

Title 33
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Part V. Hazardous Waste and
Hazardous Materials
Subpart 3. Natural Resources
Chapter 313. Hazardous Liquids Pipeline Enforcement

§31301. Scope

A. This regulation prescribes the authority of the assistant secretary of the Office of Conservation and procedures to be utilized by him in carrying out his duties regarding administration and enforcement of R.S. 30:701 et seq., and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:753.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation, Pipeline Division, LR 29:2844 (December 2003).

§31303. Service

A. Except as herein provided, any order, notice or other documents required to be served under this regulation shall be served personally or by registered or certified mail.

B. Should the assistant secretary elect to make personal service, it may be made by any officer authorized to serve process or any agent or employee of the assistant secretary in the same manner as is provided by law for the service of citation in civil actions in the district courts. Proof of service by an agent or employee shall be by the affidavit of the person making it.

C. Service upon a person's duly authorized representative, officer or agent constitutes service upon that person.

D. Service by registered or certified mail is complete upon mailing. An official U.S. Postal Service receipt from the registered or certified mailing constitutes prima facie evidence of service.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:753.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation, Pipeline Division, LR 29:2844 (December 2003).

§31305. Subpoenas

A. The assistant secretary may sign and issue subpoenas either on his own initiative or, upon request and adequate showing by any person participating in any proceeding before the assistant secretary that the information sought is relevant and will materially advance the proceeding.

B. A subpoena may require the attendance of a witness for the purpose of giving testimony, or the production of documents or other tangible evidence in the possession or under the control of the person served, or both.

C. A subpoena may be served by any agent of the Department of Conservation, by the sheriff of the parish where service is to be made or the parish where the action is pending or by any other person authorized by law to serve process in this state.

D. Service of a subpoena upon the person named therein shall be made by delivering a copy of the subpoena to such person. Delivery of a copy of a subpoena may be made by handing them to the person, leaving them at his office with persons in charge thereof, leaving them at his dwelling place or usual place of abode with some person of suitable age and discretion then residing therein, or by any method whereby actual notice is given to him.

E. When the person to be served is not a natural person, delivery of a copy of the subpoena may be affected by handing them to a designated agent or representative for service, or to any officer, director, or agent in charge of any office of the person.

F. The original subpoena bearing a certificate of service shall be filed in the assistant secretary's records for the proceedings in connection with which the subpoena was issued.

G. No person shall be excused from attending and testifying or producing books, papers, or records, or from obeying the subpoena of the assistant secretary, or of a court of record on the grounds that the testimony or evidence required of him may tend to incriminate him or subject him to penalty or forfeiture. Pursuant to R.S. 30:8(4), no natural person shall be subject to criminal prosecution or to any penalty or forfeiture on account of anything concerning which he may be required to testify or produce evidence before the assistant secretary or a court of law; however, no person testifying shall be exempt from prosecution and punishment for perjury.

H. In the case of failure or refusal of a person to comply with a subpoena issued by the assistant secretary, or in the case of a refusal of a witness to testify or answer as to a matter regarding which he may be lawfully interrogated, any district court on the application of the assistant secretary may, in term time or in vacation, issue an attachment for the person to compel him to comply with the subpoena and to attend before the assistant secretary with the desired documents and to give his testimony upon whatever matters are lawfully required. The court may punish for contempt those disobeying its orders as in the case of disobedience of a subpoena issued by the court or refusal to testify therein.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:753.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation, Pipeline Division, LR 29:2844 (December 2003).

§31307. Inspection, Field Inspection Reports

A. Officers, employees or agents authorized by the assistant secretary, upon presenting proper credentials, are authorized to enter upon, inspect and

examine, at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner, the records and properties of persons to the extent that such records and properties are relevant to determining compliance of such person with R.S. 30:701 et seq. or any rules, regulations or orders issued thereunder.

B. Inspection may be conducted pursuant to a routine schedule, a complaint received from a member of the public, information obtained from a previous inspection, report of accident or incident involving facilities, or whenever deemed appropriate by the assistant secretary.

C. If, after inspection, the assistant secretary believes that further information is needed or required to determine compliance or appropriate action, the assistant secretary may request specific information of the person or operator to be answered within ten days of receipt of said request.

D. The assistant secretary may, to the extent necessary to carry out his responsibilities, require reasonable testing of any portion of a facility in connection with a violation or suspected violation.

E. When information obtained from an inspection indicates that a violation has probably occurred, the inspector shall complete a field inspection report as to the nature of the violation citing the specific provisions which have been violated. Said field inspection report shall be filed with the assistant secretary for review and further action, if appropriate.

F. The assistant secretary or his agent, after review of the field inspection report, and depending upon the severity of the violation and the exigency of the situation, may issue to the operator a letter of non-compliance or initiate one or more enforcement proceedings prescribed by §§31311-§31319.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:753.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation, Pipeline Division, LR 29:2845 (December 2003).

§31309. Letter of Non-Compliance; Relief Therefrom

A. Upon determination that a probable violation of R.S. 30:701 et seq., or any rule, regulation or order issued thereunder has occurred, the assistant secretary may institute enforcement procedures by serving upon the hazardous liquid pipeline operator a letter of non-compliance notifying said operator of said probable violation and directing said operator to correct said violation within a designated period of time to be determined by the assistant secretary or be subject to enforcement action prescribed by §§31311-31319. A copy of the field inspection report or other evidence of violation shall be attached to the letter of non-compliance. The letter of non-compliance may inform the operator of the time at which reinspection of the facility will be conducted to confirm compliance and shall inform the operator of the time delays and procedure available to said operator for securing relief from said letter of non-compliance.

B. Except in cases of emergency action instituted pursuant to §31315, within seven days of receipt of a letter of non-compliance, the operator who believes himself to be in compliance with the applicable

statute and the rules, regulations or orders issued thereunder or who believes the time limits imposed upon him for compliance to be burdensome, may request a conference before the assistant secretary or his designated agent. The operator's request for said conference may be verbal or presented in writing.

C. The conference before the assistant secretary or his agent shall be informal without strict adherence to rules of evidence. The operator may submit any relevant information and materials which shall become part of the record and may examine the assistant secretary's files relative to the probable violation. If circumstances are deemed appropriate by the assistant secretary and upon request of the operator, this conference may be held by telephone conference.

D. Upon conclusion of the conference for relief, the assistant secretary may issue to the operator a modified letter of non-compliance extending the time for compliance or containing such other terms and conditions as may be appropriate considering the nature of the probable violation, the circumstances and exigency of the situation.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:753.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation, Pipeline Division, LR 29:2845 (December 2003).

§31311. Reinspection, Show Cause Conference

A. Upon expiration of the delay allowed in the letter of non-compliance or modified letter of non-compliance for correcting said probable violation, the operator's facilities shall be reinspected and if the operator is found to be in compliance, the enforcement file for said violation will be closed.

B. If upon reinspection the operator is found to be in violation of the statute, rule or regulation for which a letter of non-compliance has been issued, the assistant secretary may:

1. re-issue citation to the operator in the form of a letter of non-compliance containing such modifications or extensions of time as the case may warrant;

2. require that the operator attend a show cause conference with the assistant secretary or his agent to review the complaint and the operator's efforts in resolving or correcting the violation and at the conclusion of said conference the assistant secretary may re-issue a modified letter of non-compliance containing such modifications or extensions of time as the case may warrant; or

3. immediately after reinspection or after the show cause conference, initiate one or more enforcement proceedings prescribed by §§31313-31319.

C. The show cause conference shall be conducted informally without strict adherence to the rules of evidence. The operator may submit any relevant information, call witnesses on his behalf, and examine the evidence and witnesses against him. No detailed record of said conference shall be prepared but said record shall contain the materials in the enforcement case file pertinent to the issues, relevant submissions of the operator and the written

recommendations of the assistant secretary or his agent.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:753.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation, Pipeline Division, LR 29:2846 (December 2003).

§31313. Show Cause Hearing, Notice, Rules of Procedure, Record, Order of Compliance

A. At any time that the assistant secretary determines that such action is appropriate, he may direct that an operator attend a formal show cause hearing and to show cause at said hearing why he should not be compelled to comply with applicable statutes and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

B. The operator shall be given at least 10 days notice of said show cause hearing in the manner herein provided and shall be required to attend. The assistant secretary may issue such subpoenas as may be necessary for the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents.

C. The show cause hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures for adjudication prescribed by the Administrative Procedure Act (R.S. 49:950 et seq.).

D. The record of the case shall include those items required by R.S. 49:955(E) together with the enforcement file for the violation in question which enforcement file may include inspection reports and other evidence of violation, letters of non-compliance, modified letters of non-compliance, materials submitted by the operator pursuant to §31309 and §31311, all correspondence and orders directed to the operator by the assistant secretary, all correspondence received by the assistant secretary from the operator, and evaluations and recommendations of the assistant secretary or his staff.

E. After conclusion of the show cause hearing the assistant secretary shall issue an order of compliance directed to the operator setting forth findings and determinations on all material issues, including a determination as to whether each alleged violation has been proven, and a statement of the actions required to be taken by the operator and the time by which such actions must be accomplished. The compliance order shall become final as specified by the Administrative Procedure Act.

F. The assistant secretary may tax the operator with all costs of said hearing including but not limited to transcription and service costs and hearing fees in the amount prescribed by R.S. 30:21.

G. The operator and the assistant secretary may consent to waiver of the show cause hearing and enter into a consent order which will become final and non-appealable upon its issuance.

H. If the operator fails to comply with the final order of compliance, the assistant secretary may take whatever civil or criminal action is necessary to enforce said order.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:753.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation, Pipeline Division, LR 29:2846 (December 2003).

§31315. Emergency

A. Should the assistant secretary, the director of pipelines or the chief of pipeline safety find an existing emergency due to non-compliance with law or the rules, regulations or orders issued pursuant thereto or due to leakage or other hazard which in his judgment requires the issuance of an emergency order or an order for the immediate termination of the offending service without first complying with the procedures set forth herein and without having a hearing, he may issue the emergency order or terminate said offending service and invoke a show cause hearing pursuant to §31313 requiring the operator to show cause why the circumstances giving rise to the emergency should not be corrected. The emergency order or order for termination of the offending service shall remain in force no longer than 15 days from its effective date. In any event, the emergency order shall expire when the order made after notice and hearing with respect to the same subject matter becomes effective. An emergency is defined as any situation where there is a substantial likelihood that loss of life, personal injury, health or property will result before the procedures under this regulation for notice and hearing can be fully complied with.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:753.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation, Pipeline Division, LR 29:2846 (December 2003).

§31317. Hazardous Facility Orders

A. Notwithstanding any self imposed regulatory limitations, if the assistant secretary finds, after reasonable notice and an opportunity to be heard in accordance with §31313, a particular pipeline facility subject to R.S. 30:701 to be hazardous to life or property, he may issue an order requiring the owner or operator of the facility to take corrective action. Corrective action may include suspended or restricted use of the facility, inspection, testing, repair, replacement, or other action as appropriate. The provisions of §31315 shall also be applicable for issuance of hazardous facility orders on an emergency basis.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:753.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation, Pipeline Division, LR 29:2846 (December 2003).

§31319. Civil Enforcement, Injunction

A. Whenever it appears to the assistant secretary that any person or operator has engaged, is engaged, or is about to engage in any act or practice constituting a violation of R.S. 30:701 et seq., or any rule, regulation or order issued thereunder, he may bring an action in the court having jurisdiction, to enjoin such acts or practice and to enforce compliance with the applicable statute and the rules, regulations and orders issued pursuant thereto, and upon proper showing a temporary restraining order or a preliminary or permanent injunction shall be

granted without bond. The relief sought may include a mandatory injunction commanding any person to comply with the applicable law or any rule, regulation or order issued thereunder, and to make restitution of money received in violation of any such rule, regulation or order.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:753.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation, Pipeline Division, LR 29:2846 (December 2003).

§31321. Violation, Penalties

A. After notice and opportunity to be heard, in accordance with §31313, the assistant secretary may, after determining that a person has violated any provision of R.S. 30:701, et seq., or any rule, regulation or order issued pursuant thereto, assess a civil penalty upon or against said person not to exceed the amounts fixed by statute, particularly, but not exclusively, R.S. 30:705. The amount of the penalty shall be assessed by the assistant secretary by written notice. In determining the amount of penalty, the assistant secretary shall consider the nature, circumstances, and gravity of the violation and, with respect to the person found to have committed the violation, the degree of culpability, any history of prior effect on ability to continue to do business, any good faith in attempting to achieve compliance, ability to pay the penalty, and such other matters as justice may require.

B. The assistant secretary may transmit such evidence as may be available concerning acts or practice in violation or R.S. 30:701, et seq. or any

rules, regulation or order issued pursuant thereto or any order issued pursuant to this regulation to the district attorney having jurisdiction over same who, in his discretion, may institute necessary proceedings to collect the fines and impose the penalties provided by statute.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:753.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation, Pipeline Division, LR 29:2846 (December 2003).

§31323. Waiver of Compliance with Standards

A. Upon application by any person engaged in the transportation of hazardous liquids or the operation of intrastate pipeline facilities, the assistant secretary shall, by order, after notice and opportunity for hearing and under such terms and conditions and to such extent as the assistant secretary may deem reasonable and proper, waive in whole or in part compliance with any standard established under R.S. 30:701 et seq., if he determines that compliance with such standard works a substantial hardship on an owner or operator of pipeline facilities or is not in the public interest and a waiver of compliance with such standard is not inconsistent with pipeline safety, provided that such waiver shall not be effective until the requirements of 49 U.S.C.A. Section 2001, et seq. relative to such a waiver have first been satisfied.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:753.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation, Pipeline Division, LR 29:2847 (December 2003).