

**PROPOSED ALTERNATE SAMPLING PLAN FOR POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS  
UNDER THE TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ACT**

DATE OF THIS NOTICE: July 19, 2016

**PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is inviting the public to comment on the proposed renewal of an approval of an alternate sampling procedure for the characterization of PCBs in small diameter natural gas pipelines owned and operated by Washington Gas.

**FACILITY DESCRIPTION:** Washington Gas currently owns and operates natural gas transmission lines in the Washington, DC and Springfield, VA metropolitan areas. The PCB regulations, found at 40 C.F.R. §761.60 (b)(5), require the characterization of PCBs in condensate in natural gas pipelines prior to disposal or abandonment in place. Subpart M of the PCB Regulations details the sampling procedures. The PCB regulations also allow for the EPA to review and approve alternate sampling procedures. On January 31, 2006, Washington Gas submitted an alternate sampling procedure for PCBs in natural gas pipelines with a diameter of less than 6" because this size pipe could not be sampled using the wipe sampling technique required under the PCB Regulations. On August 18, 2006, EPA approved the alternate sampling plan, this approval expires on August 18, 2016. On July 6, 2016, Washington Gas requested the renewal of the August 2016 approval.

**INFORMATION AVAILABILITY:** Information regarding EPA's proposed decision is available on EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-virginia>. The administrative record contains the information considered in EPA's proposed decision, and is available by contacting Craig Yussen at EPA Region III, 1650 Arch Street (3LC61), Philadelphia, PA 19103; Phone: (215) 814-2151; Fax: (215) 814-3114 or [yussen.craig@epa.gov](mailto:yussen.craig@epa.gov).

**COMMENT PROCESS:** People wishing to comment on EPA's proposed decision must submit comments to EPA within the 30-day comment period ending August 19, 2016. Comments can be submitted to the EPA Project Manager, Craig E. Yussen, at the EPA address above. All comments will be considered in making a final decision. If there is significant comment during the public comment period, a public meeting will be held on this matter.

**FINAL DECISION:** EPA will make a final decision after considering all comments, consistent with the requirements of TSCA and applicable regulations. If the decision is substantially unchanged from the one in this notice, EPA will issue the decision as final and inform the company and all persons who submitted written comments or requested notice of final determination. If the decision is significantly different from that proposed, EPA will issue a public notice explaining the new decision and will reopen the comment period.