



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

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.
Washington, DC 20590

MAR 31 2011

Recent tragedies involving natural gas explosions and spills of hazardous liquids highlight the need to take a hard look at the integrity of the Nation's pipelines. As you are keenly aware, some of this infrastructure is aging and requires prompt attention to ensure the safety of communities across the country.

On April 18, 2011, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood will convene a Pipeline Safety Forum with the goal of accelerating the rehabilitation, repair, and replacement of critical pipeline infrastructure with known integrity risks. This forum will bring together pipeline safety experts, researchers, industry representatives, State partners, other Federal agency officials, and members of the public to share their expertise, experience, research, and ideas.

On behalf of the Secretary, I invite you to participate in this very important discussion. You may RSVP to pipelineforum@dot.gov with the name(s) and contact information of attending individual(s) from your organization or register on-line at our Pipeline Safety Forum website: www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipelineforum.

As a Commissioner with responsibility for safety oversight of pipelines in your state, I know you share my concern that these facilities are operated correctly and provide safe and reliable service to the American public. In preparation for the Forum, I urge you to review your State's current replacement plans for the highest risk pipelines (for example, bare steel, cast iron pipe, and pipe whose integrity is questionable or not confirmed), and consider what would be necessary to accelerate these plans. We encourage you to bring your findings to the Forum.

Please reply with this information and any related studies or reports by April 10, 2011. We will post your submissions on the Forum website, www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipelineforum. Our plan is to issue a Report to the Nation on the steps needed to achieve the Secretary's goal within the next six months.

Together, we can improve public safety through infrastructure assessment and reinvestment, open communication of concerns and creative solutions, and strong, effective oversight and robust excavation damage prevention programs including promotion of "Safe Digging Month" this April and the national "Call Before You Dig" (811) programs.

Thank you in advance for partnering with us for public safety.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia L. Quarterman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Cynthia L. Quarterman