

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4429

To amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue minimum uniform safety standards for underground natural gas storage facilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2016

Mr. KNIGHT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue minimum uniform safety standards for underground natural gas storage facilities, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Natural Gas Leak Pre-
5 vention Act of 2016”.

1 **SEC. 2. UNDERGROUND NATURAL GAS STORAGE FACILI-**
2 **TIES.**

3 (a) DEFINED TERM.—Section 60101(a) of title 49,
4 United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (21)(B), by striking the period
6 at the end and inserting a semicolon;

7 (2) in paragraph (24), by striking “and” at the
8 end;

9 (3) in paragraph (25), by striking the period at
10 the end and inserting “; and”; and

11 (4) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(26) ‘underground natural gas storage facility’
13 means a gas pipeline facility that stores gas in an
14 underground facility, including—

15 “(A) a depleted hydrocarbon reservoir;

16 “(B) an aquifer reservoir; or

17 “(C) a solution mined salt cavern res-
18 ervoir.”.

19 (b) STANDARDS FOR UNDERGROUND NATURAL GAS
20 STORAGE FACILITIES.—Chapter 601 of title 49, United
21 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 60103
22 the following:

23 **“§ 60103A. Standards for underground natural gas**
24 **storage facilities**

25 “(a) MINIMUM UNIFORM SAFETY STANDARDS.—Not
26 later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this sec-

1 tion, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with
2 the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall issue
3 minimum uniform safety standards, incorporating, to the
4 extent practicable, consensus standards for the operation,
5 environmental protection, and integrity management of
6 underground natural gas storage facilities.

7 “(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing uniform safe-
8 ty standards under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

9 “(1) consider the economic impacts of the regu-
10 lations on individual gas customers to the extent
11 practicable;

12 “(2) ensure that the regulations do not have a
13 significant economic impact on end users to the ex-
14 tent practicable; and

15 “(3) consider existing consensus standards.

16 “(c) USER FEES.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A fee shall be imposed on
18 an entity operating an underground natural gas
19 storage facility to which this section applies. Any
20 such fee imposed shall be collected before the end of
21 the fiscal year to which it applies.

22 “(2) MEANS OF COLLECTION.—The Secretary
23 shall prescribe procedures to collect fees under this
24 subsection. The Secretary may use a department,
25 agency, or instrumentality of the United States Gov-

1 ernment or of a State or local government to collect
2 the fee and may reimburse the department, agency,
3 or instrumentality a reasonable amount for its serv-
4 ices.

5 “(3) USE OF FEES.—

6 “(A) ACCOUNT.—There is established an
7 underground natural gas storage facility safety
8 account in the Pipeline Safety Fund established
9 under section 60301, in the Treasury of the
10 United States.

11 “(B) USE OF FEES.—A fee collected under
12 this subsection—

13 “(i) shall be deposited in the under-
14 ground natural gas storage facility safety
15 account; and

16 “(ii) if the fee is related to an under-
17 ground natural gas storage facility, may be
18 used only for an activity related to under-
19 ground natural gas storage safety under
20 this section.

21 “(C) LIMITATION.—Amounts collected
22 under this subsection shall be made available
23 only to the extent provided in advance in an ap-
24 propriation law for an activity related to under-
25 ground natural gas storage safety.

1 “(d) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section
3 may be construed to affect any Federal regulation
4 relating to gas pipeline facilities that is in effect on
5 the day before the date of enactment of this section.

6 “(2) LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in this section
7 may be construed to authorize the Secretary—

8 “(A) to prescribe the location of an under-
9 ground natural gas storage facility; or

10 “(B) to require the Secretary’s permission
11 to construct a facility referred to in subpara-
12 graph (A).”.

13 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
14 for chapter 601 is amended by inserting after the item
15 relating to section 60103 the following:

“60103A. Standards for underground natural gas storage facilities.”.

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