



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

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.
Washington, DC 20590

MAR 24 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 Executive 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. You may also register on-line by going to our Pipeline Safety Forum website: www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipelineforum.

Your members possess technical expertise and independent perspectives concerning the nation's energy pipeline infrastructure. In preparation for the Forum, I ask your organization to identify and share with PHMSA 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.

Together, we can improve public safety through infrastructure assessment and reinvestment, open communication of concerns and creative solutions, strong, effective oversight, and robust excavation damage prevention programs including promotion of “Safe Digging Month” this April and the national “Call Before You Dig” (811) programs.

Thank you in advance for partnering with us for public safety.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Quarterman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cynthia L. Quarterman