

From: Bourne, Frances
Sent: Tue, 22 Jul 2025 14:31:28 +0000
To: Hill, Damon (PHMSA); PHMSA Public Affairs
Cc: Matesic, Hannah (OST); Fritz, Trish (OST); Wong, Emily (PHMSA); Arsenault, Thomas (PHMSA); Morgante, Sam
Subject: RE: USDOT/PHMSA Release: USDOT Introduces Data-Driven Enforcement Priorities to Strengthen Pipeline Safety

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Thank you, Damon – Could you share with us how this differs than current I&E work? Regards, Frances

From: Hill, Damon (PHMSA) <Damon.Hill@dot.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 9:18 AM
To: PHMSA Public Affairs <PHMSAPublicAffairs@dot.gov>
Cc: Matesic, Hannah (OST) <hannah.matesic@dot.gov>; Fritz, Trish (OST) <trish.fritz@dot.gov>; Wong, Emily (PHMSA) <emily.wong@dot.gov>; Arsenault, Thomas (PHMSA) <Thomas.Arsenault@dot.gov>
Subject: USDOT/PHMSA Release: USDOT Introduces Data-Driven Enforcement Priorities to Strengthen Pipeline Safety

Good morning – sharing an advance copy of the below press release regarding PHMSA's inspection and enforcement for pipeline safety. Please see below.



PHMSA 13-25
Tuesday, July 22, 2025
Contact: PHMSA Public Affairs, PHMSAPublicAffairs@dot.gov

USDOT Introduces Data-Driven Enforcement Priorities to Strengthen Pipeline Safety

WASHINGTON –The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA) today announced pipeline inspection and enforcement (I&E

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priorities, a first for the agency, focusing its regulatory oversight efforts on activities data show have the greatest impact on pipeline safety. These priorities are outlined in a memorandum to the staff of the Office of Pipeline Safety available on PHMSA's website [here](#).

"PHMSA regulations should be used to ensure the safe transportation of energy products — not as a tool to drive fossil fuels out of business. Our new transparent, data-driven approach to enforcement will pinpoint key areas of concern, keep communities safe, and refocus PHMSA on its core mission — improving pipeline safety," said **U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy**.

The memo directs PHMSA I&E staff to concentrate their efforts on five priority areas:

- Incidents and Accidents;
- High and Moderate Consequence Areas;
- Control Room Management and Leak Detection;
- Damage Prevention; *and*
- Transactions and Due Diligence

"We will continue to hold operators to the highest, most stringent safety standards," said **PHMSA Acting Administrator Ben Kochman**. *"We won't hesitate to use every enforcement tool at our disposal when those standards aren't met."*

PHMSA I&E staff will also prioritize inspecting to confirm operator compliance with recent rulemakings developed in response to significant accidents and incidents. These include requirements for rupture mitigation valves, verification of pipeline materials, reconfirmation of Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure, and Underground Natural Gas Storage facility safety.

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's mission is to protect people and the environment by advancing the safe transportation of energy and other hazardous materials that are essential to our daily lives. Please visit <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov> for more information.

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