## 299J.15 DISPOSAL OF PIPELINE; PENALTY; ENFORCEMENT.

Subdivision 1. **Disposal prohibited.** (a) After an emergency release has occurred, a pipeline operator, or its employee or agent, may not dispose of, destroy, or alter the part of a pipeline or LNG facility that was involved in the emergency release until approval is granted by the commissioner. The authority of the commissioner to grant approval may not be delegated.

- (b) This subdivision does not prevent the repair of a pipeline in the ground without the approval of the commissioner, or the excavation and removal from the ground of a pipeline or part of a pipeline without the approval of the commissioner. However, the pipeline may not be altered with the intent to prevent or hinder a determination of the cause of the emergency release.
- Subd. 2. **Felony.** A person who knowingly violates subdivision 1, or who denies the director or the director's designee access to the pipeline or LNG facility for the purposes of inspection, is guilty of a felony and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than five years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

**History:** 1987 c 353 s 36; 1992 c 386 s 10

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