



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

July 23, 2012

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor of New York
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing to request your assistance in addressing pipeline safety by providing State information for a Congressional mandate. The U.S. Congress, through § 7 of the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011, instructed the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to conduct a nationwide survey on the progress of cast iron pipeline replacement.

Cast iron is one of a few high risk pipeline materials, typically installed over 60 years ago, which is still in use supplying natural gas to homes and businesses in many of our towns and cities. Almost all cast iron pipeline systems are subject to State pipeline safety oversight. This means you, your fellow Governors, and other State officials have the ability, and responsibility, to assure these pipeline systems do not pose a risk to life, property or the environment within your State.

Before the end of summer, PHMSA will release a public web-based solution highlighting the inventory of cast iron remaining in each State, as well as any pipeline remediation plans provided to us. PHMSA's Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety, Jeffrey D. Wiese, recently requested your State's pipeline remediation plans from your State utility commission chair. We look forward to showcasing your State's active management of these pipeline risks by including your related programs and plans.

We are maintaining your responses on our website at:
<http://opsweb.phmsa.dot.gov/pipelineforum/library/index.html>.

I look forward to our continued partnership on this critical safety issue. Your input and efforts within your State to support safety initiatives is greatly appreciated. If my staff or I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-366-4433.

Regards,

Cynthia L. Quarterman