



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

MAY - 7 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Transportation, Housing And Urban Development, And Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2009 (Senate Report #110-418) requested the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provide quarterly reports to Congress on the agency's progress in establishing and filling new pipeline safety inspection and enforcement positions. This letter transmits PHMSA's March 31, 2009 quarterly report under this requirement.

As reflected in the enclosed report, PHMSA has established and posted all 15 new pipeline safety inspection and enforcement (I&E) positions funded in its FY 2008 appropriations. To date, 12 of the 15 positions are filled, and PHMSA is working expeditiously to fill the three remaining positions. In its FY 2009 appropriations, PHMSA received half-year funding for eight new I&E positions. We are using these positions to strengthen PHMSA oversight of pipeline operators and enhance the safety of communities nationwide.

An identical letter has been sent to the Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Appropriations.

If I can provide further information or assistance, please feel free to call me at 202-366-4433.

Sincerely yours,

Cynthia Douglass  
Acting Deputy Administrator

Enclosure



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

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Materials Safety  
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1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

MAY - 7 2009

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cochran:

The Transportation, Housing And Urban Development, And Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2009 (Senate Report #110-418) requested the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provide quarterly reports to Congress on the agency's progress in establishing and filling new pipeline safety inspection and enforcement positions. This letter transmits PHMSA's March 31, 2009 quarterly report under this requirement.

As reflected in the enclosed report, PHMSA has established and posted all 15 new pipeline safety inspection and enforcement (I&E) positions funded in its FY 2008 appropriations. To date, 12 of the 15 positions have been filled, and PHMSA is working expeditiously to fill the three remaining positions. In its FY 2009 appropriations, PHMSA received half-year funding for eight new I&E positions. We are using these positions to strengthen PHMSA oversight of pipeline operators and enhance the safety of communities nationwide.

An identical letter has been sent to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Appropriations.

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MAY - 7 2009

The Honorable David R. Obey  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Transportation, Housing And Urban Development, And Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2009 (Senate Report #110-418) requested the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provide quarterly reports to Congress on the agency's progress in establishing and filling new pipeline safety inspection and enforcement positions. This letter transmits PHMSA's first quarterly report under this requirement.

As reflected in the enclosed report, PHMSA has established and posted all 15 new pipeline safety inspection and enforcement (I&E) positions funded in its FY 2008 appropriations. To date, 12 of the 15 positions have been filled, and PHMSA is working expeditiously to fill the three remaining positions. In its FY 2009 appropriations, PHMSA received half-year funding for eight new I&E positions. We are using these positions to strengthen PHMSA oversight of pipeline operators and enhance the safety of communities nationwide.

An identical letter has been sent to the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

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MAY - 7 2009

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Lewis:

The Transportation, Housing And Urban Development, And Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2009 (Senate Report #110-418) requested the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) provide quarterly reports to Congress on the agency's progress in establishing and filling new pipeline safety inspection and enforcement positions. This letter transmits PHMSA's March 31, 2009 quarterly report under this requirement.

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An identical letter has been sent to the Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

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Cynthia Douglass  
Acting Deputy Administrator

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**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration**

**Quarterly Report on Pipeline Safety Inspection and Enforcement Staffing (in FTPs)**

**March 31, 2009**

Location	# of Inspection/ Enforcement Positions (2008 – 2009)	Actual On-Board	Accepted Offers, Not Yet On- Board	Remaining Vacancies	% of Positions Filled
Headquarters*	9 (5)	5	0	4 (0)	56% (100%)
Eastern Region	15	14 (13)	0 (1)	1	93% (87%)
Southern Region	15	14 (12)	0	1 (3)	93% (80%)
Central Region	23 (21)	18 (16)	2	3	78% (76%)
Southwest Region	26	26 (25)	0	0 (1)	100% (96%)
Western Region	28 (27)	24 (23)	0 (1)	4 (3)	86% (85%)
Training/Qualifications	2 (1)	1	0	1 (0)	50% (100%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>118<sup>1</sup> (110)</b>	<b>102 (95)</b>	<b>2 (4)</b>	<b>15 (11)</b>	<b>86% (87%)</b>

\* PHMSA Staff Attorneys for Pipeline Safety Enforcement and the Performance Evaluation Group Analysts are now shown in the field offices they support.

Note: Numbers in parentheses reflect status differences as of 01/30/09.

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<sup>1</sup> This equates to 114 Full Time Equivalents.