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News

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PHMSA Seeks Nominations for New Voluntary Information-Sharing System Working Group

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) today announced it is seeking nominations for a new Federal advisory committee, known as the “Voluntary Information-Sharing System (VIS) Working Group” that will provide the Secretary of Transportation with independent advice and recommendations relating to pipeline safety.

“As we work toward a safer pipeline system, USDOT is committed to working with industry stakeholders to improve the voluntary sharing of information that can create clarity around pressing challenges,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. “The new VIS Working Group is the right forum for sharing data and collaborating on solutions.”

Specifically, the purpose of the VIS Working Group is to encourage collaborative efforts to improve pipeline inspection information sharing and risk analysis. The group will explore and provide recommendations on the development of a system to ensure that inspection data is shared with in-line inspection operators to reduce risk and improve pipeline inspection technology. The first VIS Working Group will be held in Washington, D.C. in December 2016.

“The VIS Working Group is the first step towards implementing a pipeline Safety Management System. Recommendations from the working group will, ultimately, guide specific steps that will lead to greater information sharing to better identify and mitigate risk for both regulators and operators,” said PHMSA Administrator Marie Therese Dominguez.

The VIS Working Group will provide recommendations to the Secretary on whether a sharing system is needed, ways to encourage the exchange of inspection information, and best practices for the protection of proprietary and security-sensitive information. The VIS Working Group will include representatives from PHMSA; industry stakeholders; safety advocacy groups; research institutions; State public utility commissions or State officials responsible for pipeline safety oversight; State pipeline safety inspectors; labor representatives; and other entities, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

PHMSA is seeking nominees with diverse experiences and expertise in research and development; academia; human factors; large scale data management; standards for data exchanges; secure information

sharing; risk management and risk analysis; natural gas or hazardous liquid pipeline safety; in-line inspection; pipeline anomaly assessment and remediation; pipeline inspection technology; software system development; integrity management; or other related experience.

Individuals may nominate multiple qualified professionals. Self-nominations are also accepted. At a minimum, all nominations must:

- include a current, complete résumé that includes a business address and home address; telephone number; email address; education; professional or business experience; present occupation; and membership on other working groups or advisory committees, past or present;
- provide a short biography identifying the nominee's qualifications and expertise; and
- unless self-nominated, acknowledge that the nominee is aware of the nomination.

Nominations for non-industry positions on the VIS Working Group should highlight relevant experience on panels, or detail their interest in the subject matter.

Nominations must be received by November 28, 2016 and must be submitted as directed in the Federal Register Notice; nominations may be emailed to the Advisory Committee Program Manager Cheryl Whetsel at cheryl.whetsel@dot.gov, or mailed to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, PHP-30, E24-445, Washington, DC 20590, to the attention of Cheryl Whetsel, Advisory Committee Program Manager, PHP-30.

For more information on the Group, consult the [Federal Register Notice](#), or visit the informational page on the [PHMSA homepage](#).

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The mission of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is to protect people and the environment by advancing the safe transportation of energy and other hazardous materials that are essential to our daily lives. PHMSA develops and enforces regulations for the safe operation of the nation's 2.6 million mile pipeline transportation system and the nearly 1 million daily shipments of hazardous materials by land, sea, and air. Please visit <http://phmsa.dot.gov> or https://twitter.com/PHMSA_DOT for more information.