



Safety Division Update



2025 Safety Seminar

Rob Horensky, Manager
Safety Division
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

Thank you..

- Safety Division Staff
- I&E Director Kaster
- Commissioners/ Staff/ PUC Management
- I&E Administrative Team
 - Joanna McElroy
 - Carli McDonnell
 - Arianna Evans-**Safety Administrative Assistant**
- MIS Team-Projects and support
- Communications
- Legislative Affairs
- PUC Office Services/Procurement Team
- Other Bureaus:
 - TUS, Law Bureau, Audits, BCS, Fiscal, HR, Secretary Bureau, Cybersecurity Office...



The Commission:

- The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission oversees nearly 9,000 entities which provide utility services across the Commonwealth, including:
 - Electricity
 - Natural gas
 - Pipeline transmission of natural gas and hazardous liquids
 - Motor carrier transportation of passengers and property
 - Railroad crossings
 - Telecommunications
 - Water and wastewater collection and disposal
- The roles and responsibilities of the PUC continues to evolve as the utility marketplace and technology changes and as legislators amend the Public Utility Code.



The Mission:

The mission of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission is to balance the needs of consumers and utilities; **ensure safe and reliable utility service** at reasonable rates; **protect the public interest**; **educate consumers** to make independent and informed utility choices; further economic development; and **foster new technologies** and competitive markets in **an environmentally sound** manner.

The Commissioners:

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission is overseen by a group of **five commissioners** appointed by the state's governor for **five-year** terms.



Stephen M. DeFrank
Chairman



Kimberly M. Barrow
Vice Chair



Kathryn L. Zerfuss



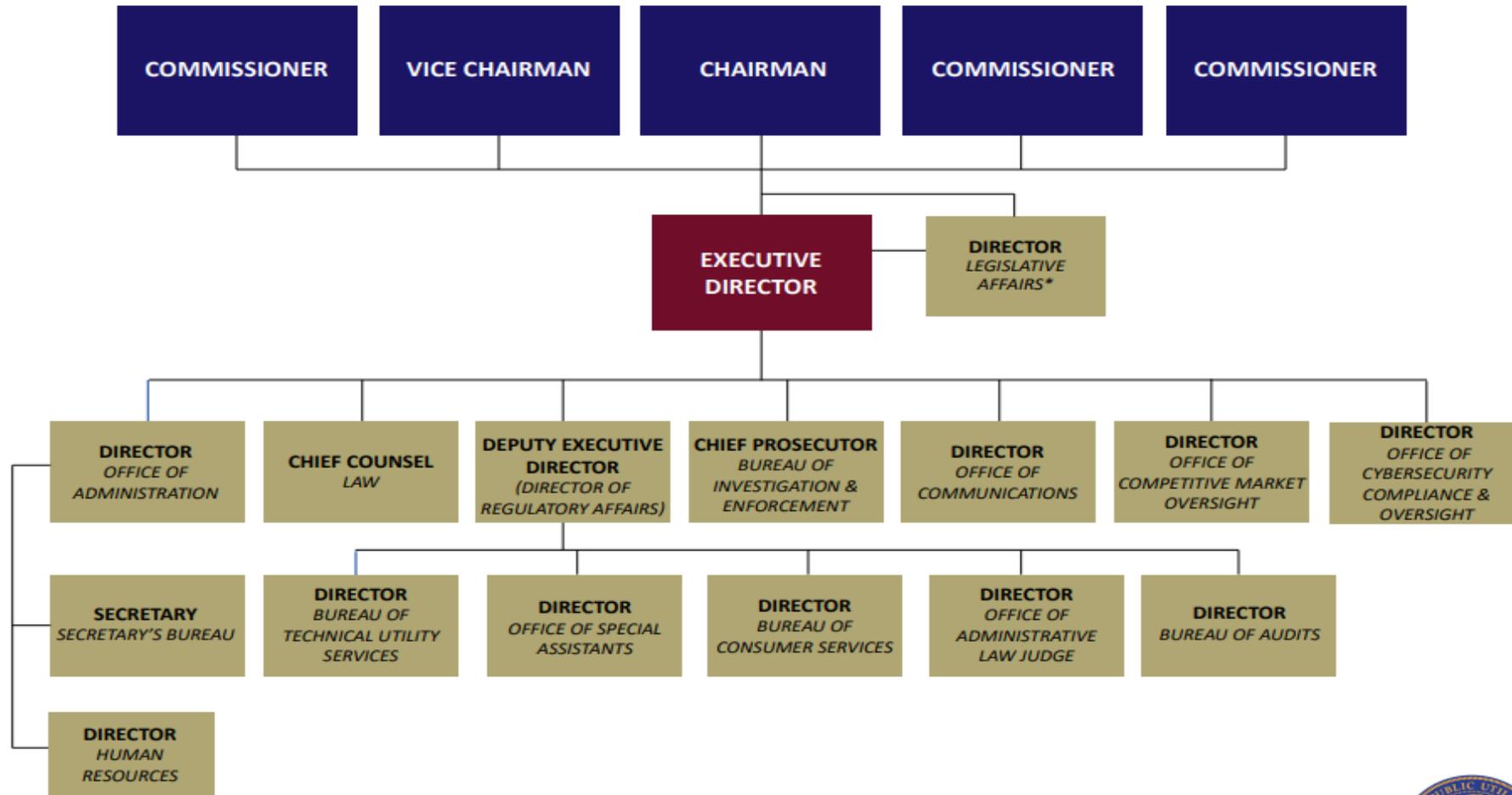
John F. Coleman, Jr.



Ralph V. Yanora



PUC ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



*Dual reporting relationship to Commissioners and Executive Director



Opinions and content are that of I&E and I&E does not speak for the Commission



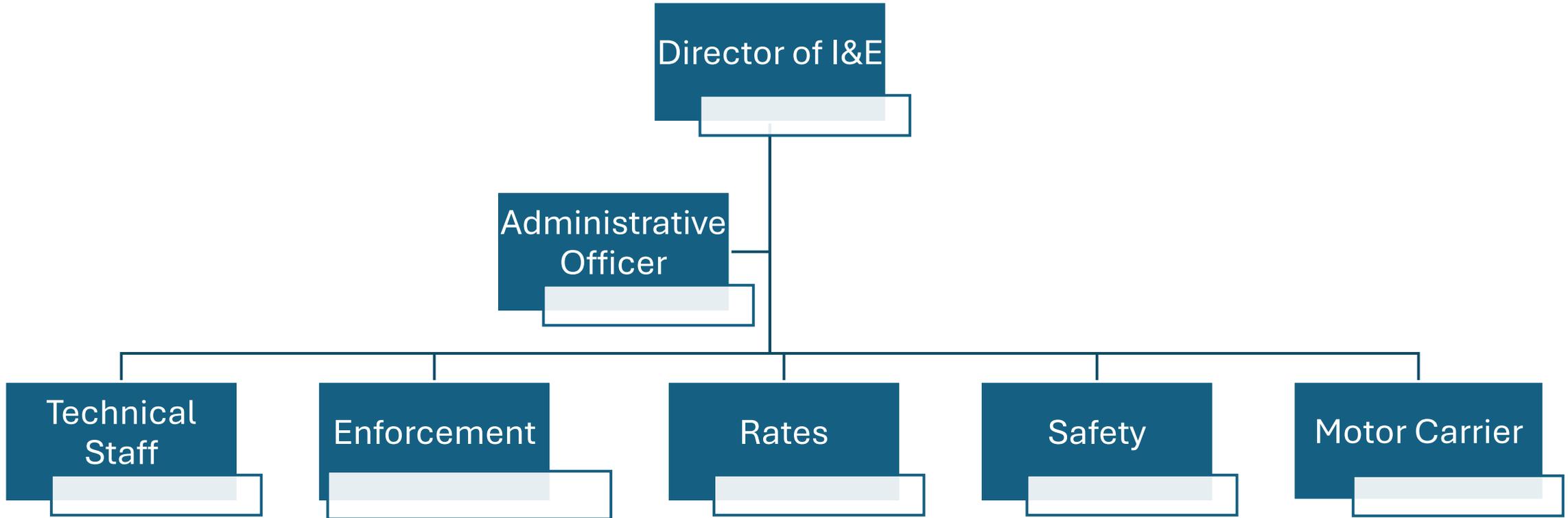
Executive Director

The Executive Director is responsible for the oversight of the day-to-day management of the Commission functions and staff. This position is responsible for the planning, direction and organization of the overall operations of the Commission. Also, the executive director develops, recommends to the Commissioners and implements the PUC's strategic plans and policies.

- **Jennifer Berrier, Executive Director**
- **Began with the PUC in Sept 2023**
- **Prior served as Secretary of Labor and Industry and has over 17 years serving the Commonwealth**



I&E Organizational Structure



- I&E complement of 116
- Largest Bureau within the Commission
- Independent Investigative and Prosecutory Bureau within the Commission



The Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement

Allison Kaster-

Director and Chief Prosecutor

- Safety
- Rates
 - Technical
 - Attorneys
- Enforcement
- Motor Carrier

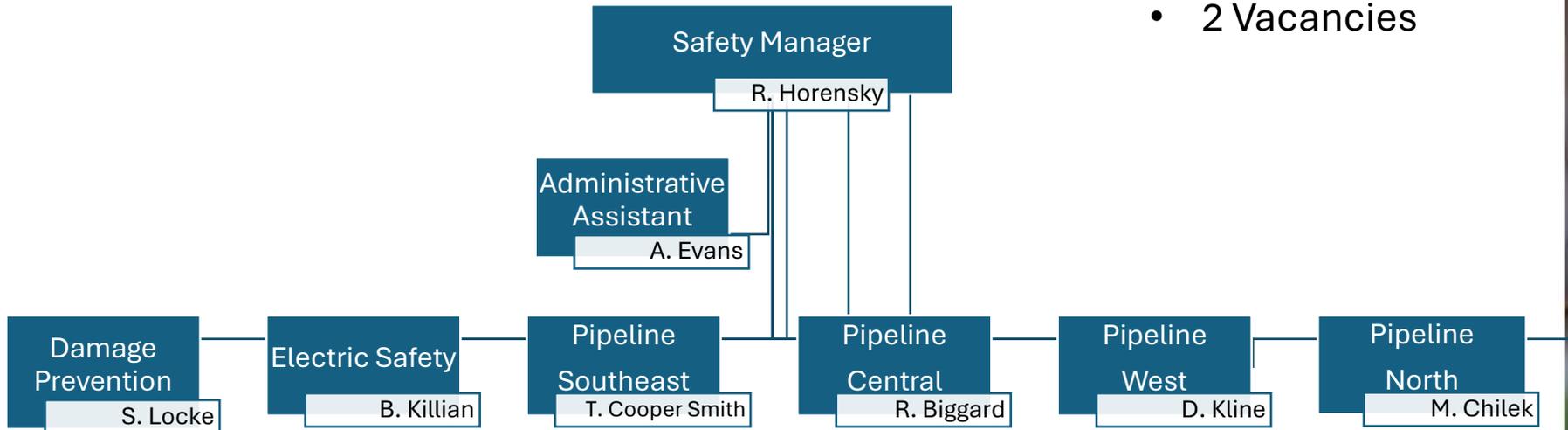


Allison began her role as Director in January 2024 after serving the PUC for almost 20 years. She previously served as Deputy Chief Prosecutor in I&E's Rates Division.

I&E has the authority to bring enforcement action, seek emergency orders from the Commission or take other steps necessary to promote public safety.

Safety Division Structure

- 1 Annuitant
- Staff of 42
- 2 Vacancies



January 2025



Electric Safety Section

Brent Killian- Supervisor **Inspectors(4):**

- **Harry Bidelspach (Central)**
- **James Campbell (Southwest)**
- **Benedict Tarr (East)**
- **Don Trumpie(Northwest)**



Damage Prevention Section

Investigators(5):

- **John (Braxton)Cooper**
- **Summers Karlow**
- **Eva Maki**
- **Derrick Michael**
- **Amanda Smith**



**Sara Locke,
Supervisor**



Pipeline Staff-Western PA Pipeline Safety Team



Dave Kline, Supervisor



Jesse Burkett



Robert
Gobrecht



Israel Gray



Jason
Harvey



Matt Matse



Melissa
McFeaters



Andrea
Nash



Marc
Rudnik

Pipeline Staff-North/NE PA Pipeline Safety Team



Mike Chilek,
Supervisor



Jim Harchar



Jessalynn
Heydenreich



Andrew
Hiorth



Lara Lapinski



Don Ontko

Pipeline Staff-Southeast PA Pipeline Safety Team



Terri Cooper Smith,
Supervisor



Obed Koshy



Peter
Michaelson



Nick Nagele

Vacant



Martin
Salamonski



Will Stafford

Pipeline Staff-Central PA Pipeline Safety Team



Bob Biggard,
Supervisor



Kokou Apetoh



Alex Pankiw



Sunil Patel



Anna Ritchie



Chris Whiteash

Focus and accomplishments...



Commission Undertakings:

- Chairman DeFrank reconfirmed through April 2030
- Strategic Planning Initiative(5-year plan)
 - Streamlined hiring process
 - Power Business Intelligence
 - Dashboards
 - Metrics
 - KPI
 - Analytics
 - Technology Modernization
 - MIS Project Intake Process
 - Captures ideas and inputs of staff
- All things IT-
 - Outside Party IT consultant
 - IT Plan
 - IT Scoreboard
 - Resource Allocation Process
 - IT Technology Intake Process
 - Planning Committee
 - Procurement Process Improvements
 - Staff Training



Commission Undertakings(cont.):

- Management and Supervisor training sessions-monthly
- PUC Employee appreciation events across the Commonwealth
 - Coffee, milkshakes and donuts
 - Visits to regional office
 - PUC logo gifts
 - Work related milestones: 25-year luncheon
- Hdata Tool
 - Agency-wide use
 - Digitizing regulatory findings
 - Uses AI to Streamline internal research and data collection
- New PA PUC Secretary-Matt Homsher
 - Following retirement of Rosemary Chiavetta in April with 35 years of service!!
- Kelly Monaghan appointed Deputy Executive Director-
 - Dec 2024
- PUC 25/26 Budget signed in June

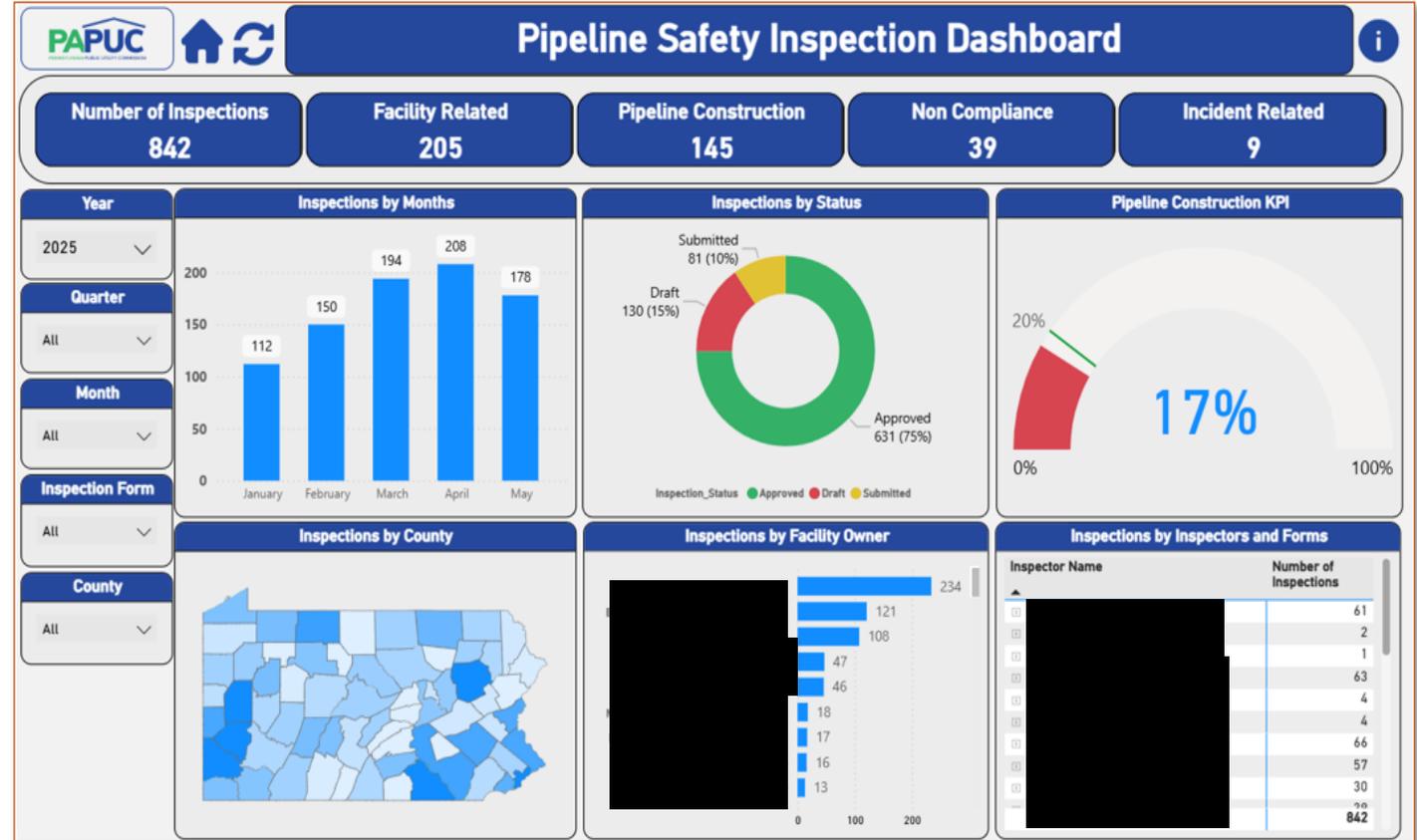




Safety Dashboard-*DRAFT*



Pipeline Safety Inspection



Driving Decisions Through Data

-Data Management Office

- Simplify Complex Data
- Increase Data Accessibility
- Reveal Patterns and Trends
- Improve Decision-Making- Data Driven
- Increase Operational Efficiency
- Better Risk Management
- Increase Productivity



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Safety Focus-

- Inspection Quantity
 - Risk Based
 - Prescriptive
 - Construction
 - Reactive
 - Complaints
 - Leaks
 - Incidents/Accidents/Events
 - Emergencies
- Inspection Quality
 - Consistency
 - Completeness
 - Details and write-up
 - Research
 - Findings
 - Follow-ups
- Management Tools (Operators and Employees)
 - Dashboard
 - Metrics
 - KPIs
- Professionalism
- Outreach
 - Seminars/Conferences
 - Meetings
 - Communications
- Effectiveness and Efficiency
- Grants
- Federal Audits
- NAPSRS Participation and Working groups
- Enforcement
- Data analysis
- Risk analysis
- Training and On-boarding
- Ratecases- Safety measures
- Other duties as assigned...



Safety related projects and accomplishments

- Hiring initiatives
- Training for both supervisors and staff
- Exposure to NAPSR and Federal/State partnerships
- Inspection Software enhancements and updates
 - Inspection Assistant (PHMSA IA software)
 - Electric
 - Damage Prevention Software Improvements
- MIS Dashboard
 - Internal Safety metrics
 - Geo-spatial mapping inspection locations
 - Industry Data
- Data sources-
 - Annual Reports
 - Data requests
 - PHMSA and state reporting requirements
 - NTSB
 - Working groups
 - Institutes, Associations, research organizations
- Refining DP Section process for new regulations
 - DPC process overhaul-new regulations
 - Fines for failure to pay and failure to complete education
- Online payments for DPC penalties
- Efficiency improvements for DP
- Electric Inspection Software



NAPSP and PHMSA

- The states are responsible for pipeline safety oversight of approximately:
 - 85% of the nations 3.4 million miles of pipeline
 - 102,988 miles of jurisdictional gas gathering pipelines (93% of U.S. total),
 - 103,713 miles of gas transmission pipelines (35% of U.S. total), and
 - 2,361,946 miles of gas distribution main and service pipelines (>99% of U.S. total).
- Additionally, NAPSR members oversee the safety of 147 liquefied natural gas (LNG) plants (80% of U.S. total) and 194 LNG tanks (71% of U.S. total).
- The responsibility for oversight and legal jurisdiction (by agreement with PHMSA or otherwise) of these pipelines is borne by all NAPSR member states. As PHMSA partners, the state members of NAPSR have an interest in developing regulations that not only increase pipeline safety, but that are fair, clear, unambiguous, and consistent.
- Over 450 state inspectors- 75% of the workforce



NAPSP and PHMSA

- Transmission Repair Criteria
- Rupture mitigation valves information collection
- LNG ANPRM
- Mandatory regulatory review ANPRM
- LDAR, Gas Distribution and CO2 are pending
- PHMSA announces pipeline inspection and enforcement priority- high impact issues
- Section 114 remains in the statute, but inspection and direction was refined
- Gathering- Interstate vs Intrastate
- PHMSA looking to streamline interpretation process
- NAPSR funding



PHMSA /NTSB Updates

- On Friday, August 21, 2020, a 152-foot-long cutter-head suction dredge Waymon Boyd struck a submerged 16-inch liquid propane pipeline during dredging operations adjacent to the EPIC Marine Terminal, located on the Corpus Christi Ship Channel in Corpus Christi, Texas. Propane gas engulfed the vessel and an explosion occurred.
- Three crewmembers aboard the Waymon Boyd and one on an adjacent anchor barge died in the explosion and fire. Six crewmembers aboard the dredge were injured. As a result of this incident the NTSB issued a safety recommendation P-21-020 to include criteria for minimum tolerance or safety zones for dredging in state pipeline safety program evaluation guidelines.



PHMSA /NTSB Updates

- PHMSA reminded to states:
- *"As a reminder, PHMSA requests that each State continue to review its laws, definitions of "excavation," and relevant best practices to determine whether onshore submerged facilities, dredging, and other related maritime or underwater excavation activities are included. This request is based on recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) after a 16-inch liquid propane pipeline was damaged by a dredging vessel on August 21, 2020. Please ensure that your State has the legal authority and procedures in place to preserve public safety during dredging operations and other related maritime or underwater excavation activities."*
- Additionally, for your awareness, the Coastal and Marine Operators and Council for Dredging and Marine Construction Pipeline Task Force developed a Recommended Best Practices Guide, Resources, and Checklist for working safely near underwater pipelines and utilities. The guide promotes safe dredging and marine construction operations near underwater pipelines. You can find the guide at:
<https://marinesafe811.org/docs/Marine%20Best%20Practices%20Guide%202025.pdf>

PA UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINE PROTECTION LAW:

- "Excavation work" means the use of powered equipment or explosives in the movement of earth, rock or other material, and includes, but is not limited to, anchoring, augering, backfilling, blasting, boring, digging, ditching, **dredging**, drilling, driving-in, grading, plowing-in, pulling-in, ripping, scraping, trenching and tunneling. The term does not include soft excavation technology such as vacuum, high pressure air or water, tilling of soil for agricultural purposes to a depth of less than eighteen inches, performing minor routine maintenance up to a depth of less than eighteen inches measured from the top of the edge of the cartway or the top of the outer edge of an improved shoulder, in addition to the performance of incidental de minimis excavation associated with the routine maintenance and the removal of sediment buildup, within the right-of-way of public roads or work up to a depth of twenty-four inches beneath the existing surface within the right-of-way of a State highway, work performed by persons whose activities must comply with the requirements of and regulations promulgated under the act of May 31, 1945 (P.L.1198, No.418), known as the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act, the act of April 27, 1966 (1st Sp.Sess., P.L.31, No.1), known as The Bituminous Mine Subsidence and Land Conservation Act, or the act of September 24, 1968 (P.L.1040, No.318), known as the Coal Refuse Disposal Control Act, that relate to the protection of utility facilities or the direct operations on a well pad following construction of the well pad and that are necessary or operations incidental to the extraction of oil or natural gas.

