Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Plaza 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590–0001. Alternatively, comments may be e-mailed to ops.comments@rspa.dot.gov. All comments must reference Docket No. RSPA–98–4470. The Dockets Facility is located on the plaza level of the Nassif Building in Room 401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC. The Dockets Facility is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meeting, contact Peggy Thompson at (202) 366–1933.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Jo Cooney, OPS, (202) 366-4774 or Richard Huriaux, OPS, (202) 366–4565, regarding the subject matter of this notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 3, 1999, at 9:00 a.m., the Technical Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Standards Committee will meet in room 8236 of the Nassif Building. The preliminary agenda includes:

1. Bellingham, WA Incident & Investigation
2. Industry Performance Report
3. Corrosion Control on Hazardous Liquid Pipelines
4. Pressure Testing Older Pipelines in Terminals
5. Update on Unusually Sensitive Areas (USA) Project
6. Oil Pollution Act Developments

On November 3, 1999, at 1:00 p.m., the THLPSSC will be joined by members of the TPSSC for a joint session of the gas and hazardous liquid pipeline advisory committees. The preliminary agenda includes:

1. Administration/RSPA/OPS Initiatives
2. Program Update
3. OPS Reauthorization: Congressional Perspectives
4. Challenges of the Current Regulatory Climate, Government Accounting Office & Inspector General Audits
5. Issues Raised by Recent Incidents & NTSB Perspectives
6. Opportunities for Improving Integrity Assurance
7. Underwater Abandoned Pipeline Facilities (VOTE)
8. Enforcement Procedures (VOTE)

On November 4, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., the Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee will meet. The preliminary agenda includes:

1. Plastic Pipeline Safety Standards & Research
2. Gas Pipeline Safety Standards; SIRRC report
3. Gas Gathering Line Definition
4. Remotely Controlled Valves on Natural Gas Pipelines
5. Update on the Local Distribution Company Risk Assessment Feasibility Team Initiative

All three meetings will be open to the public. Members of the public will have an opportunity to make short statements on the topics under discussion. Anyone wishing to make an oral statement must notify Peggy Thompson, Room 7128, Department of Transportation, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590, telephone (202) 366–1933, not later than October 15, 1999, on the topic of the statement and the time requested for presentation. The presiding officer at each meeting may deny any request to present an oral statement and may limit the time of any presentation.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 60102, 60115.

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 30, 1999.

Richard B. Felder,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 99–25845 Filed 10–4–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–60–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

[Docket No. RSPA–97–2879]

Pipeline Safety: Rapid Isolation of Ruptured Sections of Gas Transmission Pipelines

AGENCY: Office of Pipeline Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public meeting to consider the need for a rulemaking to establish time limits for isolating ruptured sections of gas transmission pipelines. The meeting agenda will include presentation of findings from a recent Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) study on remote control valves (RCV) and opportunity for public comments and suggestions.

DATES: The public meeting will be on November 4, 1999, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm in Room 8236 of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC. We encourage the public to present oral remarks at the public meeting. If you want to make an oral presentation at the meeting, please notify Jenny Donohue no later than October 28, 1999, by telephone at 202–366–4046 or by e-mail at *jenny.donohue@rspa.dot.gov.* Please indicate the approximate length of your presentation.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments no later than December 6, 1999, by mail or hand delivery to the Dockets Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL–401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590–0001. Comments should identify the docket number RSPA–97–2879. Persons should submit the original comment document and one (1) copy. Anyone who wants confirmation of mailed comments must include a self-addressed stamped postcard. You also may submit written comments to the docket electronically. To do so, log on to the following Internet Web address: *http://dms.dot.gov.* Click on ''Help & Information'' for instructions on how to file a document electronically. Late-filed comments will be considered so far as practicable.

Information on Services for Individuals With Disabilities

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meeting, contact Peggy Thompson at (202) 366–1933.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lloyd Ulrich, OPS, (202) 366–4556, regarding the subject matter of this notice. Contact the Dockets Unit, (202) 366–5046, for docket material. Comments may also be reviewed online at the DOT Docket Management System website at *http://dms.dot.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Since the March 23, 1994, Edison, New Jersey, pipeline failure in which two-and-one-half hours elapsed before the operator could locate and close functional valves, OPS has been exploring means of limiting the time for isolating ruptured sections of gas transmission pipelines. In 1995, NTSB recommended that RSPA expedite requirements for installing automatic-or remote-operated mainline valves on high-pressure pipelines in urban and environmentally sensitive areas to provide for rapid shutdown of failed pipeline segments. In the Federal pipeline safety law (49 U.S.C. 60102 (j)), Congress directed DOT to prescribe standards for the use of remote control valves (RCV), if a study showed that they reduced risk and were technically and economically feasible.

OPS has completed a study on RCVs titled ''Remotely Controlled Valves on Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines,'' which

is available in this Docket (RSPA–97–2879) and on the OPS website at http://ops.dot.gov. The study shows that installing and using RCVs can effectively limit the time required to isolate ruptured pipe sections when manual valve operation is not feasible, thereby minimizing the consequences of certain gas pipeline ruptures. The study supports RCVs' effectiveness, technical feasibility, and potential for reducing risk. We base these conclusions on an October 30, 1997, public meeting in Houston, Texas, a field evaluation of RCVs conducted by the Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation (TETCO), comments from the Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee (TPSSC), and a review of technical studies of RCVs and other valves.

Several factors must be considered in determining whether to establish a standard. Our study shows that the most significant consequences, including injuries, fatalities, and the majority of property and environmental damage, occur within the first few minutes of a rupture, before any valves (including RCVs) can be operated. Also, once valves have closed, a fire burning the residual gas in the isolated section could continue for the better part of an hour, depending on variables such as the section's length, pipe diameter, and operating pressure. Our study indicates that the quantifiable costs of RCV installations would almost always exceed the benefits.

However, we believe that significant risk exists at many locations as long as gas is being supplied to a rupture site, and operators lack the ability to quickly close existing manual valves. Any fire would be of greater intensity, and would have greater potential for damaging surrounding infrastructure, if the fire were constantly replenished with gas. Our data show that as much as 45% of gas transmission pipelines traverse commercial areas (including highways, railroads, other pipelines, airports, and businesses) and 6% are located within U.S. Census Bureau defined urban areas. The degree of disruption in these areas would be in direct proportion to the duration of the fire. Although we lack data to quantify the potential consequences, we believe considering a new standard limiting the time to isolate failed pipe in these areas merits further exploration. Under certain circumstances, we believe it may be appropriate to require RCVs or other measures to promptly isolate a failed pipeline section.

Also, setting a time limit for isolating a line following a rupture would determine when a fire could be extinguished. This knowledge provides a basis for risk assessment and response planning, important considerations in heavily populated or commercial areas, and important factors in maintaining public confidence in the safety of natural gas transmission pipelines.

Although it may be appropriate to issue a standard limiting the time to isolate failed pipe sections, we need additional information. At the November 4 public meeting we will present findings from our study on RCVs and solicit public comments and suggestions. To focus on the issue of establishing a time limit for isolating a ruptured pipeline section, we request that oral comments at the public meeting and written comments submitted to Docket No. RSPA–97–2879 include responses to the following six questions—

(1) What are the variables that should be considered in establishing a time-to-isolate standard? As an example, one variable could be the time for gas contained in the ruptured section to burn, if there is a fire, after the section is isolated by closing valves on each side of the rupture.

(2) Should an operator's time to isolate a ruptured pipeline section be the same in each class location? If not, what difference should there be in the time to isolate for each of the four class locations?

(3) Should the definitions for class location in 49 CFR 192.5 be revised to provide for more stringent requirements in areas where there would be more significant consequences from a ruptured transmission pipeline where the escaping gas caught fire? Examples of areas of more significant consequences are commercial areas and apartment buildings with high population concentrations.

(3)a. What are other examples of areas subject to more significant consequences in case of a transmission pipeline rupture where the escaping gas catches fire?

(3)b. Should areas of more significant consequences be included in the definitions for Class 3 and 4 locations or should separate sub-class locations be established for these areas?

(4) Should the transmission line valve spacing requirement in 49 CFR 192.179 be reduced for Class 3 and 4 locations in order to reduce the risk in locations of highest consequences? If not, why not?

(5) What should be the maximum time for closing valves to isolate a ruptured valve section? Should RCVs be installed to assure the closing time is not exceeded?

(6) Should there be a tiered approach to establishing a time-to-isolate standard, e.g., less time in Class 4 than in Class 3 locations?

Issued in Washington, DC, on September 30, 1999.

Richard B. Felder,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 99–25843 Filed 10–4–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–60–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

List of Foreign Entities Violating Textile Transshipment and Country of Origin Rules

AGENCY: U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: This document notifies the public of foreign entities which have been issued a penalty claim under section 592 of the Tariff Act, for certain violations of the customs laws. This list is authorized to be published by section 333 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information regarding any of the operational aspects, contact Scott Greenberg, National Seizures and Penalties Officer, Seizures and Penalties Division, Office of Field Operations, (415) 782–9442. For information regarding any of the legal aspects, contact Ellen McClain, Office of Chief Counsel, at (202) 927–6900.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 333 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA)(Public Law 103–465, 108 Stat. 4809)(signed December 8, 1994), entitled Textile Transshipments, amended Part V of title IV of the Tariff Act of 1930 by creating a section 592A (19 U.S.C. 1592A), which authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to publish in the **Federal Register**, on a semiannual basis, a list of the names of any producers, manufacturers, suppliers, sellers, exporters, or other persons located outside the Customs territory of the United States, when these entities and/or persons have been issued a penalty claim under section 592 of the Tariff Act, for certain violations of the customs laws, provided that certain conditions are satisfied.

The violations of the customs laws referred to above are the following: (1) Using documentation, or providing documentation subsequently used by the importer of record, which indicates