

**Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance - PIPA****Advisory Committee Action: Information****Contact: Steve Fischer**

The Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA) is an initiative led and supported by PHMSA to develop recommended practices to address land use planning and development near transmission pipelines. The PIPA final report, *Partnering to Further Enhance Pipeline Safety in Communities through Risk-Informed Land Use Planning*, offers nearly 50 recommended practices for local communities, developers and transmission pipeline operators to use to help reduce the safety risks that result from development near pipeline rights-of-way. The recommendations offer guidance on how land use planning and development decisions can help protect existing pipeline infrastructure and growing communities. The report also provides recommendations on how local government officials can gather information about transmission pipelines; how local planners, developers and pipeline operators should communicate during all phases of new development to understand pipeline risks; and how to minimize pipeline excavation damages during site preparation and construction. The report was completed and made accessible on PHMSA's Stakeholder Communications website in November 2010. PHMSA will have no authority to require or enforce implementation of the recommended practices.



Also released in November is a PHMSA produced report, *Building Safe Communities: Pipeline Risk and its Application to Local Government Decisions* to introduce local officials to hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines and to provide guidance regarding pipeline risks and how pipelines compare to other modes of transporting hazardous materials.

The kick-off of the PIPA reports included a number of press releases issued by PHMSA and other organizations affiliated with the initiative. A new website URL, [www.pipelineinformedplanning.com](http://www.pipelineinformedplanning.com) has been created to provide a portal into information on the PIPA recommended practices on the Stakeholder Communications Website. To date, the PIPA report has been downloaded 1700 times and the risk report 500 times – a respectable number of hits over the past three months. PHMSA envisions creating a unique PIPA website at some time in the future. With the help of the Smalley Foundation, a PIPA logo was created to help identify and brand the PIPA initiative.

PHMSA has convened a new Communication Team to develop strategies for outreach and education to all PIPA audiences, including local government officials, property developers/owners, transmission pipeline operators, and real estate commissions (only one recommended practice pertains to real estate commissions). The team is comprised of representatives from PHMSA, NAPSR, National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, Pipeline Safety Trust, National Association of Home Builders, AGA, INGAA, API and AOPL. The team will also develop short- and long-term strategies for future enhancements as well as the ongoing maintenance of the PIPA recommended practices. The Team had its first meeting in February in DC and is being lead by two co-chairs, Steve Fischer with PHMSA and Cynthia Munyon with NAPSR.

**Background:** Since the Common Ground Study, PHMSA has taken steps promoting the recognition of land use planning issues related to development near transmission pipelines. In

response to requirements to address pipeline encroachment, as specified in the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (PSIA), and to better understand land use planning issues, PHMSA and FERC commissioned a study by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academies. The results of that study were published in TRB [Special Report 218](#) in October 2004, and included several recommendations for PHMSA related to the development of risk-informed land use guidance.

In August 2007, PHMSA and other stakeholder organizations formed a steering committee to solidify plans to implement the PIPA initiative – stakeholder organizations were invited to participate. During an inaugural meeting in January 2008, three PIPA Task Teams were formed and goals were developed to address areas of concern. The teams completed much of their work in early 2009 and it took PHMSA working with key PIPA stakeholders, over a year to resolve issues related to recommended practices BL05 and BL06 and to write the final PIPA and risk reports. There were approximately 130 stakeholder representatives who participated in the effort. These participants represent the pipeline industry, local city and county governments, the public, developers, fire marshals, and state and federal regulators.