Pipeline Operational Status Determination

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Introduction

The purpose of this API document is to provide hazardous liquid and natural or other gas pipeline operators ("operators") with a guidance document for inspection and maintenance activities based on the operational status of a pipeline. At the time of this publication, the United States Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has pipeline operational status classified in two regulatory categories of either active or abandoned. Historically, operators have modified their company pipeline operational statuses to fit into additional status categories based on whether they intend to flow product routinely in the pipeline, as well as the risk associated with operational activities.

The scope of this document does not include guidance necessary for easement determination. For the purpose of this document, the term "status" refers to operational status of a pipeline and pipeline system.

Pipeline Operational Status Determination

1 Scope

This document provides guidance for operations, inspection, and maintenance activities based on the operational status of a pipeline. This establishes:

— operations, inspections, and maintenance recommendations for various pipeline operational statuses;

— pipeline status documentation requirements;

— recommendations regarding safe transition between pipeline statuses.

For purposes of this document, the word “pipeline” refers to transmission and regulated gathering pipelines and pipeline systems, although the principles may be applied to nonregulated gathering and flow lines.

Regulations, permits, and easement requirements may supersede the guidance given in this document.

Table 1 provides an overview of pipeline operational statuses and associated maintenance levels.

Table 1—Pipeline Operational Status Overview

Operational Status	Pipeline Maintenance	Right-of-way (ROW) Activities	Regulated by the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) [a]
0 – Precommissioned	Limited maintenance	Limited	Limited
1 – Active/In-service	Maintained—normal operations. Includes no-flow conditions with natural or other gas or hazardous liquid in the line.	Maintained	Yes
Systems or segments in statuses 2 and 3 cannot be returned to service until requirements of applicable regulations and company documents are fulfilled.			
2 – Idled [b]	Shutdown, purged of hazardous contents, pipeline isolated, and equipment maintained, except where modified by Section 4.	May be deferred.	Yes, certain activities may be deferred.
3 – Abandoned [c]	Left in situ or removed.	ROW maintenance not required.	No

[a] In the United States.

[b] This status is similar to *idle* in the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) [1].

[c] This status is similar to *abandoned* in the NPMS.

2 Normative References

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Abbreviations

For the purposes of this document, the following abbreviations apply.

API	American Petroleum Institute
CFR	*Code of Federal Regulations*