



Steve Kolbeck, Chair
Gary Hanson, Vice Chair
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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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April 8, 2011

Hon. Secretary Ray LaHood
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Pipeline Safety Forum Addressing Aging Infrastructure

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission and the state of South Dakota support and promote natural gas safety within our state. We adopted the federal pipeline safety code and have increased our inspection program significantly during the past few years.

As can be seen by the table below, South Dakota has made significant progress in replacing bare steel and cast iron piping from 1998 to 2010. As illustrated in the table, we are fortunate to have a relatively small portion of distribution piping in the bare steel and cast iron categories.

South Dakota Infrastructure Replacement Statistics

	Bare Steel protected and unprotected (miles)	Cast Iron (Miles)	SD Distribution Piping (miles)	Bare Steel and Cast Iron as % of Total
1998 Inventory	72	66	3,310	4 %
2010 Inventory	40	22	4,478	1.4 %
% Change	-44%	-67%	+35%	--

With the current economic conditions reducing construction activity, we have seen an increase in replacement piping projects in South Dakota. We are pleased with the history of aging infrastructure replacement, and believe the recent accelerated efforts will further contribute to safety objectives.

The commission appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments and looks forward to working with you to achieve our common goal of safe, reliable natural gas service to the American public.

Sincerely,

Steve Kolbeck
Chairman

Cc: Ms. Cynthia Quarterman, PHMSA Administrator
Mr. Jeff Wiese, PHMSA Pipeline Safety Program Associate Administrator