

Alert Notice

Alert Notice #: ALN-92-02 **File Code:** ALN

Date: 06/26/92

CFR Reference(s): 192.613

Keyword(s): Iron, Cast, Explosion

Subject:

Addresses concerns arising from Allentown, PA, explosion.



US Department of Transportation
Research and Special Programs Administration

400 Seventh Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20590

PIPELINE SAFETY ALERT NOTICE

Alert Notice: ALN-92-02

Date: 06/26/92

To: Each Owner or Operator of a Gas Pipeline Facility and Every State Pipeline Safety Representative

Subject: Cast Iron Pipe (Supplementary Alert Notice)

Purpose:

To Address Concerns Rising Out of a Recent Accident

Notice:

As stated in the Alert Notice, the regulations required that:

- (a) If a segment of pipeline, including cast iron, is determined to be in unsatisfactory condition but no immediate hazard exists, the operator shall initiate a program to recondition or phase out the segment involved.
- (b) Cast iron pipe on which general graphitization is found to a degree where a fracture might result, must be replaced.
- (c) Cast iron pipe that is excavated must be protected against damage.

In addition to the above information included in the October 11, 1992 Alert Notice (ALN-91-02), pipeline operators should know that Section 192.613 required that each operator have a procedure for continuing surveillance of its pipeline facilities to identify problems and take appropriate action concerning failures, leakage, history, corrosion, and other unusual operating and maintenance conditions. This procedure should also include surveillance of cast iron to identify problems and to take appropriate action concerning graphitization.

Issued in Washington, DC on June 26, 1992.

George W. Tenley, Jr., Associate Administrator, Office of Pipeline Safety

Background:

On October 11, 1991, RSPA issued a Pipeline Safety Alert Notice alerting pipeline operators of the recently issued recommendation P-91-12 by NTSB related to an August 1990 explosion and fire in Allentown, PA, caused by a crack in a 4-inch cast iron gas main.

That Alert Notice stated that RSPA believes that each gas pipeline operator should have a program to identify and replace those cast iron piping systems that may threaten public safety. The Notice included information regarding material developed by the Gas Piping Technology Committee that was being sent by the American Gas Association (AGA) to all pipeline distribution operators with cast iron pipe to assist them in developing procedures for determining the serviceability of the cast iron pipe and to identify the cast iron segments that may need replacement. If an operator has cast iron pipe and has not received the material, contact either Larry Ingels (703/804-8454) or John Erickson (703/841-8612) of AGA and request the information.