

NOTABLE PIPELINE FAILURES

A 30-inch intrastate transmission pipeline ruptured in a residential neighborhood south of San Francisco. The fire killed eight people, injured 58, destroyed 38 homes and damaged 70 others.

Pipeline owner Pacific Gas & Electric estimated the rupture released 47.6 million cubic feet of natural gas. An National Transportation Safety Board report said PG&E's integrity management program was deficient and ineffective. State regulators didn't detect those inadequacies and NTSB said federal inspection protocols needed to be improved.

This was one of three incidents that prompted NTSB to study integrity management in high-consequence areas.

Carlsbad, New Mexico, Aug. 19, 2000

A 30-inch El Paso Natural Gas Co. transmission pipeline ruptured next to the Pecos River on the Texas border. The fire killed 12 people who were camping under a nearby bridge and destroyed their three vehicles. The explosion damaged two steel suspension bridges that carried other pipelines across the river.

The owner failed to prevent severe corrosion of the pipeline and federal inspections failed to identify problems with the company's corrosion-prevention program, NTSB found.

Palm City, Florida, May 4, 2009

An 18-inch Florida Gas Transmission Co. interstate pipeline ruptured in a sparsely populated area of Florida, releasing 36 million cubic feet of natural gas, but not catching fire, and causing three minor injuries.

NTSB found that Florida Gas Transmission failed to detect cracking beneath a protective coating, and hadn't identified the pipe as being in a high-consequence area, even though it was near a school. Energy Transfer owns half of FGT in a joint venture with Kinder Morgan.

Vicki Granado, a spokeswoman for Energy Transfer's Rover project, in an email said FGT has "worked with the appropriate regulatory agencies to make the necessary repairs to the pipeline and to its integrity management program to safeguard the line and ensure its safe operation going forward."

Sissonville, West Virginia, Dec. 11, 2012

A 20-inch Columbia Gas Transmission Co. interstate pipeline ruptured about 100 feet west of Interstate 77.

The fire destroyed three homes, damaged part of the highway and consumed 76 million cubic feet of natural gas, but no one was injured or killed.

An NTSB investigation found the pipeline was heavily corroded due to ineffective safeguards and hadn't been inspected since 1998. Two other Columbia Gas pipelines buried in the same right-of-way, a 26-inch and a 30-inch, were not damaged by the rupture.

Although it wasn't a fatal incident, the Sissonville rupture was one of three incidents that prompted NTSB to study integrity management in high-consequence areas.

2011 pipeline blast in Hanoverton caused \$2.9M in damage

Ohio has had 24 significant incidents, with five injuries, no fatalities and almost \$16 million in property damage in the last 20 years, according to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

Ohio has 9,800 miles of natural gas transmission pipelines, most of it interstate lines under federal jurisdiction.

That's about 3.5 percent of the total onshore natural gas transmission mileage in the United States.

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The most expensive incident since 2000 happened southeast of Hanoverton in Columbiana County, not far from where the proposed NEXUS Gas Transmission pipeline will start.

On Feb. 10, 2011, the 36-inch Tennessee Gas Pipeline ruptured at a road crossing, sending up a jet of flame that turned the night sky into day.

“It sounded like someone was driving an old semi into the yard,” said Linda McGuire, who lived up the hill from where the pipeline ruptured. “Then the lamp started walking across the table.”

No one was injured, mostly because the pipeline ruptured in a rural area. The incident caused \$2.9 million in damage, almost all of it to the pipeline operator.

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