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Submitted via www.regulations.gov

Sayler Palabrica
Transportation Specialist
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

Re: Pipeline Safety: Exception for In-Plant Piping Systems (Docket No. PHMSA-2025-0112); Meeting of the Gas and Liquid Pipeline Advisory Committees (Docket No. PHMSA-2026-1156)

Dear Mr. Palabrica:

On July 30, 2026, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA or the Agency) convened a meeting of the Gas and Liquid Pipeline Advisory Committees (the Advisory Committee Meeting) to review several notices of proposed rulemakings, including the *Pipeline Safety: Exception for In-Plant Piping Systems* Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (the NPRM).¹ GPA Midstream Association (GPA Midstream),² the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM),³ and the American Petroleum Institute (API)⁴ (jointly, “the Associations”) submit these comments for consideration.

PHMSA proposes to codify an exception for in-plant piping systems in 49 C.F.R. § 192.1(b).⁵ The Associations previously submitted comments and continue to support the Agency’s

¹ *Pipeline Safety: Exception for In-Plant Piping Systems*, 90 Fed. Reg. 28,606 (Jul. 1, 2025).

² GPA Midstream has served the U.S. energy industry since 1921 and approximately 45 domestic corporate members that directly employ 57,000 employees engaged in the gathering, transporting, processing, treating, storage, and marketing of natural gas, natural gas liquids, crude oil and refined products, commonly referred to as “midstream activities.” The work of our members indirectly creates or impacts an additional 470,000 jobs across the U.S. economy. In 2024, GPA Midstream members had an economic impact of \$191 billion through operating 502,900 miles of gas gathering pipelines, gathering more than 91 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas, and operating more than 342 natural gas processing facilities that delivered pipeline quality gas into markets across a majority of the U.S. interstate and intrastate pipeline systems.

³ AFPM is a national trade association representing most U.S. refining and petrochemical manufacturing capacity. AFPM’s member companies produce the gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel that drive the modern economy, as well as the petrochemical building blocks that are used to make the millions of products that make modern life possible—from clothing to life-saving medical equipment and smartphones. As such, AFPM members strengthen economic and national security while supporting more than 3 million jobs nationwide. To produce these essential goods, AFPM members depend on all modes of transportation to move their products to and from refineries and petrochemical facilities and have made significant infrastructure investments to support and improve the safety and efficiency of the transportation system. AFPM member companies depend upon an uninterrupted, affordable supply of crude oil and natural gas as feedstocks for the transportation fuels and petrochemicals they manufacture. Pipelines are the primary mode for transporting crude oil and natural gas to refiners and petrochemical facilities and refined products from those same facilities to distribution terminals serving consumer markets.

⁴ API represents all segments of America’s natural gas and oil industry, which supports more than 11 million U.S. jobs and is backed by a growing grassroots movement of millions of Americans. Our approximately 600 members produce, process and distribute the majority of the nation’s energy, and participate in API Energy Excellence®, which is accelerating environmental and safety progress by fostering new technologies and transparent reporting. API was formed in 1919 as a standards-setting organization and has developed more than 800 standards to enhance operational and environmental safety, efficiency and sustainability.

⁵ 90 Fed. Reg. at 28,606. *See also*, U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Liquid and Gas Pipeline Advisory Committees, Transcript (July 30, 2026) at 196:14:18.

proposal.⁶ The proposed amendment would align the Part 192 framework with PHMSA's longstanding approach to in-plant piping under Part 195, codify longstanding industry practice and agency interpretations, and provide greater clarity regarding the boundary between PHMSA-regulated transportation facilities and in-plant piping systems that are subject to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's requirements.

The Associations agree with PHMSA's approach stated during the Advisory Committee Meeting that the goal of the amendment is to have "orderly boundaries for transitions and jurisdiction between two responsible regulatory bodies."⁷ The Associations support PHMSA's adoption of an exception that mirrors its existing position in guidance and interpretations. However, the Associations encourage PHMSA to clarify in the final rule that the in-plant piping exception can be used for piping that crosses roads and railroads between plant equipment. This clarification is consistent with PHMSA's existing interpretation that an in-plant piping system can cross a public road or railroad without losing its in-plant classification.⁸ The Associations also stress, as discussed during the meeting, that relying on ownership as the basis for determining demarcation points for in-plant piping would be difficult to apply given that some of these facilities have multiple owners and operators with complex commercial arrangements.⁹

The Associations appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Stuart Saulters

Vice President, Federal Affairs
GPA Midstream Association
6060 American Plaza, Suite 700
Tulsa, OK 74135
ssaulters@gpamidstream.org

Robert Benedict

Vice President, Petrochemicals and Midstream
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers
1800 M Street NW, Suite 900 North
Washington, D.C. 20036
rbenedict@afpm.org

Dave Murk

Senior Director, Pipelines Midstream and Industry Operations
American Petroleum Institute
200 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
murkd@api.org

⁶ Comments from American Petroleum Institute, GPA Midstream, and Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, available at <https://www.regulations.gov/comment/PHMSA-2025-0112-0007> (Sept. 2, 2025).

⁷ Transcript, at 203:16-18.

⁸ PHMSA Letter of Interpretation to Mr. Darin R. Burke, PI-09-0020 (Aug. 11, 2010).

⁹ Transcript, at 219:20-21 and 220:3.