DIVISION OF UTILITY AND RAILROAD SAFETY

The Division of Utility and Railroad Safety ("Division") assists the Commission in administering three safety programs: Gas and Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety, Railroad Safety and Underground Utility Damage Prevention.

The Pipeline Safety Section of the Division helps ensure the safe operation of gas and hazardous liquid pipeline facilities, through various types of inspections. These inspections include; comprehensive reviews of required programs and plans, the inspection of pipeline facilities, review of operator records, and the performance of risked-based field inspections of pipeline activities including construction and repairs. The Division also responds to and investigates reported pipeline Incidents[1] and Accidents[2] as reported to the Division's 24-hour, 365 day staffed on-call emergency number. The Division also investigates certain other pipeline emergencies that may be of significant impact to the Commonwealth but have not yet risen to reporting criteria at the time of discovery.

In 2018, the Division's pipeline safety activities encompassed the inspection of intrastate gas distribution and transmission pipelines, intrastate hazardous liquid pipelines, and certain interstate gas and liquid pipelines.

The distribution systems are comprised of seven private natural distributions gas companies and three municipal owned distributions systems who collectively operate a total of 21,598 miles of main piping and 19,136 miles of service pipeline. These 40,735 miles of distribution pipeline provide service to 1,281,327 Virginia customers.

Pipeline safety activities also include inspections of intrastate transmission lines. These pipelines are operated by the seven private distribution companies, one intrastate gas transmission line operator, and three landfill transmission line operators. These transmission pipeline companies operate over 500 miles of intrastate transmission pipelines in the Commonwealth. Additionally, there are five gathering line companies who operate 34 miles of gathering line piping, 39 master-metered distribution systems, and 10 propane companies who operate jurisdictional distribution systems (two of which also operate private natural gas distribution systems).

The Division acts as an interstate agent for the US Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration ("PHMSA") and inspects three interstate hazardous liquid pipeline companies along with the inspection of Virginia's two intrastate hazardous liquid companies. These five hazardous liquid pipeline companies operate 1,145 miles of hazardous liquid pipelines in Virginia.

Since 2017, the Division has entered into a temporary agreement with PHMSA to inspect construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline and Atlantic Coast Pipeline interstate gas transmission pipelines in response to §56-555.2 of the Code of Virginia.

Summary of Calendar Year 2018 Activities

Gas Safety Inspection days conducted	1,234
Interstate gas safety inspection days conducted	112
Hazardous liquid safety inspection days conducted	83
Number of probable violations cited	80
Number of probable violations submitted to PHMSA	24
Number of compliance actions taken	46
Pipeline incidents[3] or accidents[4] investigated	5
Number of citizen complaints investigated	5

[1] Incident as defined by §191.3.
[2] Accident as defined by §195.50.
[3] Incident as defined by §191.3.
[4] Accident as defined by §195.50.

The Rail Safety Section of the Division in coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration, helps ensure the safe operation of jurisdictional railroads by conducting inspections of tracks, signals, highway rail grade crossings, railroad operations, shipment of hazardous materials by rail, motive power and equipment and investigations of certain accidents and citizen complaints. The Division's inspections involve more than 3,000 miles of track, over 4,000 highway and private grade crossings, thousands of rolling stock, which also include tank cars, and intermodal containers and 69 yard facilities.

Summary of 2018 Activities

Number of Hazmat Units[5] Inspected	2,719
Number of Track Units[6] Inspected	12,307
Number of Locomotive and Car Units[7] Inspected	62,347
Number of Operating Practice Units[8] Inspected	1,541
Number of Signal/Grade Crossing[9] Units Inspected	532
Number of Defects Noted	7,246
Number of Violations Cited	52
Number of Accidents/NRC Incidents Investigated	28
Number of Complaints Investigated	10

The Damage Prevention Section of the Division investigates all reports of "probable violations" of the Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act ("Act") and on a monthly basis presents its findings and recommendations to an Advisory Committee appointed by the Commission in accordance with the Act. This Committee then makes enforcement recommendations to the Commission. The Division provides free training relative to the Act and safe digging practices to excavators, utilities and others, disseminates damage prevention educational material and promotes partnership among the stakeholders to further underground utility damage prevention in Virginia.

Summary of 2018 Activities

Underground Utility Damage Reports Investigated	1,113
Number of Individuals Having Received Damage Prevention Training	884
Number of Damage Prevention Educational Material Disseminated	155,982
Number of Damage Prevention Field Audits Conducted	450

[5] Each hazmat record review along with each visual inspection of a tank car, bulk/non-bulk package and/or freight container is considered a hazmat unit.
[6] Each mile of track, record, crossing at grade, among other things, is considered a track unit.
[7] Each locomotive, car, motive power equipment record, among other things, is considered a unit.
[8] Each location where operations are or may occur such as switchyards, field offices, yard offices, trains, yard crew locations and dispatching are considered an operating practice unit.
[9] Each signal/switch/grade crossing record review along with each visual inspection of a signal/grade crossing component is considered a signal/grade crossing unit.