

CATS Connection

(Community Assistance & Technical Services)



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration**

*Office of
Pipeline Safety*

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Pipeline Emergencies 101 On-Line

The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) has created an on-line version of Pipeline Emergencies to provide first responders with a general awareness of pipeline safety. Pipeline operations and commodity properties are highlighted in this summary of the full Pipeline Emergencies training program. In order to quantify the reach of Pipeline Emergencies 101, first responders are required to register on the web site before starting the training. NASFM and PHMSA encourage pipeline operators to include the link to Pipeline Emergencies 101 in pipeline safety awareness messages to first responders. <http://www.pipelineemergencies.com/>

State Damage Prevention Program (SDPP) Grant Awards

The PIPES Act provided PHMSA with the option to award SDPP Grants to State authorities to enhance the nine essential elements of an effective damage prevention program in their State. PHMSA has budgeted \$1.515 million total for these grants in 2008, with a maximum of \$100,000 per award. As of June 13, eleven agreements have been formally executed with the following organizations:

- Utility Notification Center of Colorado
- Georgia Public Service Commission
- Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission
- Kansas Corporation Commission
- Minnesota Department of Public Safety
- Public Utility Commission of Nevada
- Tennessee Regulatory Authority
- Railroad Commission of Texas
- Utah Department of Commerce
- Virginia Corporation Commission
- Wyoming Public Service Commission

More information on the grants, including scope of work for each, is available at

<http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/DamagePreventionGrantsToStates.htm>

Applications from the following organizations have been tentatively accepted for award:

- New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
- New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
- Dig Safely New York
- Vermont Department of Public Service

Pipeline Pages Added to 2008 Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG)

The Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) is the foundation of many emergency response plans and incident management systems. It provides a consistent and standardized approach for managing the first fifteen to thirty minutes of hazardous materials incident response. The 2008 edition is the first ERG to include informational pages on pipeline transportation. These "white pages" on pipelines are included as pages 24 & 25. The ERG can be ordered at <http://hazmat.dot.gov/pubs/erg/guidebook.htm>

Cased Pipeline Integrity Assessment Workshop - July 15 & 16

PHMSA has coordinated with many stakeholders to host a workshop focusing on integrity assessments of cased pipelines on July 15 & 16 in Rosemont, IL. The focus of the workshop will be to discuss concerns with using External Corrosion Direct Assessment (ECDA) on cased crossings and alternative technology that may provide more accurate assessments of cased pipelines. The goal at the end of workshop will be to develop a list of potential solutions that can address the issues through changes to regulations, standards, operating practices and/or research. Main sessions of the workshop will be webcast, but breakouts will not. You can view the complete agenda and register at <http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/meetings/MtgHome.mtg?mtg=54>

Louisiana Regional CGA

Louisiana recently formed a Regional Partnership with the Common Ground Alliance (CGA). Vic Weston, national CGA Board Member, was elected the new Alliance's first President. So far, the initiative has recruited participants in nearly all areas of the stakeholder community. Success in recruitment will ensure that the CGA mission is communicated to the largest audience possible throughout Louisiana. The committee has already begun to actively promote the CGA Best Practices and consider specific ways to improve those same Best Practices in Louisiana. In addition, a sub-committee is planning a Damage Prevention Workshop for both Baton Rouge and Lafayette in early September. If you would like more details or would like to participate, please contact john.pepper@dot.gov

Excess Flow Valve Installation Advisory Bulletin

On June 5, PHMSA published an Advisory Bulletin encouraging all gas distribution operators to install excess flow valves (EFV) in selected gas service lines. The PIPES Act mandates that PHMSA require operators of natural gas distribution systems to install EFVs on gas service lines:

- 1) that are installed or entirely replaced after June 1, 2008, and
- 2) operate continuously throughout the year at a pressure not less than 10 psi gauge, and
- 3) that are not connected to a gas system with respect to which the operator has had prior experience with contaminants, the presence of which could interfere with the operation of an EFV, and
- 4) for which an excess flow valve meeting the performance standards of 49 CFR § 192.381 is commercially available.

PHMSA plans to include this requirement in the upcoming proposed rule for Distribution Integrity Management Programs. The Advisory Bulletin is available at http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/publications/AB_EFV_Mandatory_2008-06-05.pdf

Direct Sales Lateral Jurisdiction Advisory Bulletin

On May 13, PHMSA issued an Advisory Bulletin notifying natural gas transmission operators that the PIPES Act eliminated an exception from the definition of interstate gas pipelines. Prior to the PIPES Act, direct sales laterals were never considered part of the interstate transmission system and safety audits were conducted at the State level. Currently, if a direct sales lateral is subject to the jurisdiction of FERC, the lateral is an interstate pipeline subject to safety regulation by PHMSA. The Advisory Bulletin can be viewed at http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/publications/AB_Direct_Sales_2008-05-13.pdf

Quantitative Nondestructive Evaluation for Pipes July 19 & 20

The Center for Nondestructive Evaluation out of Iowa State University is holding a *Short Course on Quantitative Nondestructive Evaluation for Pipes* at the University of Illinois at Chicago on July 19 & 20. Presenters and their topics include Battelle on *MFL Technology*, Southwest Research Institute on *Remote Field Inspection of Gas Distribution Lines*, Rosen on *Ultrasonic Detection of SCC and Loose Coating from a Pig*, the Imperial College of London on *Long Range Guided Wave Inspection*, and Sonic Sensors on *Short Range Guided Wave Inspection Through Coatings*, and OPS on *Standards Enforcement by Government Regulation*. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact john.pepper@dot.gov

Western Regional Gas Conference August 26 & 27

On August 26 & 27, the Western Regional Gas Conference will be held in Tempe, AZ. The draft agenda and registration information is available at <http://www.westernregionalgas.org/>

Exploration and Production Regulatory Forum August 27 & 28

API and the University of Louisiana in Lafayette are planning an *Exploration and Production Regulatory Compliance Forum* for August 27 & 28 in Lafayette, La. The two-day forum will cover a broad range of subjects for both onshore and offshore activities in Louisiana. John Pepper, OPS Southwest Region, will present on *DOT Pipeline Requirements* with a primary focus on the MOU between the DOT and MMS. If you have questions or would like to attend, please contact john.pepper@dot.gov

TSA International Pipeline Security Forum October 29 & 30

The 2008 International Pipeline Security Forum will be held in Salt Lake City, UT on October 29 & 30, 2008. The Forum is sponsored by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in collaboration with Natural Resources Canada. Registration and attendance at the forum is limited to pipeline, energy and security representatives and officials from private industry and government. This event is not open to the general public and media. A draft agenda and registration information is available on the TSA Pipeline Security website at http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/tsnm/pipelines/index.shtm

Rulemakings

Final Rule - Protecting Unusually Sensitive Areas From Rural Onshore Hazardous Liquid Gathering Lines and Low-Stress Lines

On June 3, PHMSA published a Final Rule amending its pipeline safety regulations to extend added protection to certain environmentally sensitive areas that could be damaged by failure of a rural onshore hazardous liquid gathering line or low-stress pipeline. The rule is intended to protect designated Unusually Sensitive Areas (USA) - locations requiring extra protection because of the presence of sole-source drinking water, endangered species, or other ecological resources. The rule defines "regulated rural onshore hazardous liquid gathering lines" and requires operators of these lines to comply with safety requirements that address the most common threats to the integrity of these pipelines: corrosion and third-party damage. Pursuant to the PIPES Act, the rule also significantly narrows the regulatory exception for rural onshore low-stress hazardous liquid pipelines by extending all existing safety regulations, including integrity management requirements, to large-diameter low-stress pipelines within a defined "buffer" area around a USA. The rule requires operators of all low-stress pipelines to comply with annual reporting requirements; furnishing data needed for further rulemaking required by the PIPES Act.

<http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocumentDetail&o=090000648060de25>

CATS Around the Country

What CATS have been up to lately...

National Events

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- Participation in CGA Committee meetings during Annual Meeting in Las Vegas
- Participation in Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA) Task Team teleconferences and meetings
- Continue resolving public awareness program deviations with pipeline operators
- Participate in review committee for 2nd edition of RP 1162

Central Region

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- CGA R&D Committee Meeting in March and Location & Detection Sub-team meeting
- NAPS Central Region Meeting
- Kansas CGA Regional Partner meeting
- ASTM F-17 Committee meeting working on plastic pipe and appurtenances standards
- Rockford, IL LEPC presentation
- Iowa Pipeline Association meeting
- Confirmatory excavation monitoring on Rockies Express West Pipeline
- Plastic Pipe Ad Hoc committee meeting to discuss plastic pipe and fittings issues
- Researched and responded to Nebraska State Senator Deb Fischer's office on inquiry
- Rockies Express - FERC coordination, Rural Water District Problems, Emergency Response Contacts
- Responded to BP pipeline third party damage leak report
- Presentation to the US Steel Workers Union on General Pipeline Safety and Grading Leaks
- SCADA NPRM Continued Support
- SHPO Permit Coordination for ANR/TransCanada
- ESF#1 Support Team Presentation
- AGA and SGA Presentations on SCADA
- Several School Location Near Pipelines Follow-up Upon Request
- State Partner Assistance Regarding Blasting Concerns Near a Pipeline and Injunction
- Emergency Responder Coordination Regarding a Pipeline Repair Being Prevented
- Inspection Integration Module Support (Facilities and SCADA)
- EPA Region 7 Emergency Responder Presentation
- Celeratis Pipeline Presentation at the Annual CGA Meeting - "Thoughts for Consideration"
- Support for an Insurance Stakeholder Meeting regarding GPS White Lining in Kansas
- Minnesota State Partner Pipeline Safety Conference "Rules Update" Presentation
- Various Support Items for the CGA and DIRT including Spreadsheet Dropdown Enhancements
- API Alarm Committee RP1167 Support
- Human Factors Committee (all modes) Fill In For DC
- New Pipeline Construction Map Coordination
- Presentation Provided to Several NIPA Members
- Attended and Provided Feedback on the Sentinel HCA Presentation for Gas Pipelines
- Coordination with DOS regarding several landowner issues and TransCanada

Eastern Region

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- Participated in FERC Public Meetings in MD and PA for the Sparrows Point LNG import terminal and connecting transmission pipeline in June

Southern Region

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- Participated in technical committee meetings at the NACE Annual Conference including those pertaining to the revision of SP0169 and RP0502
- Presented an update on NACE Corrosion Activities at the NAPSRS Southern Region Meeting
- Gave a PHMSA Update and presented on DIMP at the Georgia Public Service Commission Pipeline Safety Seminar
- Participated in a panel discussion as a representative of NACE task group TG 360 (SP0169) at the AGA Annual Seminar
- Presented on PHMSA Corrosion Control Regulations at the Appalachian Underground Corrosion Short Course
- Participated in an Inspection Integration Pilot Inspection of Williams Pipeline

Southwest Region

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- Served as PHMSA Representative at an INGAA Foundation Parallel Pipeline Construction Workshop
- Delivered a presentation on DOT Regulation of Pipelines to a NACE meeting sponsored by Kilgore College
- Participated in the SGA Offshore Operating Conference
- Conducted LNG Construction inspections at two new LNG plants
- Participated in a USCG Comprehensive Security Review of an operating LNG plant
- Served as PHMSA Representative at the third annual USCG LNG Summit
- Met with the Texas RRC regarding the new Texas Underground Pipeline Damage Prevention Regulations
- Worked with the SGA to develop a Pipeline Security Round Table for the July Operating Conference
- Gave a presentation to the Emergency Response Officials in Kenner Louisiana in April
- Attended Regional CGA Meeting in Louisiana in May
- Participated in LA Damage Prevention Seminar Coordinating Call in May
- Participated in State Damage Prevention Program Grant application reviews in May

Western Region

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- Participated in FERC Scoping Meetings in OR for the proposed Oregon LNG import terminal and connecting pipeline in May
- Presented an update on PHMSA during the NASFM State Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Stakeholder meeting in Bellingham, WA in April
- Attended the Western Region NAPSRS meeting in Los Angeles, CA.