

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
Oversight and Safety Division
Pipeline Safety Department



NOTICE TO PIPELINE OPERATORS

State of Disaster in Texas Waiver Requests

On March 13, Governor Greg Abbott declared a State of Disaster in Texas for all Texas counties in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. During the State of Disaster, pipeline operators may request a waiver for certain regulatory requirements from the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC). The waiver requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

RRC has received the following guidance from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA),

If an operator wishes to request a waiver, the operator should provide justification as to why regulatory requirements cannot be met and what alternative actions the operator will provide to assure safety. Any waiver must follow the normal waiver process per TAC §8.125. Once a complete application is received, the Oversight and Safety Division has 60-days to review. If recommended for approval, the waiver will be reviewed by the RRC Commissioners at an open meeting and then PHMSA for review. PHMSA then has 60 days to accept or deny.

The operator must have both RRC and PHMSA approval before they can waive the specific regulation.

Please email waiver requests to Stephanie Weidman, Pipeline Safety Department Director and PHMSA Director, via email at Stephanie.Weidman@rrc.texas.gov.

Remember, the RRC also maintains a 24-hour, toll free emergency line; 844-773-0305 to report leaks, spills and other incidents.

If you have questions regarding this notice, please contact the RRC at Safety@rrc.texas.gov.

Please Forward to the Appropriate Section of Your Company