

It seems to us that a cooperative effort in the accident investigating and reporting fields is necessary.

Specifically, we recommend:

1. That the functional statement for the Office of Pipeline Safety be altered by the addition of language along the following lines:

"Develop procedures which insure adequate investigation of pipeline accidents and systems for the current reporting by state agencies and industries of significant accidents and incidents subject to safety regulation and accident prevention activities."

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2. That steps be taken to open up lines of communication with all state regulatory agencies having jurisdiction over natural gas pipelines so that such agencies would:

- (1) Make available currently to the Department reports of the facts and circumstances surrounding accidents and incidents investigated by them, and
- (2) Institute procedures for reporting accidents and incidents to the Department on a current basis.

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We do not know to what extent state agencies are now equipped to make such reports. Be that as it may, we suggest that a reporting system should be established by cooperative arrangements with the state agencies. Nor do we know the effectiveness of existing accident investigative activities of state agencies, although we do know that the function exists and is now being carried out by them with widely varying degrees of depth and breadth of coverage. We recognize, however, that the states have some capability in the field. Such capabilities as exist can, hopefully, be improved and should, in any event, be encouraged, guided and, to the extent required, given financial support.

We believe that state agency accident investigations, while limited in scope and depth through lack of adequate resources, afford