



## Issue Snapshot: Gas Safety

**Background:** The lead bill on gas safety classifies different types of gas leaks and sets forth a timeline for repairs. These requirements are generally consistent with current regulations. Utilities would be required to submit annual reports on the status of all leaks to the PSC. Upon request, the reports would also be provided to any legislator and municipal or state public safety official. Finally, the PSC is authorized to establish minimum surveillance standards. As part of these efforts, the PSC would need to determine whether the presence of extended frost cap conditions requires additional surveillance.

The second bill requires all gas utilities to accelerate the repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of certain natural gas pipelines. The PSC would be required to establish timelines and cost recovery mechanisms. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) would be responsible for developing non-binding guidelines to identify the best practices for classifying high-risk pipeline infrastructure and leaks in need of repair or replacement.

**Company Position:** The company has already implemented several new initiatives related to encouraging public reporting of potential gas leaks, implementing a 911 gas leak reporting system, increased gas leak surveillance, and the creation of a gas leak mapping system which plots the locations of reported leaks.

Con Edison is also accelerating its pipeline replacement efforts spending more than \$200 annually to replace approximately 65 miles of cast iron and steel pipe. The company hopes to do more and has requested that the PSC approve a mechanism which would allow utilities to further accelerate pipeline replacements outside the rate case process.