

# Integrity Management Program & Deferred Maintenance



The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) **Integrity Management Program** requires operators to assess pipeline risks to prevent failures. OSFM mandates integrity tests, such as hydrostatic tests or in-line inspections, every five years, and idle pipelines must undergo these tests before restarting.

- **Integrity Management Program:** PHMSA created this program to keep pipelines safe. It requires operators to check and reduce risks that could lead to issues like leaks or breaks.
- **Regular Integrity Assessments:** OSFM requires active pipelines to have an Integrity Assessment at least every five years. These assessments usually include either:
  - A Hydrostatic Pressure Test (testing pipeline strength with water pressure).
  - An In-Line Inspection with a smart tool (checking inside the pipeline for potential issues).
- **Testing for Idle Pipelines:** Since the pipelines in question are currently idle, they must complete Integrity Assessment tests and put preventive and safety measures in place before restarting.

**Deferred maintenance** must be completed on idle pipelines before they can restart, following guidelines from PHMSA.

## Deferred Maintenance Request Process

- **Step 1: Submit Deferral Request**
  - Operators must notify OSFM with information including:
    - Pipeline ID number and commodity at the time of application.
    - Length and map of the purged segment.
    - Purging procedure and deferral activities requested.
  - Supporting documents to show isolation from active pipeline systems.
    - Explanation of why each deferred activity is impractical for the subject pipeline.
- **Step 2: Field Inspection(s) and/or Records Review**
  - OSFM may request a field activities schedule and conduct inspections to verify purging.
  - Operators provide records, pictures, and GPS locations of each isolation point.
- **Step 3: OSFM Acknowledgment**
  - Proper purging of the hazardous liquid from the pipeline. OSFM reviews the deferral request based on PHMSA -2016-0075 and issues an acknowledgment letter if approved.