



Credible.  
Independent.  
In the public interest.

# Hydrogen Informational Summit

October 12, 2024  
Bill Caram – Executive Director

# Pipeline Safety Trust History



Guys.  
I'm fishing. Will  
be back before dark.  
Homework is done.  
  
Liam



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Safety**



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# Pipeline Safety Trust History

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“... there’s going to be a Trust that’s going to be funded as part of today’s sentencing. With \$4,000,000 ... they’ve nowhere near the lobbying potential of the oil industry. It’s not even David and Goliath. It’s more like Bambi and Godzilla. No industry polices itself very well... you need outside people, and these are going to be the people so pay attention to them.”

The Honorable Barbara Rothstein  
United States District Judge  
at Olympic Pipe Line Co Sentencing

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# Introduction to Pipelines

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Hazardous Liquid  
(including CO<sub>2</sub>)

Natural Gas  
(Including hydrogen)

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# Introduction to Pipelines

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About **230,000 miles**  
of onshore and offshore  
Hazardous Liquid pipelines

About **319,000 miles**  
of onshore and offshore  
Gas Transmission pipelines

About **400,000 miles**  
of Gas Gathering pipelines

About **2,300,000 miles**  
of Natural Gas Distribution  
mains and service pipelines

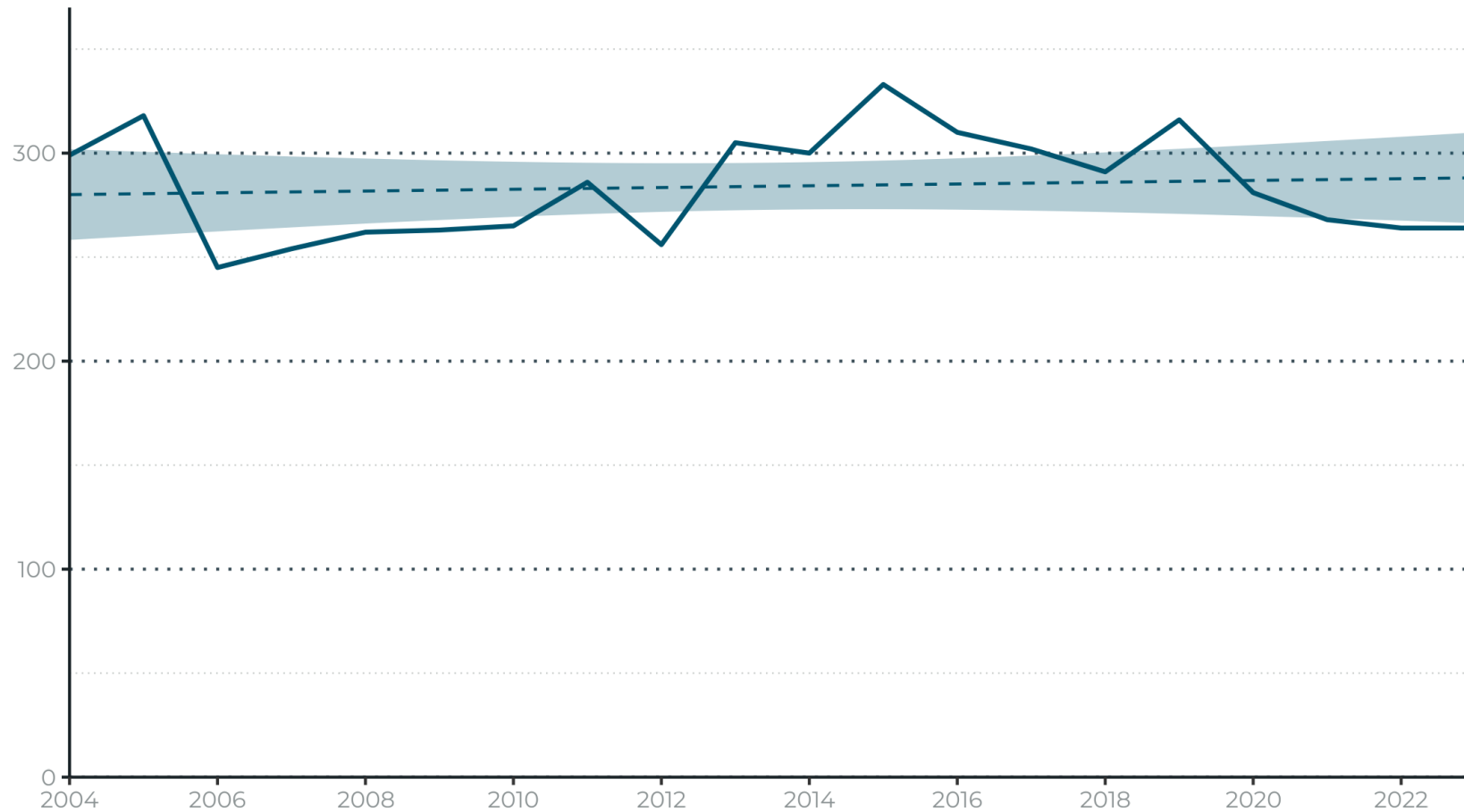
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# Introduction to Pipelines

## Significant Pipeline Incidents (2004 - 2023)

PST 2024



Source: PHMSA Incident and Mileage Data (2024)

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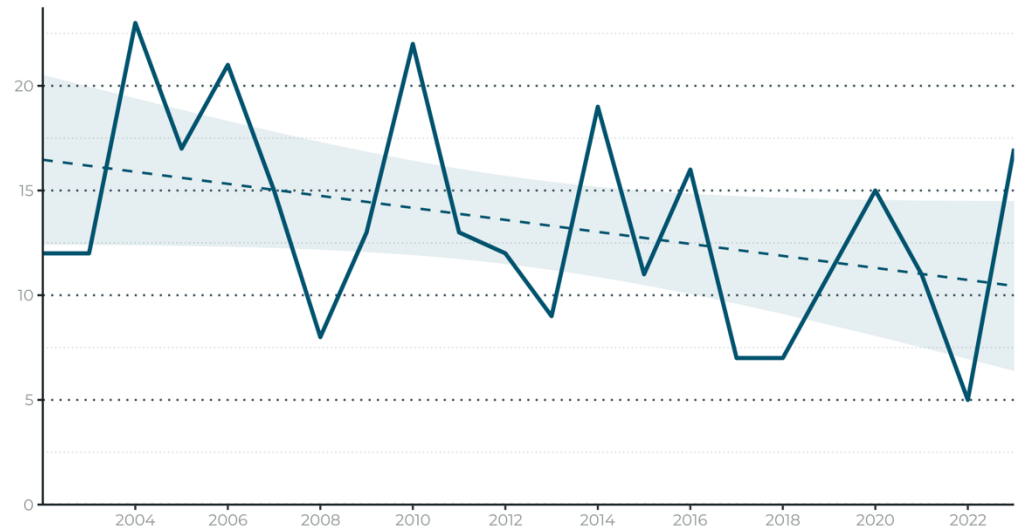
**T R U S T**

# Introduction to Pipelines

## Annual Pipeline Incident Fatalities

All Systems (2004-2023)

PST 2024

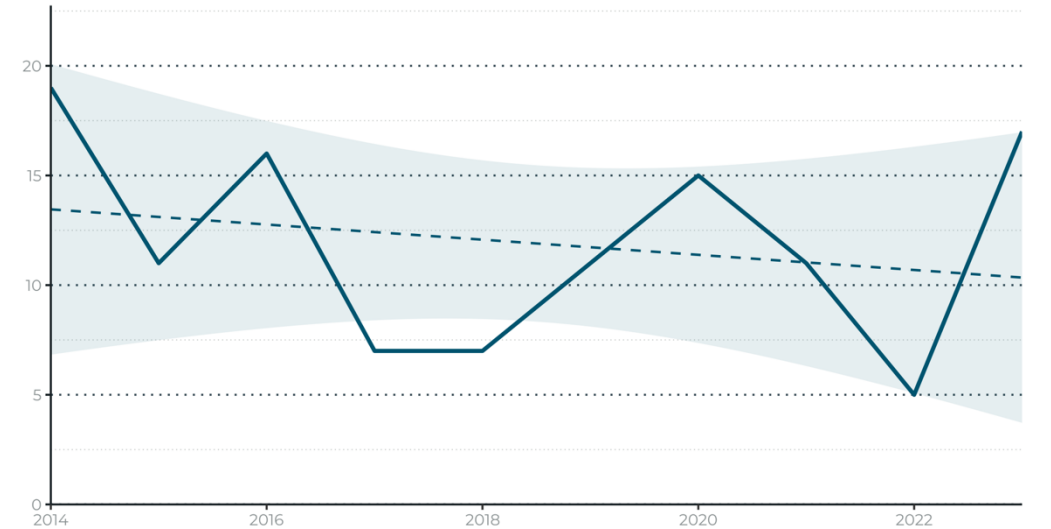


Source: PHMSA Incident and Mileage Data (2024)

## Annual Pipeline Incident Fatalities

All Systems (2014-2023)

PST 2024



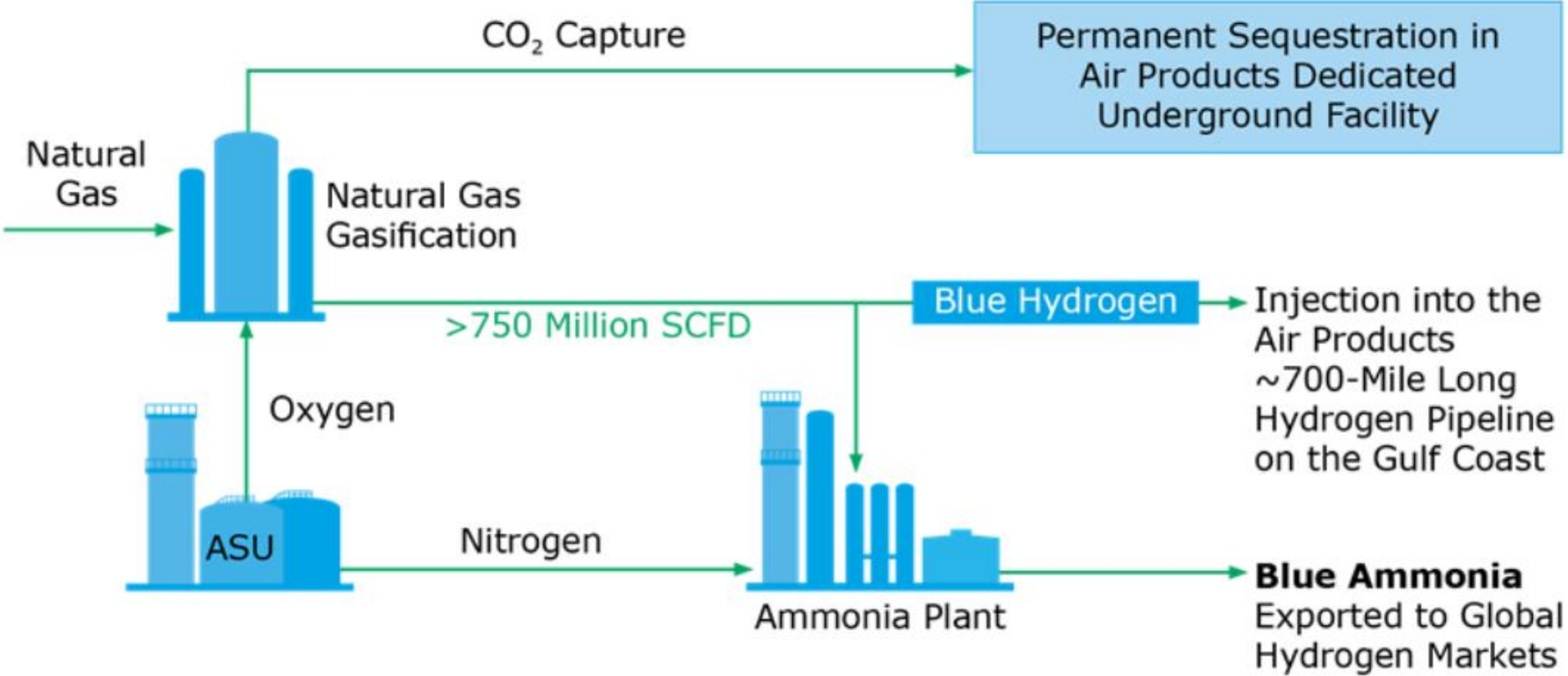
Source: PHMSA Incident and Mileage Data (2024)

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# Blue Hydrogen





# Blue Hydrogen

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- Natural Gas/Methane Pipelines
- Carbon Dioxide Pipelines
- Hydrogen Pipelines

# Natural Gas/Methane Pipelines

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# Natural Gas/Methane Pipelines

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CO<sub>2</sub>

Methane

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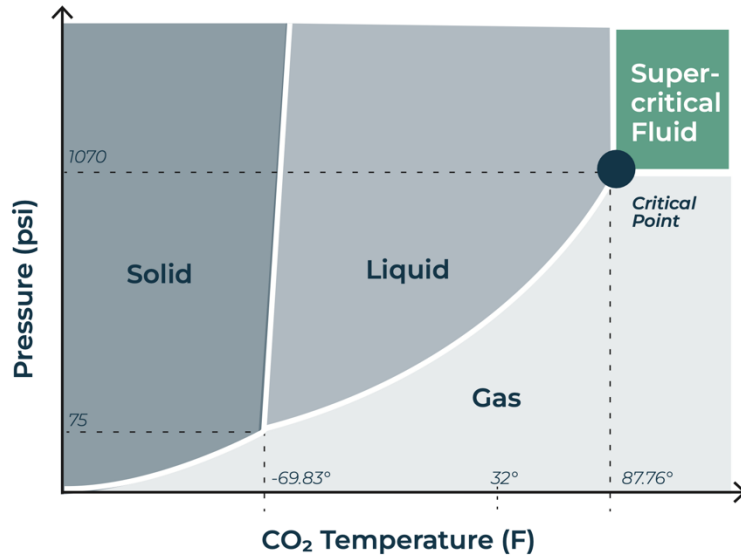
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# CO<sub>2</sub> Pipelines - History

- 1986 – Lake Nyos, Cameroon tragedy
- 1988 – PHMSA final rule
- 2020 – Satartia, MS disaster
- 2021 – 45Q Tax credit expansion
- 2022 – Inflation Reduction Act
- 2023 – PHMSA Public Meeting
- 2024 – PHMSA NOPR \*expected\*



# CO<sub>2</sub> Pipelines Report – Major findings



## WATER IN CO<sub>2</sub> PIPELINES: POTENTIAL FOR CORROSION



No Corrosion

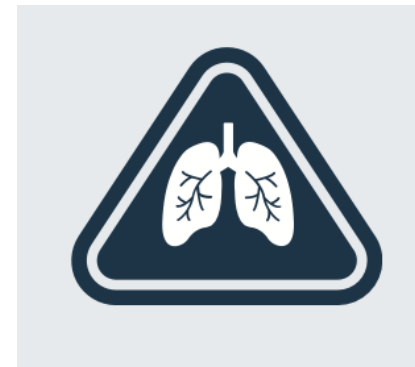
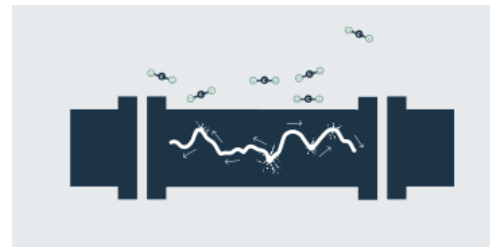
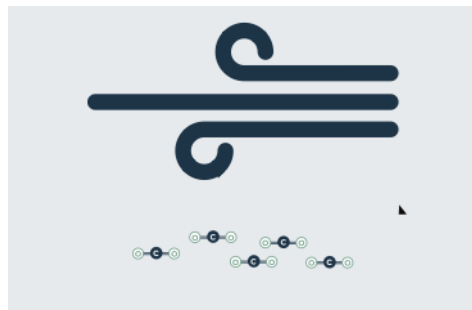


Corrosion



Severe Corrosion

*Historically, CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines have transported relatively dry and pure CO<sub>2</sub>. However, the expansion in different sources of CO<sub>2</sub> has the potential to lead to higher water content and more impurities introduced into pipelines. In addition, carbon dioxide mixed with water can form carbonic acid which is extremely corrosive to the internal surface of the pipe.*



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# Ongoing concerns

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- Lack of any regulation in some cases
- Danger to communities
- No odorant requirement
- Contaminants
- Emergency response education and resources
- Community engagement



# Carbon Dioxide: Key takeaways

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- Decisionmakers must ensure:
  - any new pipelines will be a sufficient distance from people and communities, which may mean multiple miles
  - the contents of the pipeline will be continually monitored for the presence of contaminants, including water
  - the project will indeed reduce greenhouse gas emissions
  - transparency and accountability for the public, including adequate reporting and leak detection technologies
  - preparation of emergency response in case of pipeline failures

# Hydrogen pipeline safety

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- Strong incentives in 2021 Infrastructure Bill (Hydrogen Hubs) and 2022 Inflation Reduction Act



# Hydrogen: Current infrastructure



- 1,500 miles of hydrogen pipelines
- 85% of mileage with three operators
- Relatively rural and small diameter

# Hydrogen: Jurisdiction

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U.S. Department of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials  
Safety Administration**

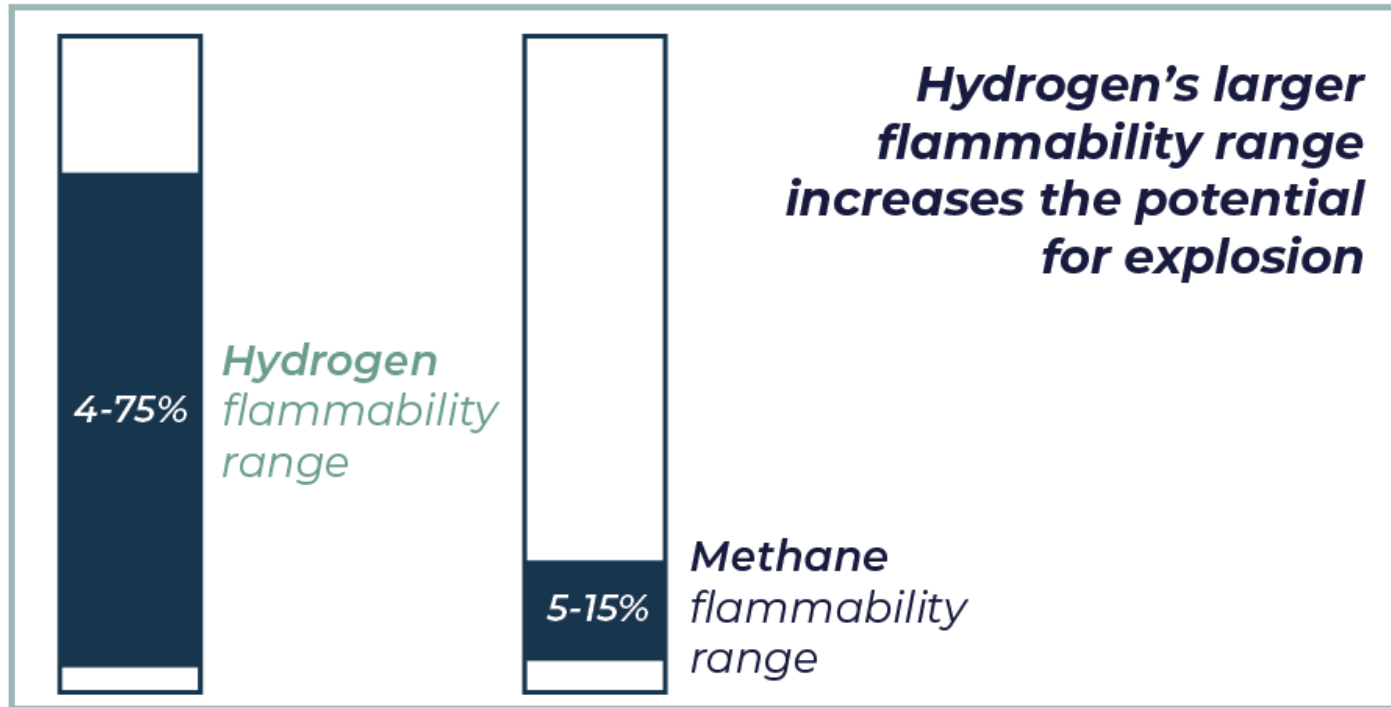
- Falls under PHMSA natural gas safety regulations
- PHMSA reporting requirements only require operator to report the predominant product in the pipeline
- No hydrogen-specific safety regulations

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# Hydrogen: Riskier than methane

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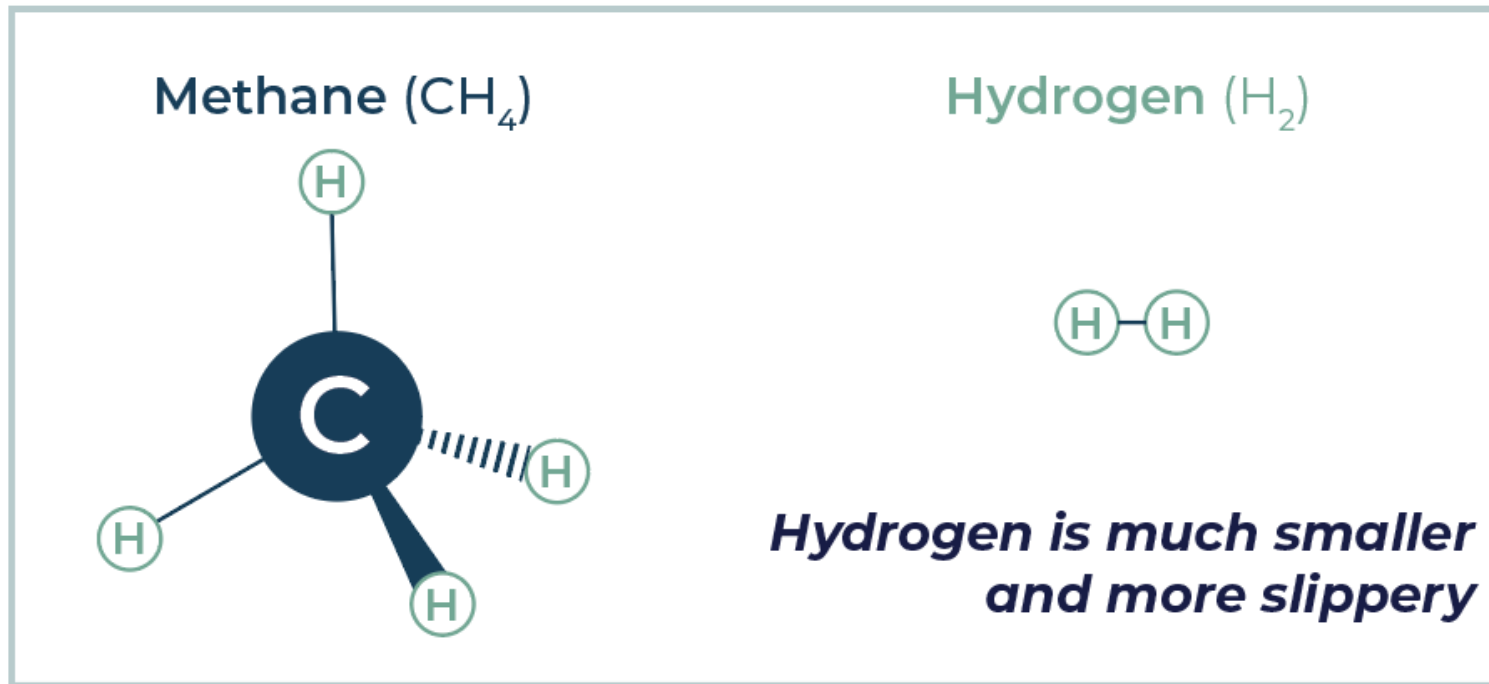


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# Hydrogen: Riskier than methane

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# Hydrogen: Riskier than methane

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- H<sub>2</sub> can leak at higher rates than methane, given its small size and viscosity
- It can migrate underground and accumulate in basements or other confined spaces

# Hydrogen: Riskier than methane

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- H<sub>2</sub> causes integrity issues in both steel and certain polyethylene leading to embrittlement and cracking
- We expect systems with hydrogen to fail at higher rates without further R&D to close knowledge gaps and extensive infrastructure overhauls

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# Hydrogen: Riskier than methane

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- All these factors lead to the fact that hydrogen is much more likely to explode than methane

# Hydrogen: Riskier than methane

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*Methane flames  
burn blue in daylight*



*Hydrogen flames are  
invisible during daylight*



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# Hydrogen: Climate issues

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- H<sub>2</sub> is an indirect greenhouse gas with over 30 times the warming power of CO<sub>2</sub> in its first 20 years
- Leakage will erode climate benefits or could even worsen warming
  - Can leak at higher rates than methane
  - Leak detection technology is limited

# Blue Hydrogen: Climate issues

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- H<sub>2</sub> climate issues
- Methane leakage from natural gas pipelines
- Questionable efficacy of capturing and sequestering carbon

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# Key question

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Why are we asking our communities to accept more risk from pipelines for questionable climate benefits?

# Hydrogen: Key takeaways

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- Decisionmakers must ensure:
  - any new pipelines will be a sufficient distance from people and communities
  - the integrity of the pipelines will not be compromised by the presence of hydrogen
  - the project will indeed reduce greenhouse gas emissions taking into account leakage, the hydrogen's source, and lower energy density
  - transparency and accountability for the public, including adequate reporting and leak detection technologies
  - preparation of emergency response in case of pipeline failures

# Thank you!

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