



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

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.
Washington, DC 20590

MAR 18 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. Please RSVP to pipelineforum@dot.gov with the name(s) and contact information of attending individual(s) from your organization.

In preparation for the Forum, I also ask that your organization identify and share with Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA) information on the integrity of your members' infrastructure based on any comprehensive review or data analysis as well as possible solutions to the challenges confronting the rehabilitation, repair, and replacement of the following: (1) pipelines made of bare steel, cast iron pipe, copper pipe, and polyethylene or plastic pipe; (2) pipelines with unknown or uncertain material specifications or longitudinal seams; (3) pipelines with questionable or unconfirmed integrity.

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.

Your members jointly own and operate the nation's pipeline infrastructure - more than 2.5 million miles of pipelines delivering energy to homes and businesses across America. The American public depends upon you and your members, as well as regulatory, inspection and enforcement programs of PHMSA and our state pipeline safety partners to safeguard the integrity and reliability of the nation's pipeline systems.

Together, we can improve public safety. Thank you in advance for partnering with us on this vitally important undertaking.

Regards,

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

Cynthia L. Quarterman