

STATE OF NEW YORK

8042--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 15, 2025

Introduced by Sen. KAVANAGH -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to requiring gas pipeline facilities to accelerate the repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of equipment or pipelines that are leaking or leak prone and increase safety reporting relating to gas pipeline leaks

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The public service law is amended by adding a new section
2 66-x to read as follows:

3 § 66-x. Gas pipeline modernization and consumer protection. 1. As used
4 in this section:

5 (a) "gas pipeline facility" means a gas distribution facility or a gas
6 utility; and

7 (b) "leak prone" means posing a high risk of leaking, or being no
8 longer fit for service, because of inferior materials, poor construction
9 practices, lack of maintenance, or age.

10 2. Each operator of a gas pipeline facility shall:

11 (a) provide the commission with an inventory of all gas piping or
12 equipment within the operator's service area that is leaking or leak
13 prone;

14 (b) repair, rehabilitate, or replace any portion of leaking gas piping
15 to cease such leak within the timeframes established by the commission
16 pursuant to subdivision three of this section; and

17 (c) replace leak prone pipe within the timeframes established by the
18 commission pursuant to subdivision three of this section.

19 3. The commission shall:

20 (a) set standards for designating piping as leaking or leak prone;

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (b) develop prioritized timelines requiring an operator of gas pipe-
2 line facilities to repair, rehabilitate, or replace all leaking gas
3 piping or equipment within an operator's service area, including non-ha-
4 zardous leaks and leaks identified as part of an integrity management
5 plan developed under this section if applicable;

6 (c) develop prioritized timelines requiring an operator of a gas pipe-
7 line facility to repair, rehabilitate, or replace identified leak prone
8 piping or equipment;

9 (d) adopt a cost-recovery program that includes (i) replacement plans
10 with targets and benchmarks for leaking and leak prone infrastructure,
11 (ii) consideration of the economic, safety, and environmental benefits
12 of reduced gas leakage, including consideration of reduced operation and
13 maintenance costs and reduced costs attributable to reductions in lost
14 or unaccounted-for natural gas, and (iii) reporting on the reductions in
15 lost or unaccounted-for gas as a result of pipeline replacements
16 required by this section;

17 (e) adopt a standard definition and methodology for calculating and
18 reporting unaccounted-for gas to improve data quality;

19 (f) adopt limits on cost recovery for the lost and unaccounted-for
20 gas;

21 (g) require use of best available technology to detect gas leaks; and

22 (h) adopt a standard for identifying the environmental risks caused by
23 gas leaks in the gas pipeline distribution system.

24 4. No later than one year after the effective date of this section,
25 the commission shall:

26 (a) after notice and opportunity to comment, issue rules identifying
27 best practices for identifying and classifying leaking and leak prone
28 pipeline infrastructure for repair, rehabilitation, or replacement, as
29 necessary to comply with this section; and

30 (b) establish and publish forms that adopt a standard definition and
31 methodology for calculating and reporting unaccounted-for gas, includ-
32 ing, when possible, information on the causes of unaccounted-for gas and
33 the quantities associated with each cause, for use by applicable state
34 agencies to standardize data collected on unaccounted-for gas.

35 5. Operators of gas pipeline facilities in cities with a population of
36 one million or more shall establish a database of pipeline infrastruc-
37 ture that includes its age and state of repair and shall share this
38 information with the coordinated building inspection data analysis
39 system.

40 6. The commission shall prescribe such rules and regulations as it may
41 deem necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this section.

42 § 2. Section 66-u of the public service law is amended by adding a new
43 subdivision 4 to read as follows:

44 4. The commission shall, no later than July first of each year,
45 provide a gas safety report to the governor, the temporary president of
46 the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the chairperson of the senate
47 committee on energy and telecommunications, and the chairperson of the
48 assembly committee on energy. The commission's gas safety report shall
49 summarize:

50 (a) the amount of remaining pipeline replacement work for gas corpo-
51 ration;

52 (b) the amount of annual pipeline replacement work that the department
53 has authorized for each gas corporation for the current year and subse-
54 quent two years;

1 (c) the extent to which the annual authorizations described in para-
2 graph (b) of this subdivision have been revised as a result of any
3 ruling by the commission since the time of the last report;

4 (d) the amount of pipeline replacement work performed by each gas
5 corporation in the prior calendar year;

6 (e) the adequacy of field personnel that each gas company has allo-
7 cated toward pipeline replacement work, including the quality of any
8 training or certifications associated with this work;

9 (f) any penalties, fines, or violations imposed by the department on a
10 gas corporation for failing to complete that corporation's pipeline
11 replacement work during the prior calendar year; and

12 (g) the extent to which any of the findings in the report required by
13 this subdivision or in the report described in subdivision one of this
14 section, or actions taken by the commission pursuant to subdivision
15 three of this section, materially change the scope or schedule for
16 replacing the remaining pipelines described in paragraph (a) of this
17 subdivision.

18 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.