



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

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.  
Washington, DC 20590

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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 in Washington DC 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. We believe the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will be able to provide an important perspective to this discussion.

On behalf of the Secretary, I invite you to the Forum and also serve as one of our panel moderators. I will follow up with you next week to discuss the specific details.

If you would like to include other members of your organization, please provide the name(s) and contact information of attending individual(s) from your organization and send to [pipelineforum@dot.gov](mailto:pipelineforum@dot.gov) or register on-line at our Pipeline Safety Forum website: [www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipelineforum](http://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. Thank you in advance for partnering with us on this vitally important undertaking.

Regards,

Cynthia L. Quarterman