arrangements.'' [2] Health care providers and others may voluntarily seek to comply with the conditions of an applicable safe harbor so that they have the assurance that their payment or business practice will not be subject to sanctions under the Federal anti-kickback statute. The safe harbor regulations promulgated by OIG are found at 42 CFR part 1001.

B. OIG Special Fraud Alerts

OIG periodically issues Special Fraud Alerts to give continuing guidance to health care industry stakeholders regarding practices OIG considers to be suspect or of particular concern.[3] The Special Fraud Alerts encourage industry compliance by giving stakeholders guidance that can be applied to their own practices. OIG Special Fraud Alerts are published in the **Federal Register** and on OIG's website and are intended for extensive distribution.

In developing Special Fraud Alerts, OIG relies on a number of sources and consults directly with experts in the subject field, including those within OIG, other agencies of HHS, other Federal and State agencies, and those in the health care industry.

C. Section 205 of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996

Section 205 of HIPAA, Public Law 104–191, and section 1128D of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1320a–7d), requires the Department to develop and publish an annual notification in the **Federal Register** formally soliciting proposals for developing additional or modifying existing safe harbors to the Federal anti-kickback statute and Special Fraud Alerts.

In developing or modifying safe harbors under the Federal anti-kickback statute, OIG, in consultation with the Department of Justice, thoroughly reviews the range of factual circumstances that may receive protection by the proposed or modified safe harbor. In doing so, OIG seeks to identify and develop regulatory limitations and controls in order to permit beneficial and innocuous arrangements while, at the same time, protecting Federal health care programs and their beneficiaries from the harms caused by fraud and abuse.

[2] Medicare and State Health Care Programs: Fraud and Abuse; OIG Anti-Kickback Provisions, 56 FR 35952, 35958 (July 29, 1991).

[3] *See e.g.,* Special Fraud Alert: Speaker Programs (Nov. 16, 2020), *available at https://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/docs/alertsandbulletins/2020/SpecialFraudAlertSpeakerPrograms.pdf.*

II. Solicitation of Additional New Recommendations and Proposals

OIG seeks recommendations regarding the development of additional or modified safe harbor regulations and new Special Fraud Alerts. A detailed explanation of justifications for, or empirical data supporting, a suggestion for a new or modified safe harbor or Special Fraud Alert would be helpful and should, if possible, be included in any response to this solicitation.

A. Criteria for Modifying and Establishing Safe Harbor Provisions

In accordance with section 205 of HIPAA, we will consider a number of factors in reviewing proposals for additional or modified safe harbor provisions, such as the extent to which the proposals would affect an increase or decrease in:

- Access to health care services,
- the quality of health care services,
- patient freedom of choice among health care providers,
- competition among health care providers,
- the cost to Federal health care programs,
- the potential overutilization of health care services, and
- the ability of health care facilities to provide services in medically underserved areas or to medically underserved populations.

In addition, we will consider other factors, including, for example, the existence (or nonexistence) of any potential financial benefit to health care professionals or providers that may influence their decision whether to: (1) Order a health care item or service or (2) arrange for a referral of health care items or services to a particular practitioner or provider.

B. Criteria for Developing Special Fraud Alerts

In determining whether to issue additional Special Fraud Alerts, we will consider whether, and to what extent, the practices that would be identified in a new Special Fraud Alert may result in any of the consequences set forth above, as well as the volume and frequency of the conduct that would be identified in the Special Fraud Alert.

Dated: November 19, 2020.

Christi A. Grimm,

Principal Deputy Inspector General.

[FR Doc. 2020–26043 Filed 12–15–20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

49 CFR Parts 192 and 195

[Docket No. PHMSA–2019–0199]

Pipeline Safety: Midstream Facilities Frequently Asked Questions

AGENCY: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA); DOT.

ACTION: Notification and request for comments; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: PHMSA published a notification in the **Federal Register** seeking public comments on a document titled ''Pipeline Safety: Midstream Facilities Frequently Asked Questions.'' PHMSA has received a request to extend the comment period to allow stakeholders more time to evaluate the frequently asked questions. Upon review of the request, PHMSA is extending the comment period for an additional 30 days.

DATES: The closing date for filing comments is extended from January 4, 2021, to February 4, 2021.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, which should be identified by docket number PHMSA–2019–0199, by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Comments may be submitted to *http://www.regulations.gov.* Please follow the online instructions to submit comments.
- *Mail:* Comments may be submitted by mailing them to the Dockets Management System, U.S. Department of Transportation, Dockets Operations, M–30, Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590–0001.
- *Hand Delivery:* Comments may be submitted by hand delivering them to 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590–0001. Comments may be delivered between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays.
- *Fax:* Comments may be faxed to 202–493–2251.
- *Instructions:* Identify docket number PHMSA–2019–0199 at the beginning of your comments. If you submit your comments by mail, you must submit two copies. If you wish to receive confirmation that PHMSA received your comments, you must include a self-addressed stamped postcard. Internet users should submit comments at *http://www.regulations.gov.*

• *Privacy Act:* DOT may solicit comments from the public regarding certain general notices. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to *www.regulations.gov,* as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL–14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at *www.dot.gov/privacy.*

• *Confidential Business Information:* Confidential Business Information (CBI) is commercial or financial information that is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner. Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552), CBI is exempt from public disclosure. If your comments responsive to this document contain commercial or financial information that is customarily treated as private, that you actually treat as private, and that is relevant or responsive to this document, it is important that you clearly designate the submitted comments as CBI. Pursuant to 49 CFR 190.343, you may ask PHMSA to give confidential treatment to information you give to the agency by taking the following steps: (1) Mark each page of the original document submission containing CBI as ''Confidential''; (2) send PHMSA, along with the original document, a second copy of the original document with the CBI deleted; and (3) explain why the information you are submitting is CBI. Unless you are notified otherwise, PHMSA will treat such marked submissions as confidential under FOIA, and they will not be placed in the public docket of this notification. Submissions containing CBI should be sent to Sayler Palabrica at *sayler.palabrica@dot.gov.* Any commentary PHMSA receives that is not specifically designated as CBI will be placed in the public docket for this rulemaking.

• *Docket:* The docket containing background documents and received comments is available at *http://www.regulations.gov.* Once on this site, please follow the online instructions for accessing the dockets. Alternatively, you may review these documents in person at the street address listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information contact Sayler Palabrica at 202–366–0559 or by email at *sayler.palabrica@dot.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On November 4, 2020, (85 FR 70124) PHMSA published a document titled ''Pipeline Safety: Midstream Facilities Frequently Asked Questions'' requesting public comments on a set of seven draft frequently asked questions developed by the Midstream Processing Working Group, established by the Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee and the Liquid Pipeline Advisory Committee. On December 4, 2020, PHMSA received a comment extension request submitted by the following entities:

- Association of Oil Pipelines
- American Petroleum Institute
- Interstate Natural Gas Association of America
- American Gas Association
- GPA Midstream Association

This request is available in the docket for this notification. PHMSA believes that extension of the comment period is warranted based on the information provided in the request. Therefore, PHMSA has extended the comment period from January 4, 2021, to February 4, 2021.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 10, 2020, under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.97.

Alan K. Mayberry,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 2020–27560 Filed 12–15–20; 8:45 am]

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