

Coastal Best Available Technology (CBAT)



CBAT was enacted following the Refugio Beach pipeline accident in May 2015. Its purpose is to ensure that the best available technology is used on pipelines located in environmentally sensitive coastal areas to minimize the impact of oil spills.

2015

Ineffective protection against external corrosion of the pipeline.

Failure by Plains to detect and mitigate the corrosion.

Lack of timely detection of and response to the rupture.

2024

The Office of the State Fire Marshal has introduced the CBAT regulation, which focuses on improving response times in case of a significant release. This regulation is designed to minimize the amount of release during an incident, allowing for faster containment and reducing potential environmental impact.

- The Office of the State Fire Marshal has reviewed pipeline layouts to reduce maximum discharge in case of a release.

Operators are required to install 16 remote-controlled safety valves on CA-324 and additional valves on CA-325.

- These valves allow quick shutdown of the pipeline without needing technicians on-site, improving response times and reducing damage.
- Real-time transient models must be used to improve leak detection and reduce response times.
- Sable is upgrading existing valves to quickly shut down the pipeline and reduce the impact of oil spills.

Sable is required to upgrade the leak detection system and install additional safety valves to reduce spill volume in the event of a significant accident, in accordance with CBAT requirements.