



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

April 6, 2015

The Honorable Christopher Hart  
Chairman  
National Transportation Safety Board  
490 L'Enfant Plaza East, SW  
Washington, DC 20594

Dear Chairman Hart:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) mission is to protect people and the environment from the risks of pipeline incidents. I am writing to propose closure on one of the open National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommendations. PHMSA has completed actions on Recommendation P-04-1, and this letter provides an update of the actions taken to address this recommendation.

We have a long history of cooperating and collaborating with the NTSB, and we agree that safe pipeline operational practices are important and necessary. We take our responsibility to address all recommendations seriously and will continue to work aggressively to close all open recommendations.

#### **Safety Recommendation P-04-1**

**Recommendation:** *Remove the exemption in regulations that permits pipe to be placed in natural gas service after pressure testing when the pipe cannot be verified to have been transported in accordance with the American Petroleum Institute's (API) recommended practice RP5L1.*

**Response:** On March 11, 2015, PHMSA published a final rule titled "Pipeline Safety: Miscellaneous Changes to Pipeline Safety Regulations," which removes the exemption in 49 C.F.R. § 192.65 and brings the regulation into accordance with the API's recommended practice RP5L1.

PHMSA continues to make significant progress in continuous improvement of agencies of the pipeline safety program and seriously recognize our responsibility to fully address all NTSB recommendations. We therefore request your consideration for closing Recommendation

P-04-1. We will continue to work aggressively and without delay to close all remaining open recommendations.

PHMSA will continue to work with your office in the future as we continue our efforts to ensure the safe, reliable, and environmentally sound operation of the Nation's pipeline transportation system. If we can be of further assistance or answer any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Stephen Domotor, Chief Safety Officer/Assistant Administrator at 202-366-7530 or at [Stephen.Domotor@dot.gov](mailto:Stephen.Domotor@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy P. Butters", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Timothy P. Butters  
Acting Administrator