

# TOCCOA NATURAL GAS

## Overview: Integrity Management

**Integrity Management: A risk-based approach to improving pipeline safety**

In the United States, pipeline operators are required to abide by regulations put forth by the federal **Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)**, at a minimum. Among other things, these regulations require all natural gas transmission companies – like **Toccoa Natural Gas** - to perform regular baseline evaluations of pipelines in areas where pipeline failure would have a significant impact on public safety or the environment.

**Pipeline Integrity Management (PIM)** is the cradle-to-grave approach of understanding and operating pipelines in a safe, reliable manner. PIM programs are systems managed by pipeline owner-operators that considers all stages of the pipeline life cycle - from conception, to engineering and design, construction, operation, inspection, and finally to repair/replacement when necessary.

## Objectives of Integrity Management

PIM regulations have four basic objectives:

- To perform integrity assessments of pipelines in locations where a pipeline leak or failure could have significant adverse consequences (referred to as High Consequence Areas or HCAs).
- To improve operator management, analytical and operational processes to manage pipeline integrity.
- To increase government's role in the oversight of operator integrity management programs and activities.
- To improve public confidence in pipeline safety.

## High Consequence Areas (HCA)

PIM requires operators to identify locations along their pipelines where a leak or failure could affect an HCA. For gas transmission pipelines, an HCA is based on identified sites and the population density near the pipeline. The specific definition of an HCA is in § 192.905.

Operators are also required to monitor conditions along their pipelines, and identify new HCAs when changes occur, such as population expansion near the pipeline rights-of-way. These changes in HCAs oftentimes then also prompt corresponding changes in operators' integrity management plans.

For more information on the Integrity Management Plan for Toccoa Natural Gas, please contact Mr. Harry Scott, Utilities Director at 706-282-3305 or Mr. Anthony Adams, Gas Superintendent at 706-282-3255.