Guidelines for States Participating in the Underground Natural Gas Storage Safety Program – State/Federal Incident Cooperation

Appendix E

Appendix - E
Federal/State Cooperation in Case of Incident

I. Background

Section 60117(i) of Chapter 601 requires the following:

PROMOTING COORDINATION - After consulting with appropriate State officials, the Secretary shall establish procedures to promote more effective coordination between departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of Government and State authorities with regulatory authority over pipeline facilities about responses to a pipeline accident. This would include incident/accidents involving underground natural gas storage facilities.

II. Definitions

State Agency—For the purpose of these procedures, a State or State agency means the agency participating in the pipeline safety program under Section 60105 certification or a Section 60106 agreement.

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) —For the purpose of these procedures, PHMSA means the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

III. PHMSA and State Agency Role in Incident Investigation

Coordination of incident/accident investigations will be handled by PHMSA's Accident Investigation Division (AID). Due to the recent change in responsibility, from the PHMSA Region to the AID, the PHMSA Failure Investigation Policy is currently under review for revision. Appendix E will be amended once the revised policy is published.

PHMSA will notify the State agency when it receives a report of an incident of Underground Natural Gas Storage facilities in that State. Accident Investigation Division (AID) staff will relate all details of the incident provided to DOT in accordance with the reporting requirements under 49 CFR, Part 191. The State agency and AID staff should maintain close contact until the investigation is completed.

The State agency should communicate its plans for investigating the incident to the National Pipeline Incident Coordinator (NPIC) (888-719-9033) and provide updates as directed by the

APPENDIX E – Federal/State Cooperation in Case of an Incident/Accident

NPIC. A contact list for AID is provided below for coordination:

AID Phone List			
Name	Office #	Work Cell #	Email
Peter Katchmar	(405) 686-2060	(303) 807-8458	peter.katchmar@dot.gov
Chris Ruhl	(405) 686-2069	(405) 590-3625	chris.ruhl@dot.gov
Brian Pierzina	(218) 752-1183	(816) 589-8293	brian.pierzina@dot.gov
Darren Lemmerman	(816) 807-2606	(816) 807-2606	darren.lemmerman@dot.gov
Gery Bauman	(740) 587-0275	(440) 725-7043	gery.bauman@dot.gov
Julie Halliday	(202) 389-2039	(202) 389-2039	julie.halliday@dot.gov

OPS Failure Investigation Policy
(Under Development)