

December 2, 2002

Honorable Ellen G. Engleman
Administrator
Research and Special Programs Administration
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Ms. Engleman:

Thank you for Ms. Cheryl Whetsel's September 26, 2002, e-mail providing material responsive to the National Transportation Safety Board's Safety Recommendation P-02-2, stated below. This recommendation was made to the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) on August 2, 2002, as a result of the Safety Board's investigation of the April 7, 2000, pipeline failure at the Chalk Point Generating Station in southeastern Prince George's County, Maryland.

P-02-2

Require pipeline owners and operators to provide follow-up telephone updates to the National Response Center when they discover that the information they initially reported contains significant errors or when they identify significant new information directly related to the reporting criteria.

Ms. Whetsel provided a copy of RSPA's Advisory Bulletin (ADB-02-04), issued on September 6, 2002, which clarifies the requirements of Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* Parts 191.5, 193.2001, and 195.52. The ADB addresses required notifications to the National Response Center (NRC), explaining that, in addition to the initial reporting of an incident, pipeline owners and operators must provide follow-up telephone updates to the NRC when they discover that the information they initially reported contains significant errors or when they identify significant new information directly related to the reporting criteria. Accordingly, Safety Recommendation P-02-2 is classified "Closed—Acceptable Action."

Thank you for your prompt action and for Ms. Whetsel's assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Carol J. Carmody
Acting Chairman

cc: Mr. Robert Clarke, Safety and Health Team Leader
Office of Transportation Policy Development

Ms. Cheryl Whetsel, Program Analyst
Office of Pipeline Safety