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## **Comments on PHMSA's release of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Hazardous Liquid Pipelines**

Carl Weimer the executive director of the Pipeline Safety Trust stated, **"We are happy that these proposed rules have finally been released, but after waiting for five years since this process began we are disappointed that the proposed rules do not address many of the major concerns raised from recent spills. Requiring leak detection is good, but without a standard to define how such systems need to perform the requirement is nearly meaningless. Requiring inspection of pipelines after major flooding and weather events is a good idea, but we had hoped that PHMSA would also require proactive efforts to prevent spills from pipelines before such events occur. Requiring pipelines be able to accommodate smart pigs is a great idea, but why are they allowing pipelines that are already 50 or 60 years old twenty more years to make these needed improvements? After major spills over the past few years, where are the rules to require automated valves that so many have called for? While we support many of these proposals, with this country's aging pipeline infrastructure we are concerned that this level of slow incremental improvement will not be enough to keep our communities and environment safe. We hope these proposed rules can be strengthened through the public comment process, but in the past such proposals represent the high watermark regarding safety since the pipeline industry will now apply great pressure to weaken these proposed rules even more."**

The Pipeline Safety Trust is pleased that PHMSA has finally released the proposed rule for hazardous liquid pipelines. After a quick review of the proposal it appears there are a number of incremental improvements to the rules that ought to make hazardous liquid pipelines safer. These include a new requirement that would for the first time require pipeline companies who have pipelines that operate *outside* of high consequence areas to inspect their pipelines at least once every ten years, a new requirement for leak detection on all pipelines, a new requirement that pipelines that could affect a high consequence area be able to accommodate in-line inspection devices within 20 years, and clarifies that other parts of the pipeline system beyond just the pipe need to be included in a company's integrity management program.

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The Pipeline Safety Trust is the only national non-profit organization that acts in the public interest to promote pipeline safety through education and advocacy, increased access to information, and partnerships with residents, safety advocates, government, and industry, resulting in safer communities and a healthier environment.