Guidelines for States Participating in the Pipeline Safety Program – Interstate Agreement Guidance

Appendix B

Appendix B – Interstate Agreement Guidance Policy

Background

The PHMSA Underground Natural Gas Storage (UNGS) safety program is under development. PHMSA has the safety authority for the inspection and enforcement of the minimum federal regulations for Interstate UNGS Facilities. During the program development, PHMSA will be assessing the need for Interstate Agent Agreements providing qualifying State Agencies with the authority to inspect Interstate UNGS facilities to the minimum federal regulations and forward identified probable violations to PHMSA to take enforcement actions. If PHMSA identifies a need to enter into an Interstate Agent Agreement with a State for the UNGS safety program it will reach out to the State Agency to determine their interest in the program.

Project Specific Time Defined Cooperative Agreements

Project Specific Time Defined Cooperative Agreements allow PHMSA to partner with states for the inspection of specific interstate projects where PHMSA identifies needed support for the specific project, but not all other interstate activities within the state. These projects are typically construction, incident investigation, public complaints, and specialized inspections. The Agreements may be modified or extended by the Region Director as agreed upon by the Region and State. They may be issued on an annual basis, but typically are of a shorter duration. If there is a need, PHMSA will reach out to the State Agency to determine if the State Agency is willing to participate in a Project Specific Time Defined Cooperative Agreement.