

Mayes protests pipe inspections cut | Arizona Daily Star ®

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ACC's Mayes protests pipe inspections cut

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An Arizona Corporation Commission member Friday sent federal officials a letter protesting a steep reduction in the number of days state inspectors can examine Kinder Morgan gasoline pipelines.

The federal Office of Pipeline Safety, part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, determined that examiners will be permitted to inspect the Kinder Morgan 20-inch gasoline line for only three days in 2004, far less than the 20 that state safety officials recommended. Last year, when a pipeline rupture in Tucson caused substantial fuel shortages, inspectors were allowed 10 days on the Kinder Morgan line.

Commissioner Kris Mayes wrote that the decision "represents an unfortunate step backward." Additionally, Mayes said she was upset the federal government limited the inspection to just the Yuma-to-Phoenix lines, 156 miles of 671 total miles of Kinder Morgan lines here.

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