

# NAPSR PERSPECTIVE ON DISTRIBUTION PIPELINE FACILITY CONSTRUCTION

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# NAPSR NAT OII

*National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives*

- An association of 52 State pipeline safety agencies (2 agencies cover liquids only)
- Covers all states except AK and HI
- States have over 325 qualified inspectors
- Inspecting 78% of 2.3 million miles of pipelines
- On average 5,500 miles / inspector



# Our Goal

**Identify most common construction shortcomings**

- **Define improvements in constr. quality**
- **Enhance safety over the long term**



## **Actions Taken**

- **Named State participants to this workshop**
- **Planned agenda with PHMSA**
- **Surveyed all NAPSR member states for input**
- **Compiled responses to identify issues**



# General Aspects

- **Currently, new distribution system construction is slow**
- **Replacements / repairs / relocations are prevalent**
- **Primary driver of system construction activity: economy**
- **Secondary driver:**
  - **New sources of gas (shale plays)**
  - **Population growth**



# Survey Results

- **Majority of NAPSR member states responded**
- **Included states from highest population density to lowest**
- **Compiled most common findings for distribution**
- **Addressed both plastic and steel pipelines**
- **Revealed**
  - **Issues with welding and joining**
  - **Poorly qualified construction personnel**
  - **Lack of or not following procedures in the field**
  - **Poor construction quality assurance**
- **A number of States suggested a need for additional construction inspection requirements**



# Path Forward

- **Seek definitive action after workshop**
- **Improve quality of distribution system construction now to avoid integrity issues later**
- **Regulation? National Consensus Standard? Best Practices?**