

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2871

To amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish integrity verification requirements for pipeline facilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

Ms. SPEIER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish integrity verification requirements for pipeline facilities, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Pipeline Modernization
5 for Safety Act of 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. INTEGRITY VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.**

2 Section 60108 of title 49, United States Code, is
3 amended by adding at the end the following:

4 “(e) INTEGRITY VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
6 lish integrity verification requirements for pipeline
7 facilities.

8 “(2) REQUIRED ACTIONS FOR PIPELINE SEG-
9 MENTS WITHOUT DOCUMENTED PRESSURE TESTS.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the integ-
11 rity verification requirements, the Secretary
12 shall require an operator of a pipeline facility
13 that contains a pipeline segment without a doc-
14 umented pressure test to—

15 “(i) hydro-test the pipeline segment;

16 or

17 “(ii) replace the pipeline segment.

18 “(B) ADDITIONAL ACTIONS.—In addition
19 to the actions described in subparagraph (A),
20 the Secretary may require an operator de-
21 scribed in subparagraph (A) to undertake other
22 actions determined necessary by the Secretary
23 for public safety, including temporary reduc-
24 tions in pressure.

25 “(3) REPORTING OF INCREASES IN PRESSURE
26 EXCEEDING MAOP.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—As part of the integ-
2 rity verification requirements, the Secretary
3 shall require an operator of a pipeline facility
4 that contains a pipeline segment without a doc-
5 umented pressure test to submit a written re-
6 port to the Secretary (or the Secretary’s des-
7 ignee) on any increase in pressure in the pipe-
8 line segment that exceeds the maximum allow-
9 able operating pressure for the pipeline seg-
10 ment.

11 “(B) DEADLINE.—An operator shall report
12 an increase in pressure under subparagraph (A)
13 not later than 24 hours after the operator dis-
14 covers the increase in pressure.

15 “(C) INFORMATION TO BE REPORTED.—A
16 report on an increase in pressure under sub-
17 paragraph (A) shall contain, at a minimum, in-
18 formation on—

19 “(i) the cause of the increase; and

20 “(ii) any remedial action taken to ad-
21 dress the cause of the increase.

22 “(4) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 2 years
23 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the
24 Secretary shall issue final regulations to carry out
25 this subsection. Such regulations shall prioritize

1 pipeline facilities in high consequence areas (as de-
2 scribed in section 60109(a) of title 49, United States
3 Code) for purposes of implementation of the require-
4 ments of this subsection.”.

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