



SENATOR ROCKEFELLER'S WORK ON *PIPELINE SAFETY*

Senator Jay Rockefeller is Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, whose jurisdiction includes the safety of transmission pipelines overseen by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). He cosponsored legislation that formed the basis of a comprehensive pipeline safety bill – **The Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Jobs Creation Act** – signed into law in January 2012. Provisions Senator Rockefeller pushed for that increase the level of safety in our nation's pipeline networks include:

- Increasing the cap on civil penalties for violators of pipeline regulations, and adding civil penalties for obstructing investigations;
- Permitting the requirement of installation of automatic or remote-controlled shut-off valves on new transmission pipelines;
- Requiring regulations that establish time limits on accident and leak notification by pipeline operators to local and state government officials and emergency responders;
- Increasing public availability of pipeline information, inspections, and standards by requiring that this information be made available on PHMSA's public website;
- Requiring gas transmission pipeline operators to verify records and confirm maximum allowable operating pressure;
- Permitting expansion of excess flow valve requirements to include multi-family buildings and small commercial facilities;
- Expanding rules that require contractors to get underground utility lines/pipelines marked before they begin excavation; and
- Evaluating whether current integrity management requirements on pipelines should be expanded.