



Victoria Government Gazette

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SPECIAL

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT Pipelines Regulations 2000

Notice is given that, in accordance with section 11 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**, a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared in relation to the Pipelines Regulations 2000.

The reasons for the proposed Regulations is to replace the sunseting Pipelines Regulations 1988. Their objective is to minimise the risks to safety and the environment posed by pipeline construction and operation.

The draft Regulations are less onerous compared to the current regulations. The proposed regulations:

- provide the information required for applications and set fees;
- provide that pipeline construction must be commenced and completed within time limits unless otherwise approved by the Minister;
- require confirmance with AS 2885, Pipelines – gas and liquid petroleum;
- provide a minimum depth of burial unless otherwise approved by the Minister;
- include some requirements relating to incidents and security for operating pipelines that are not subject to the **Gas Safety Act 1997**.

The RIS assesses the costs and benefits of the proposed Regulations. It finds there are no significant additional costs to the industry. The cost of conforming to AS 2885 is significant but the process of designing, constructing and operating pipelines is one that companies must undertake by the very nature of pipelines. If a company is able to demonstrate that they have a better standard, then there is the capability to accept that through Licence conditions. Fees represent less than 0.5% of the cost of pipelines.

The RIS discusses possible alternatives to the proposed Regulations of abandoning administrative regulations or those dealing with OHS and environmental matters or industry self-regulation industry. These alternatives are

rejected as lacking transparency, removing the ability of the Government to respond to incidents in reasonable time frames, the inability of industry bodies to deal with 'rogue' operators and the risks to third parties associated with pipeline incidents.

Copies of the RIS and the proposed Regulations may be obtained from the Information Centre, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Ground Floor, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, telephone (03) 9637 8080 between 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m., or on the internet at <http://www.nre.vic.gov.au>, under Minerals & Petroleum, Oil & Gas, Legislation.

Public comments are invited on the RIS and accompanying Regulations. All comments must be in writing and be sent to Mr Geoff Collins, Manager Petroleum Projects, Minerals and Petroleum Victoria, Level 15, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002 by no later than 5.00 p.m. 26 June 2000.

Dated 24 May 2000.

CANDY BROAD
Minister for Energy and Resources

Gazette Services

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