March 3, 2004

Mr. Samuel G. Bonasso
Deputy Administrator
Research and Special Programs Administration
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Bonasso:

Thank you for your letter dated December 23, 2003, with an update on the status of Safety Recommendation P-02-5, stated below, which the National Transportation Safety Board issued to the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) on October 11, 2002, as a result of the Safety Board's pipeline accident report of a 16-inch-diameter steel pipeline that ruptured with subsequent fire in Bellingham, Washington, on June 10, 1999.

P-02-5

> Issue an advisory bulletin to all pipeline operators who use supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems advising them to implement an off-line workstation that can be used to modify their SCADA system database or to perform developmental and testing work independent of their on-line systems. Advise operators to use the off-line system before any modifications are implemented to ensure that those modifications are error-free and that they create no ancillary problems for controllers responsible for operating the pipeline.

The Safety Board notes that on December 23, 2003, RSPA issued an advisory bulletin to all pipeline operators who use SCADA systems, as requested. Accordingly, Safety Recommendation P-02-5 is classified "Closed—Acceptable Action."

Thank you for your commitment to pipeline safety.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Mark V. Rosenker
Vice Chairman

cc: Ms. Linda Lawson, Director
Office of Safety, Energy, and Environment
Office of Transportation Policy