

Gas Pipeline Advisory Committee (GPAC) and Liquid Pipeline Advisory Committee (LPAC) Meetings
December 13-15, 2017
Arlington, Virginia

**Speech as Written for Delivery by
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Liquid Pipeline Advisory Committee (LPAC) Meetings**

**Hilton Arlington
Arlington, Virginia**

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Introduction

Thank you, Dave for your kind introduction.
(David W. Danner, Chairman of the Washington Utilities
and Transportation Commission),

I'm delighted to join you today at the joint GPAC/LPAC
meeting.

It's exciting to see such a diverse group of pipeline safety
stakeholders coming together to address important
pipeline safety concerns, including safety management
systems, excavation related damage, underground
natural gas storage facilities, research and development,
enforcement and inspection, and other topics.

GPAC and LPAC have proven themselves invaluable, and
your input is a crucial part of our standards and
rulemaking processes.

I applaud you for your dedication and commitment to
this important work and thank you for the time you
spend advancing pipeline safety.

I'd also like to add my welcome to our new committee members.

(Mr. Ronald A. Bradley from Exelon, who is now serving on the GPAC, and

Mr. Timothy Aydt from Marathon Pipe Line,

Mr. Graham W. Bacon from Enterprise Products,

Mr. Jerry Barnhill from DCP Midstream, and

Mr. David Bryson from Enbridge Liquids Pipelines, who are all now serving on the LPAC.)

I know that you will be valuable members and we look forward to working with you in the future.

I would also like to thank all our returning GPAC/LPAC members.

As always, PHMSA is incredibly grateful for your support.

As you know, PHMSA's goal – and one we are fully committed to - is to promote the safe, reliable, and environmentally sound operation of the nation's 2.7-million-mile pipeline transportation system and the nearly one million daily shipments of hazardous materials by land, sea, and air.

I'm humbled to be serving with PHMSA's hardworking safety professionals in support of the nation's pipeline system, which boasts an extremely high safety record. Despite this admirable record, however, we still need to improve more.

Additionally, while we should all be proud and congratulate ourselves on the amazing safety advancements we've achieved over the last 20 years, our focus now must be on future safety improvements.

By working together, we can reach the aspirational – but, I believe, achievable – goal of zero incidents.

Your Background

I was sworn in as PHMSA Administrator a couple months ago and came to PHMSA from the freight rail industry, where I focused on public safety, the environment, occupational health, and hazardous materials transportation safety and security.

After a great 40-year career, I retired from CSX Transportation in Jacksonville, Florida, in March of this year.

But, you might be wondering why on earth would I un-retire, leave sunny Florida, and come to work for the Federal government?

Well, there are three reasons:

- First, I truly believe that if you are asked to serve this great country of ours, you should – if you can – make that commitment.
- Second, I'm excited by the opportunity to share my years of work, dedication, and commitment to improving the safe transportation of hazardous materials across a broad spectrum of transportation modes.
- Third, I believe that reaching new levels of safety is something we can, and must, do together.

Harnessing the collective experience within this room into a laser-like focus can serve as the catalyst for delivering even greater improvements in the safe transportation of hazardous materials and energy-related products.

As I was going through the PHMSA selection process, I was deeply impressed with Secretary Chao's commitment to safety. I still am today.

I fully support her clear vision for investing in infrastructure while driving innovation and technology, thereby improving the safety and performance of our nation's transportation system.

Secretary Chao's 2018 Priorities

Infrastructure is unquestionably the backbone of our economy.

It keeps our country moving and raises the standard of living for all Americans, including workers employed in the vast pipeline industry.

At DOT, we're guided by Secretary Chao's four key goals, which are:

- Safety,
- Infrastructure (building and refurbishing)
- Innovation, (technology and automation) and
- Accountability (through regulatory reform).

In my Senate confirmation hearing, I said that – if confirmed as the PHMSA administrator – I would push to explore how we can deploy technology to enhance the safety of pipelines and other forms of transportation. I would also encourage research and development efforts that will improve, create, and apply cutting-edge technology to safety solutions. In my short time as PHMSA Administrator, I am still convinced this is an important element in our drive to improve safety and has been a major theme in my talks with industry leaders.

When we look at the Secretary's priorities, as well as what I think we can achieve together, it's evident that even though we come from different backgrounds, we all share the same forward-looking commitment to helping PHMSA fulfill its safety mission.

Every day, I get to work with the many dedicated, hardworking safety professionals at PHMSA, and I know that they too are committed to working with you in creating a safer nationwide transportation network for hazardous materials and energy related products.

A Few Words on Regulatory Reform

As you know, PHMSA's primary role is to establish minimum safety standards, provide oversight of these standards, and foster safety performance beyond compliance with the minimum standards.

At PHMSA, we stand by our regulations.

That being said, I believe that we can work together to meet the goals of simplifying rules and investing resources where they are needed most and have the greatest safety benefit.

PHMSA is supporting this Administration by carrying out an ongoing regulatory review and reevaluating both current and planned regulations, working to make them less onerous without sacrificing safety.

We are also encouraging industry and stakeholders to work towards supporting and advancing pipeline safety outside of the regulatory arena, and I strongly encourage you to take advantage of our time together to go beyond offering input on creating regulations that meaningfully enhance safety.

Today's Meeting...

We have a full agenda for today's joint meeting, covering topics such as the voluntary information-sharing working group, research and development, safety management systems, and much more.

These efforts and the regulatory work that you do truly demonstrate that, at the end of the day, we're all in this together. And, while a great deal of work still lies ahead, I look forward to your continued input and recommendations.

I am particularly interested to see, and will be encouraging, the advances that will be made in research and development, or R&D, over the coming years.

I'm proud of the R&D work we've accomplished so far at PHMSA – funding 270 projects, bringing 27 new technologies to market, and refining our overall systematic process and sub-processes via ongoing review of program effectiveness.

But we must have your help to make the greatest possible impact.

I urge you to work just as hard to support your own R&D efforts – particularly regarding new technology – as this is an ideal time to push forward on projects and programs that could increase pipeline safety.

Pipeline safety is a responsibility that all of us – the industry, the public, and our state partners – share. We all rejoice when things go well, and we react when an accident occurs.

Most people don't think about energy and hazardous materials transportation when everything is running smoothly, but when there's a major incident – that's when everybody hears about pipelines.

Let's work together to change that narrative.

I urge you to be on your A-game to continually improve safety as we collectively strive towards our goal of zero incidents.

Our nation's pipeline system is already incredibly safe. Your input as members of GPAC and LPAC helps us maintain this record.

I appreciate your willingness to travel here to discuss how to best support and expand the United States' pipeline infrastructure, reduce regulatory burdens, and protect both the public and the environment.

I thank you for your dedication and implore you to work diligently with us as we travel on the path forward to obtaining your input on each proposed rule.

I believe that working together, we can create regulations that maximize the safety of our nation's pipeline system.

Again, thank you.

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