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Deputy Associate Administrator for Policy & Programs

Office of Pipeline Safety
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
Thank You!
Office of Pipeline Safety

OPS and its State Partners Regulate Approximately

- 2.5 million pipeline miles
- 2,500 pipeline operators
- Natural gas, crude oil, refined products, CO2, NH3
Two years ago, we were in a very different place.
Performance indicators were good – incident trends were declining, injuries and fatalities were decreasing.
Pipeline Incidents w/Death or Major Injury (1986-2010)

Data: DOT/PHMSA Pipeline Incident Data (as of Jan. 19, 2011)

Long-term trend (average 10% decline every 3 years)
Congress and Public Advocacy Groups were fairly happy with PHMSA and State oversight.

The GAO, IG and NTSB were satisfied PHMSA was doing its job.
April 20, 2010
Congress and the Public did not distinguish between an offshore drilling incident and onshore pipelines.
Congress and the Public saw an environmental disaster.

They asked us...could something like Deepwater Horizon happen in our backyards?
Salt Lake City
June 11, 2010
Marshal, MI
July 26, 2010
Congress and the Public saw a human tragedy in the Deepwater Horizon incident.

People were hurt and killed because of their proximity to hazardous materials.
San Bruno, CA
September 2010
Salt Lake City, UT
December 1, 2010
ATTENTION

A significant crude oil spill occurred in Red Butte Creek in June 2010. While a major clean up has been completed, residual crude oil may remain in the creek. If you encounter oil in the water, creek sediments or streambanks, please avoid contact and notify the following agencies for follow up:

Salt Lake Valley Health Department:
801-313-6700 (8 am - 5 pm weekdays)

Utah Department of Environmental Quality
E-mail hotline:
RedButteOilSpill-input@utah.gov

Thank you for your help in cleaning up our creek.
Allentown, PA
February 2011
Common Thread?

• Is there a common thread in all of these tragedies?


• We are still looking.
Tough Questions

Both the pipeline industry and regulators are currently subject to intense scrutiny.

- How could these tragedies happen?
- Are we doing our job?
- Are we effective?
- Are we doing enough?
- Are regulators too close to industry?
Evaluating the Federal and State Oversight Program

- 15 Congressional Hearings in 2010 and 2011
- Congressional Mandates via Act
- GAO audits (reports to Congress)
- DOT Inspector General audit (reports to Administration)
Putting 2012 in Perspective

• Administration Believes A Fix is Needed
  – Critical pipeline infrastructure needs to be modernized
  – Oversight needs to be strengthened

• Expecting More Ideas to Improve from NTSB, OIG, and GAO

• Workshops ‘R Us – Valves, Leak Detection, Data, DIMP, R&D

• Election Year
The Impact of Incidents

- Secretary’s Call to Action
  - Repair, rehabilitation, requalification or replacement of high risk infrastructure
  - Report to America on Pipeline Safety
  - Engagement with ALL stakeholders
  - Looking for commitments to work toward safer pipelines.
Repair/Rehabilitation/Requalification/Replacement?

Different states = different risks and different priorities

- Need to focus on highest risk pipe in each state
- Older pipe can be difficult to assess/repair
- Very expensive to consumers
- Potentially very disruptive to the public
Rulemaking

• Several new rulemaking documents were recently issued:
  – Questions to stakeholders about the adequacy of liquid regulations.
  – Questions to stakeholders about the adequacy of gas regulations.

• Congressionally directed rulemaking and studies.
Are the Regulations Protective Enough?

PHMSA is seeking YOUR input on a variety of proposed rulemakings. Make your voice heard!
Upcoming Events

• Emergency Responder Forum Follow-up
• Leak Detection Workshop – March 27th (webcast)
• Valve Workshop – March 28th (webcast)
• Data and Metrics Workshop – May/June (webcast)
• DIMP Workshop – June 27 (DFW) (webcast)
• R&D Workshop – July
• Various State Seminars
Questions
U. S. Department of Transportation

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration

www.dot.gov