



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

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.  
Washington, DC 20590

November 2, 2016

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) recently published a Federal Register notice seeking member nominations for a new federal advisory committee. It is called the Voluntary Information-Sharing System (VIS) Working Group. Congress requires, in Section 10 of the Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety (PIPES) Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-183), a working group convene to consider the development of a voluntary information-sharing system to encourage collaborative efforts to improve inspection information feedback and information sharing with the purpose of improving gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipeline facility integrity risk analysis.

The VIS Working Group's purpose is to consider and provide recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation on several matters, including whether an information sharing-system is needed, ways to encourage the exchange of pipeline inspection information, and best practices for the protection of proprietary and security-sensitive information.

We are informing you about the VIS Working Group because you may know of potential interested applicants. The VIS Working Group must include representatives from the following categories:

- PHMSA
- Industry stakeholders, including:
  - Operators of pipeline facilities,
  - Inspection technology, coating, and cathodic protection vendors, and
  - Pipeline inspection organizations;
- Safety advocacy groups;
- Research institutions;
- State public utility commissions or State officials responsible for pipeline safety oversight;
- State pipeline safety inspectors;
- Labor representatives; and
- Other entities, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

The enclosed Federal Register notice outlines how to nominate qualified individuals and provides more detailed information.

Thank you for your time and support. We look forward to receiving your nominations.

Sincerely,

Marie Therese Dominguez

Enclosure