



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

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

September 30, 2014

The Honorable Nick Rahall
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rahall:

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) is submitting this report on the status of the Paperless Hazard Communications Pilot Program, under Section 33005 of the "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act" (MAP-21). Section 33005 authorizes PHMSA to conduct pilot projects (tests) to evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of using paperless systems (e-systems) to communicate hazardous materials (HM) shipping paper information. In conducting the pilot tests, PHMSA must consult with fire officials, law enforcement personnel, other emergency response providers, and HM offerors and transporters, and may not waive the current shipping paper requirements. Upon pilot test completion, PHMSA must submit a report to Congress.

Because the pilot tests are subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), on July 19, 2013, PHMSA published a 60-Day Federal Register Notice, and subsequently, on November 25, 2013, a 30-Day Federal Register Notice seeking input and comments on the planned data collection activities. Upon completion of notice periods, PHMSA submitted the required information collection request (ICR) package to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval.

OMB reviewed the ICR package and approved it on September 8, 2014. PHMSA will begin conducting inspections and emergency response simulation pilot tests in three or four U.S. regions (including one rural area as required by MAP-21), and expects the actual pilot test period to run for three to six months. Concurrent with conducting the pilot tests, PHMSA will collect data to analyze the impact of using e-systems for communicating HM shipping paper information. PHMSA expects to submit a report regarding this pilot program in 2015.

In preparation for the pilot tests, PHMSA has already completed the following steps:

- Created a cooperative relationship between transportation entities and regulatory agencies;
- Established a website and email account for communicating with interested parties;
- Conducted several meetings and public workshops with HM stakeholders (emergency responders, law enforcement personnel, shippers, and carriers) to receive feedback on the use of electronic data sharing to communicate HM shipping information;

The Honorable Nick Rahall

- Hosted follow-up workshops for stakeholders to communicate and verify stakeholder feedback;
- Published information papers highlighting the collective HM transportation community's priorities, gaps, and concerns for implementing paperless hazard communications;
- Defined a data collection plan for testing e-system performance and analyzing impacts;
- Developed on-line data collection instruments (Shipper and Carrier Volunteer Pilot Test Participant Questionnaire, Inspection Simulation Questionnaire, Emergency Response Simulation Questionnaire, and Impact Analysis Questionnaire); and
- Posted a web announcement to communicate the data collection plan and request initial list of pilot test volunteers.

Identical letters have been sent to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Regards,

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Cynthia L. Quarterman



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1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
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September 30, 2014

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, IV
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rockefeller:

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The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster:

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The Honorable John Thune
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Thune:

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The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton:

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