

TO: Legislative Oversight Committee on Pipeline Safety

FROM: Legislative Investigators

DATE: Today

SUBJECT: **Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) Inspectors' Inspection Technology Training**

Thank you for the opportunity to analyze OPS inspectors' Inspection Technology Training as you directed. The following summarizes our relevant findings.

OPS INSPECTIONS AND INSPECTION TYPES

OPS's 47 safety inspectors conduct inspections of transmission pipelines to ensure the pipelines' integrity and safe operation. Last year, OPS inspectors conducted 768 inspections as part of a program to conduct inspections of each pipeline unit (pumps, pipelines, and components) every 2 to 5 years. Each inspector performs roughly 18 unit inspections per year, which typically average from 2 days to three weeks to perform.

OPS conducts six different types of inspections: **1) A System Integrity Inspection** reviews the entire process of the operator's program; the inspector acts as a safety consultant to help the operator ensure pipeline integrity. **2) Compliance Inspections** use a checklist to measure operator compliance with regulations. **3) Risk management Inspections** are limited to inspections of operators participating in the Risk Management Pilot Program. **4) System-wide Inspections** are very comprehensive inspections conducted by an OPS team every 5 years that review the operator's entire pipeline safety program. **5) The Operations and Manuals Inspection** focuses on the adequacy and completeness of an operator's operations and maintenance manuals used to safely operate a pipeline. **6) New Construction Inspections** are directed to ensure compliance with construction safety standards.

OPS INSPECTIONS TRAINING

OPS's safety inspectors complete a core safety-training program to conduct inspections. The core requirements include nine courses covering subjects such as gas pipeline system inspections, corrosion control systems, liquefied natural gas safety, materials joining, gas pressure regulation and overpressure protection, accident investigation techniques, regulation and compliance procedures, and hazardous liquid pipeline system evaluations. However, there are no courses in the program to teach inspectors about Smart Pigs. Furthermore, OPS does not own or run Smart Pigs as part of routine safety inspections. Instead they must rely on summary reports generated by a vendor for the operator. In fact, the operator is not required to submit these reports to OPS even when pipeline defects are detected.

According to OPS officials, the agency plans to issue a new rule on Pipeline Integrity Management for Hazardous Liquid Operators of Pipelines of 500 miles or More on March 30th of this year. The rule will implement periodic inspections and the use of Smart Pigs to detect defects that can cause pipeline ruptures. This forthcoming new rule underscores our concern for the need for OPS inspectors to have the technical expertise to understand and make decisions based on Smart Pig information.

TO: All Potential Users
FROM: Event and Conference Services
DATE: Today
SUBJECT: The Chesapeake Room

We at Event and Conference Services are doing our best to serve your needs. Our staff puts emphasis on a "customer-first" attitude that we hope is conveyed as we work with you on the scheduling of your events and conferences. However, sometimes, because of circumstances beyond our control, we are forced to make a change in plans that have already been finalized.

Due to an unforeseen condition, a potentially serious safety hazard has developed in the Chesapeake Room. The Physical Plant has undertaken an investigation of this condition currently for the determination of corrective actions. A restriction has been placed on the Chesapeake Room at this time so it has been closed, and use is restricted until further notice. As an initial plan, steps will be taken by Event and Conference Services to achieve the relocation of all reservations for the Chesapeake Room to other spaces for the rest of this week and next week. Information will be forthcoming that will determine the length of time the Chesapeake Room will be restricted. Assistance will be provided by Event and Conference Services to all users with currently scheduled reservations for the Chesapeake Room to make a facility change as simple and as easy as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact the Event and Conference Services office at x2345. We regret any inconvenience this may cause. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support. It is our pleasure to work with you.