

Addendum to Testimony of Patty Cronheim
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Energy Master Plan: Energy Infrastructure
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In addition to our request that New Jersey require a complete and transparent independent safety analysis of the potential impacts proposed large transmission pipelines and compressor stations would have on existing transmission pipeline infrastructure, we ask that you consider making New Jersey a participating state agency acting as a state agent with PHMSA. As you are aware, New Jersey is not currently among the 8 states that have the authority to participate in the investigation of interstate pipelines as allowable under Title 49 CFR part 198¹.

The Federal Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently produced the required report entitled Interstate Pipeline Inspections², which states that “State involvement in interstate pipeline inspections can enhance oversight”. We respectfully ask that New Jersey include as part of its EMP review, an investigation of becoming a PHMSA participating state agent with the ability to actively conduct interstate pipeline inspections.

The National Association of Pipeline Safety Representative (NAPSR) and NARUC have demonstrated in their Compendium of State Pipeline Safety Initiatives and Requirements Providing Increased Public Safety compared to Code of Federal Regulations³ that existing rules are referred to as the MINIMUM requirements. New Jersey could exceed those guidelines to achieve greater safety. New Jersey is already among the states that as of 2013 states have enacted 1361 rules and initiatives that go beyond the federal minimums for *intrastate* pipelines to increase safety on the pipelines they oversee. There is no reason that many of these same enhancements could not also apply to *interstate* pipelines as long as they do not conflict with PHMSA minimum rules, and if state regulators are willing to draft and enforce them. This would be in alignment with recently introduced Senate and Assembly Concurrent Resolution SCR118/ACR164⁴ that urges the President and Congress of the United States to require that all interstate natural gas pipelines constructed in New Jersey conform to New Jersey higher intrastate safety regulations concerning the construction, operation, and maintenance of natural gas pipelines. Becoming a cooperating PHMSA state agent would further help secure the safety advances New Jersey has already made and provide enhanced safety for all New Jersey citizens.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Patty Cronheim

¹ <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/sites/phmsa.dot.gov/files/docs/about-phmsa/working-phmsa/state-programs/56591/2017-appendix-f-state-program-certification-agreement-status.pdf>

² <https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/692059.pdf>

³ <http://www.napsr.org/compendium.html>

⁴ https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2018/Bills/SCR/118_I1.PDF

