



Restarting Pipelines After Harvey

Pipeline operators worked diligently to restart pipelines affected by Harvey as soon as safely possible. We are thankful for our dedicated employees who worked in trying conditions, many with families personally affected by this historic storm.

Pipeline operators want to get their systems up and running as soon as safely possible. Pipeline operators make every effort to remain running in order to generate revenue. Also, pipeline transportation rates are charged independently of the charge for crude oil or gasoline supply. So, there is no incentive for pipelines to remain shut down or pump less than their systems can handle or customers demand. Pipeline operators also recognize the role they play in our interconnected chain of delivering energy from producers to consumers. Operators want to meet their commitments to delivery customers and provide the affordable, reliable energy consumers want and need. More information on pipeline operations and issues is available at www.aopl.org.



Safety

Safety of employees was paramount as workers entered unknown situations. Operators will not put personnel in unsafe conditions.



Flooding

Flood waters receded at different rates at different locations. Days after the storm, some facilities still had water on the ground preventing access or operations.



Power

Pipelines need electricity to power their pumps. All locations needed power restored with either temporary generators or permanent power supply before pipelines could operate.



Access

Personnel needed to access their pipelines and pump stations to assess damage, perform safety checks and resume operations. Operators worked with authorities to permit re-entry into closed areas. Access by ships was needed into and out of closed or limited access ports.



Supply

Supplies of crude oil from ports or gasoline from refineries were suspended in some cases, forcing some pipelines to reduce flow or send product in batches as it became available.



Inspection

Operators inspected, assessed and made repairs to their facilities and systems to ensure they were safe to restart and operate.



Regulations

Government restrictions on hours-of-service or fuel content required temporary waiver during emergency recovery.