

## **PHMSA TRIBAL ASSISTANCE PROTOCOL**

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is dedicated to providing Indian tribes (tribes) with technical assistance to help in their efforts to improve the safety and efficiency of tribal pipeline systems. Affirmed in treaties, Supreme Court decisions, and executive orders, PHMSA has a government-to-government relationship with Indian tribal governments, and provides technical assistance as requested.

PHMSA will consult with Indian tribes to provide technical assistance that will help the tribes regulate oil and natural gas pipelines subject to their jurisdiction. Direct participation, training, partnering and cooperative working relationships will enable tribes to benefit from PHMSA's technical expertise and experience. As resources allow, PHMSA's activities may range from assisting tribal technical experts to providing technical data necessary to help the tribes assess, plan and provide for safe pipeline facilities on tribal lands. Training may also be available to promote tribal knowledge and expertise in the oversight of pipeline systems. PHMSA personnel are available to assist tribes in several program areas including general project planning and technical support, emergency response planning and preparedness, and standardization and implementation of regulations. A more formal interaction with Indian tribes may develop in the future as a result of PHMSA's increased outreach activities.

For further information, please contact a Community Assistance and Technical Services (CATS) representative.

**National CATS Coordinator**

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