and PHMSA Positions

Paths Forward for Adoption

Industry Involvement

Resources

# Marshall, MI Oil Spill (2010)



# San Bruno, CA (2010)



# NTSB Safety Recommendation P-12-17

Form a multi-stakeholder group and develop a Pipeline-Specific SMS Standard



# API Recommended Practice 1173



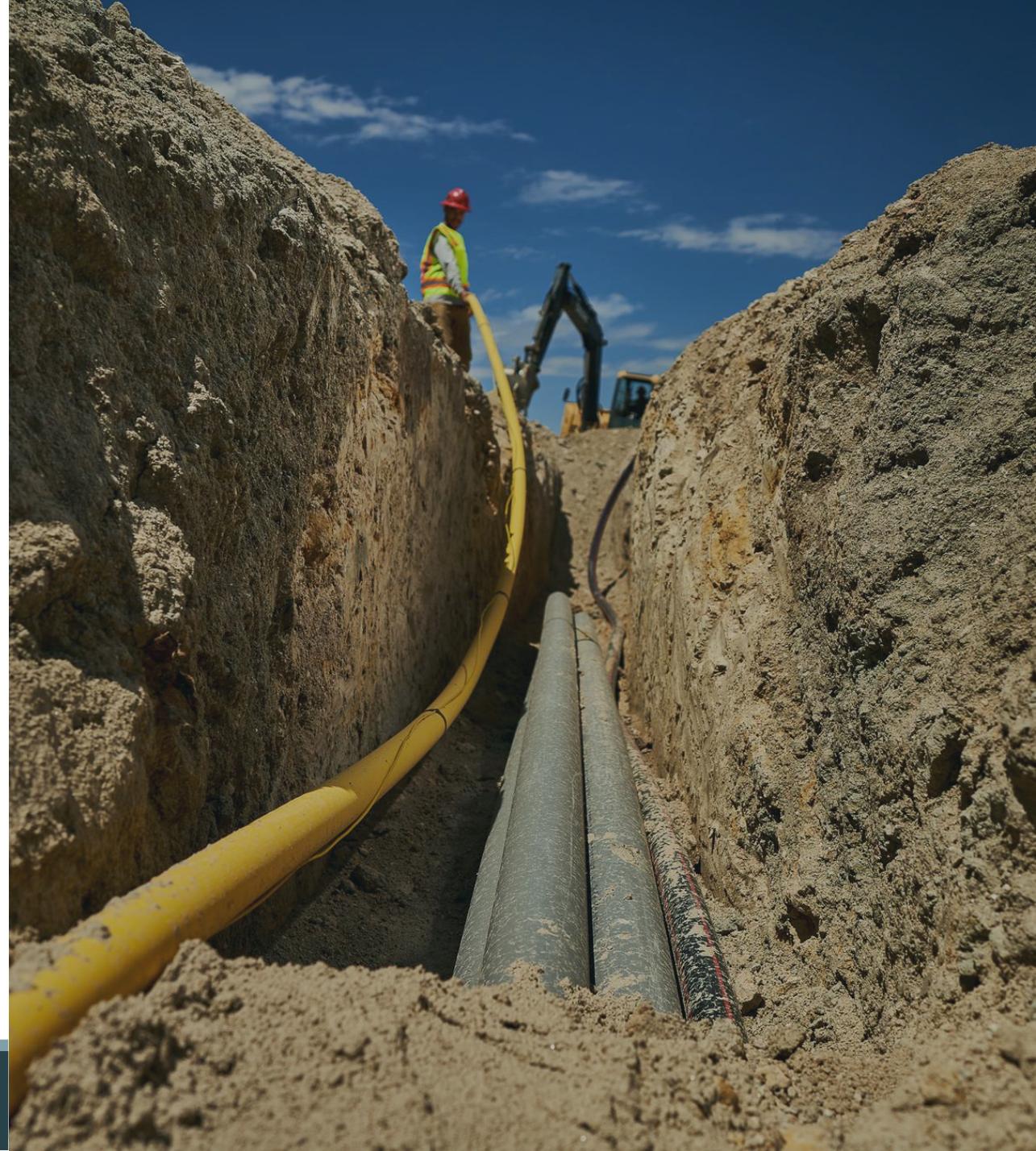
American  
Petroleum  
Institute

Published July 2015

# What is a Pipeline Safety Management System?

A scalable set of safety management system tools and practices that when applied holistically, provide an integrated framework to help:

- Reveal and manage risk,
- Promote a learning environment and positive safety culture, and
- Continuously improve pipeline safety and integrity.



# Elements of API RP 1173 (PSMS)

1. **Leadership and Management Commitment** (*Safety Culture, Funding, Assignment*)
2. **Stakeholder Engagement** (*Public Awareness*)
3. **Risk Management** (*Integrity Management, Risk Awareness, Prevention and Mitigation*)
4. **Operational Controls** (*O&M and Other Formal Policies and Procedures*)
5. **Incident Investigation, Evaluation, Lessons Learned** (*Investigation of Failures*)
6. **Safety Assurance** (*Audits and Evaluations to gauge conformity and maturity*)
7. **Management Review and Continuous Improvement** (*Plan, Do, Check, Act*)
8. **Emergency Preparedness and Response** (*Emergency Manual*)
9. **Competence, Awareness, and Training** (*Operator Qualification and PSMS Training*)
10. **Documentation and Record Keeping** (*All aspects of operations*)

# NTSB Position

- NTSB has long advocated for PSMS implementation
- Merrimack Valley Final Report (September 2019)
- Safety Alert (SA-095) (January 2024) –Safety would be enhanced if companies implemented PSMS
- San Pedro Bay crude oil release NTSB Final Report – Safety Recommendation (P-24-2) (January 2024) for PHMSA Advisory Bulletin
- Bristol Twp., PA - Nursing Home Preliminary Report – Review operators PSMS

# PHMSA Position

- Wants Voluntary Adoption of PSMS
- Operators should be proactive and not wait for mandate
- PIPES Act of 2020 – Congress expects PHMSA and States to promote and monitor PSMS adoption
- PIPES Act 2020 Mandated Report to Congress - Issued August 2024
- In addressing NTSB Safety Recommendation P-24-2 – PHMSA Issued Advisory Bulletin [2025-04960](#) in March 2025

# PHMSA Advisory Bulletin

## PHMSA PSMS Advisory Bulletin 3/24/2025

1. Implement PSMS covering all elements
2. Facilitate continuous improvement
3. Maintain a positive safety culture

Continued support for voluntary vs. mandatory adoption, incumbent on industry-wide progress

# Industry Associations Involved with PSMS



# American Petroleum Institute

- Operator Assessment Program
- Contractor Assessment Program
- Tool Development (Assessment and Maturity)
- [Annual Report](#)
- RP-1173 Standard Review/Revision Process



American  
Petroleum  
Institute

# 2024 PSMS Industry Annual Report

- Published in July 2025
- Includes updates on 2024 activities and 2025 priorities
  - API Assessment Program Updates
  - AGA and regional association updates
  - RP 1173 revisions
  - Regulatory and oversight activities
  - 2024 Annual Survey Results



# API RP1173 Review and Revision

- 2022 RP 1173 was reaffirmed with no changes for 5 more years
- Version 2 of RP 1173 was balloted and passed in July
- Comments being reviewed and resolved
- Recirculate or re-ballot based on significance of resolution
- Expect early 2026 publish date



# API RP 1173, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

## Significant Changes

- New Informative Annexes
- Improved Clarity
- Safety Culture



# Path Forward for Adoption



Educate and gain Leadership buy-in

Perform Gap Analysis and map conformance

Develop plan to address gaps identified

Complete Safety Culture Assessment/Survey and address opportunities identified

Develop Performance Metrics (does NOT need to be overly complicated)

Monitor/Evaluate/Update/Revise/Correct

Wash-Rinse-Repeat (Plan-Do-Check-Adjust)

# PSMS Resources

**Pipelinesms.org:** <https://pipelinesms.org/>

**LinkedIn PSMS Group:** <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8650649/>

**SIF Gas Operations & Safety Orientation Videos:** <https://apgasif.org/gas-operations-safety-orientation-videos/>

**APGA PSMS Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p003gN6rhMk>

**APGA – Various PSMS Articles and Resources:**

<https://apga.org/search?executeSearch=true&SearchTerm=psms&l=1>

**Notable Practices:** <https://pipelinesms.org/notable-practices/>

**Contractor Guide:** <https://pipelinesms.org/publication-announcement-for-psms-contractor-guide/>

**EWN Webinar on Safety Culture “Turning Results into Action”:**

[https://energyworldnet.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_8kNjY2LBQ82\\_M9z35Eki3Q#/registration](https://energyworldnet.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8kNjY2LBQ82_M9z35Eki3Q#/registration)

**EWN Articles on PSMS:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/stephen-allen-ab323416/recent-activity/articles/>

# APGA PSMS Resources

PSMS Planning Tool

Safety Culture Survey

PSMS Working Group

PSMS Assessment Tool – *in Development (SIF/EWN)*

# About APGA

**Over 730 member utilities in 38 States. APGA is the only not-for-profit trade organization representing America's publicly owned natural gas local distribution companies.**

APGA members stats:

- Serves approximately 5 Million Customers
- Members have approx. 21,000 Employees
- Members operate 120,000 Miles of Main
- Sizes range from 38 to 500,000+ meters

# APGA Advocacy Strategy

## Legislative

*Influencing policy makers to drive legislative action.*



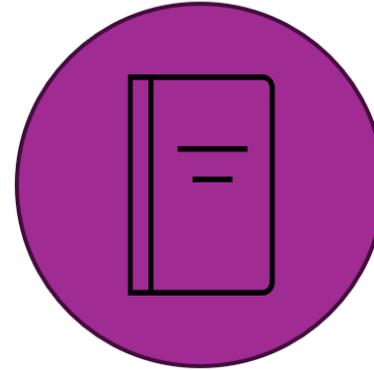
## Regulation

*Advocating for effective, reasonable, scalable regulatory requirements.*



## Consensus Standards

*Participating and leading consensus standard development to influence regulatory change.*



## Legal Engagement

*Engaging in legal challenges impacting APGA members' ability to affordably, reliably, and safely deliver natural gas to their end-use customers.*



# APGA & Nebraska

## APGA Board of Directors

Chris Anderson, Central City Gas Department

## PHMSA NGDISM Grant Program

**2023** Metropolitan Utilities District  
Village of Stuart

**2024** Metropolitan Utilities District  
City of Wahoo

**2025** City of Alma

**\$37,005,301**



Questions

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# Thank You

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