

## PIPELINE SAFETY AND REGULATORY PROGRAM FEES

### TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

**TITLE 16** ECONOMIC REGULATION

**PART 1** RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

**CHAPTER 8** PIPELINE SAFETY REGULATIONS

**SUBCHAPTER C** REQUIREMENTS FOR GAS PIPELINES ONLY

**Rule §8.201** Pipeline Safety and Regulatory Program Fees

(a) Application of fees. Pursuant to Texas Utilities Code, §121.211, the Commission establishes a pipeline safety and regulatory program fee, to be assessed annually against operators of natural gas distribution pipelines and pipeline facilities and natural gas master metered pipelines and pipeline facilities subject to the Commission's jurisdiction under Texas Utilities Code, Title 3. The total amount of revenue estimated to be collected under this section does not exceed the amount the Commission estimates to be necessary to recover the costs of administering the pipeline safety and regulatory programs under Texas Utilities Code, Title 3, excluding costs that are fully funded by federal sources for any fiscal year.

(b) Natural gas distribution systems. The Commission hereby assesses each operator of a natural gas distribution system an annual pipeline safety and regulatory program fee of \$1.00 for each service (service line) in service at the end of each calendar year as reported by each system operator on the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Gas Distribution Annual Report, Form PHMSA F7100.1-1 due on March 15 of each year.

(1) Each operator of a natural gas distribution system shall calculate the annual pipeline safety and regulatory program total to be paid to the Commission by multiplying the \$1.00 fee by the number of services listed in Part B, Section 3, of Form PHMSA F7100.1-1, due on March 15 of each year.

(2) Each operator of a natural gas distribution system shall remit to the Commission on March 15 of each year the amount calculated under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(3) Each operator of a natural gas distribution system shall recover, by a surcharge to its existing rates, the amount the operator paid to the Commission under paragraph (1) of this subsection. The surcharge:

(A) shall be a flat rate, one-time surcharge;

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- (B) shall not be billed before the operator remits the pipeline safety and regulatory program fee to the Commission;
  - (C) shall be applied in the billing cycle or cycles immediately following the date on which the operator paid the Commission;
  - (D) shall not exceed \$1.00 per service or service line (*For the calendar year 2019 annual pipeline safety and regulatory program fee, billed effective with meters read on and after March 27, 2020, Texas Gas Service Company, a Division of ONE Gas, Inc. will bill all customers a one-time customer charge per bill of \$1.00, based on \$1.00 per service line*); and
  - (E) shall not be billed to a state agency, as that term is defined in Texas Utilities Code, §101.003.
- (4) No later than 90 days after the last billing cycle in which the pipeline safety and regulatory program fee surcharge is billed to customers, each operator of a natural gas distribution system shall file with the Commission's Oversight and Safety Division a report showing:
- (A) the pipeline safety and regulatory program fee amount paid to the Commission;
  - (B) the unit rate and total amount of the surcharge billed to each customer;
  - (C) the date or dates on which the surcharge was billed to customers; and
  - (D) the total amount collected from customers from the surcharge.
- (5) Each operator of a natural gas distribution system that is a utility subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission pursuant to Texas Utilities Code, Chapters 101 - 105, shall file a generally applicable tariff for its surcharge in conformance with the requirements of §7.315 of this title (relating to Filing of Tariffs).
- (6) Amounts recovered from customers under this subsection by an investor-owned natural gas distribution system or a cooperatively owned natural gas distribution system shall not be included in the revenue or gross receipts of the system for the purpose of calculating municipal franchise fees or any tax imposed under Subchapter B, Chapter 182, Tax Code, or under Chapter 122, nor shall such amounts be subject to a sales and use tax imposed by Chapter 151, Tax Code, or Subtitle C, Title 3, Tax Code.
- (c) Natural gas master meter systems. The Commission hereby assesses each natural gas master meter system an annual pipeline safety and regulatory program fee of \$100 per master meter system.
- (1) Each operator of a natural gas master meter system shall remit to the Commission the annual pipeline safety and regulatory program fee of \$100 per master meter system no later than June 30 of each year.

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- (2) The Commission shall send an invoice to each affected natural gas master meter system operator no later than April 30 of each year as a courtesy reminder. The failure of a natural gas master meter system operator to receive an invoice shall not exempt the natural gas master meter system operator from its obligation to remit to the Commission the annual pipeline safety and regulatory program fee on June 30 each year.
- (3) Each operator of a natural gas master meter system shall recover as a surcharge to its existing rates the amounts paid to the Commission under paragraph (1) of this subsection.
- (4) No later than 90 days after the last billing cycle in which the pipeline safety and regulatory program fee surcharge is billed to customers, each natural gas master meter system operator shall file with the Oversight and Safety Division a report showing:
  - (A) the pipeline safety and regulatory program fee amount paid to the Commission;
  - (B) the unit rate and total amount of the surcharge billed to each customer;
  - (C) the date or dates on which the surcharge was billed to customers; and
  - (D) the total amount collected from customers from the surcharge.
- (d) Late payment penalty. If the operator of a natural gas distribution system or a natural gas master meter system does not remit payment of the annual pipeline safety and regulatory program fee to the Commission within 30 days of the due date, the Commission shall assess a late payment penalty of 10 percent of the total assessment due under subsection (b) or (c) of this section, as applicable, and shall notify the operator of the total amount due to the Commission.

**Source Note:** The provisions of this §8.201 adopted to be effective September 8, 2003, 28 TexReg 7682; amended to be effective November 24, 2004, 29 TexReg 10733; amended to be effective May 15, 2005, 30 TexReg 2849; amended to be effective December 19, 2005, 30 TexReg 8428; amended to be effective April 18, 2007, 32 TexReg 2136; amended to be effective November 12, 2007, 32 TexReg 8121; amended to be effective September 21, 2009, 34 TexReg 6446; amended to be effective August 30, 2010, 35 TexReg 7743; amended to be effective November 14, 2011, 36 TexReg 7663; amended to be effective November 11, 2013, 38 TexReg 7947; amended to be effective January 6, 2020, 45 TexReg 121