

Pipeline Resources

Many organizations have a stake in the safe operation of our nation's petroleum and natural gas pipelines. Many of these same organizations have informational Web sites where you can gather more information about pipelines and pipeline safety. Below is a description of each organization.

- **Pipeline Industry:**

American Gas Association (AGA) – The American Gas Association represents 189 local natural gas utilities that deliver gas to 54 million homes and businesses in all 50 states. Additionally, AGA provides services to member natural gas pipelines, marketers, gatherers, international gas companies and a variety of industry associates. (www.aga.org)

Northwest Gas Association (NWGA) – The Northwest Gas Association is a trade organization of the Pacific Northwest natural gas industry. Members include five natural gas utilities serving communities throughout Idaho, Oregon and Washington, and three transmission pipelines that move natural gas from supply basins into and through the region. The Association's mission is to advance the interests of the Pacific Northwest natural gas industry through education and advocacy. (www.nwga.org)

American Public Gas Association (APGA) – The American Public Gas Association is a nonprofit trade organization representing America's publicly owned natural gas local distribution companies (LDCs). APGA represents the interests of public gas before Congress, federal agencies and other energy-related stakeholders by developing regulatory and legislative policies that further the goals of our members. In addition, APGA organizes meetings, seminars, and workshops with a specific goal to improve the reliability, operational efficiency, and regulatory environment in which public gas systems operate. (www.apga.org)

Association of Oil Pipelines (AOPL) - The Association of Oil Pipe Lines is an unincorporated nonprofit organization started in 1947. As a trade association, the AOPL acts as an information clearinghouse for the public, the media and the pipeline industry. AOPL provides coordination and leadership for the industry's ongoing Joint Environmental Safety Initiative. AOPL also represents common carrier crude and product petroleum pipelines in Congress, before regulatory agencies, and in the federal courts. (www.aopl.org)

American Petroleum Institute (API) – The American Petroleum Institute provides a forum for all segments of the oil and natural gas industry to pursue public policy objectives and advance the interests of the industry. As a major research institute, API supports these public policy positions with scientific, technical and economic research. (www.api.org)

- **Federal Government :**

Department of Energy (U.S.) - The Department of Energy's overarching mission is enhancing national security. Responsibility for accomplishing this mission is shared between four principle program lines: National Defense Programs; Energy Programs; Environmental Program; and Science Program. The Energy and Science programs carry out activities related to hazardous liquid and natural gas pipelines. The goals of the DOE's Fossil Energy Oil and Gas R&D Program are to develop new technologies to keep our existing oil and natural gas fields pumping,

to find new fields with less environmental disturbance, and to deliver cleaner fuels more reliably. (www.doe.gov)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – On March 1, 2003, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). FEMA's continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program. (www.fema.gov)

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) – The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is an independent regulatory agency within the Department of Energy that: Regulates the transmission and sale of natural gas for resale in interstate commerce; Regulates the transmission of oil by pipeline in interstate commerce; Regulates the transmission and wholesale sales of electricity in interstate commerce; Licenses and inspects private, municipal and state hydroelectric projects; Oversees environmental matters related to natural gas, oil, electricity and hydroelectric projects; Administers accounting and financial reporting regulations and conduct of jurisdictional companies, and; Approves site choices as well as abandonment of interstate pipeline facilities. The Commission recovers all of its costs from regulated industries through fees and annual charges. (www.ferc.gov)

National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) – The National Transportation Safety Board is an independent Federal agency that investigates every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in the other modes of transportation, conducts special investigations and safety studies, and issues safety recommendations to prevent future accidents. Safety Board investigators are on call 24 hours a day. (www.nts.gov)

Transportation Safety Institute, Pipeline Safety Division - The role of the Pipeline Safety Division of the Transportation Safety Institute (TSI) is to promote uniformity in the application of the pipeline safety regulations throughout the country. One of the most important aspects of TSI's pipeline safety program is to provide hands-on training for federal and state inspectors. They are given the opportunity to observe state-of-the-art techniques and equipment applications. This ensures that when making inspections in the field, the inspectors have skills, knowledge and abilities to make proper assessments. In an effort to foster consistency throughout the industry, the TSI staff has partnered with stakeholders and their training managers, developing unique relationships that further enhance pipeline safety training. Thus, TSI offers the only training of this type in the country, in that it relates to the communication and application of the Code of Federal Regulations relative to pipeline safety. (<http://www.tsi.dot.gov/divisions/pipeline/>)

Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) - In the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has public responsibilities for the safe and secure movement of hazardous materials to industry and consumers by all transportation modes, including the nation's pipelines. The Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) is the federal safety authority for the nation's 2.3 million miles of natural gas and hazardous liquid pipelines. The OPS mission is to ensure the safe, reliable, and environmentally sound operation of the nation's pipeline transportation system. OPS safety jurisdiction over approximately 1.6 million miles of gas pipelines covers more than 3,000 natural gas gathering, transmission, and distribution operators, and approximately 52,000 master meter and liquefied natural gas (LNG) operators. OPS also regulates over 200 hazardous liquid pipeline operators owning and operating an estimated 155,000 miles of pipeline. OPS currently has approximately 70 employees: half work at Headquarters in Washington, DC, and the other half work in the five OPS regional offices located in Washington, DC; Atlanta, GA; Kansas City, MO; Houston, TX; and Lakewood, CO. (<http://ops.dot.gov>)

- **Washington State:**

Washington UTC Pipeline Safety Program - The Washington UTC Pipeline Safety Program inspects natural gas and hazardous liquid pipelines operating within and through the state of Washington. The UTC pipeline safety program is the lead inspector for all interstate pipeline inspections and incidents within the state of Washington. The UTC handles enforcement of intrastate pipeline violations while OPS handles enforcement authority over interstate pipelines. (www.wutc.wa.gov/pipeline)

Washington State Department of Ecology Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program - The Washington State Department of Ecology Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program protects Washington's environment, public health, and safety through a comprehensive spill prevention, preparedness, and response program. The Spills Program focuses on preventing oil spills to Washington waters and land and ensuring effective response to oil and hazardous substance spills whenever they occur. (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/spills.html>)

Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) - The Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council provides a "one-stop" siting process for major energy facilities in the State of Washington. The Council coordinates all of the evaluation and licensing steps for siting major energy facilities in Washington. If a project is approved, EFSEC specifies the conditions of construction and operation; issues permits in lieu of any other individual state or local agency authority; and manages an environmental and safety oversight program of facility and site operations. (www.efsec.wa.gov)

Office of the State Fire Marshal - The Office of the State Fire Marshal operates within the Washington State Patrol and provides emergency responder training, fire incident reporting and data collection, fire code review and adoption, construction plan review for fire sprinkler and alarm systems, and fire inspections of high risk occupancies housing elderly and vulnerable populations. (<http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/firemars.htm>)

- **Other:**

National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR) – The National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives is a non-profit organization of state gas pipeline safety directors, managers, inspectors and technical personnel who serve to support, encourage, develop and enhance pipeline safety regulation. (www.napsr.org)

Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) – The Associated General Contractors of America is an organization of qualified construction contractors and industry related companies dedicated to skill, integrity, and responsibility. Operating in partnership with its Chapters, the association provides a full range of services satisfying the needs and concerns of its members, thereby improving the quality of construction and protecting the public interest. (www.agc.org)

Common Ground Alliance (CGA) - The Common Ground Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to shared responsibility in damage prevention and promotion of the damage prevention Best Practices identified in the Common Ground Study Report. Building on the spirit of shared responsibility resulting from the Common Ground Study, the purpose of the CGA is to ensure public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services by promoting effective damage prevention practices. Whether you are a facility owner or operator, locator, design professional, One-Call Center employee, excavator, contractor, or other stakeholder, ensuring the safety of those who work or live in the vicinity of underground facilities and protecting vital services is everyone's responsibility. (www.commongroundalliance.com)

National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) - The National Association of State Fire Marshal is a not-for-profit corporation that represents the most senior fire official of each of the 50 United States and District of Columbia. State Fire Marshals' responsibilities vary from state to state, but Marshals tend to be responsible for fire safety code adoption and enforcement, fire and arson investigation, fire incident data reporting and analysis, public education and advising Governors and State Legislatures on fire protection. Some State Fire Marshals are responsible for fire fighter training, hazardous materials incident responses, wildland fires and the regulation of natural gas and other pipelines. Most members are appointed by Governors or other high-ranking state officials. NASFM's mission is two-fold: (1) To protect human life, property and the environment from fire; and (2) To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of State Fire Marshals' operations. (www.firemarshals.org)

National Utility Locating Contractors Association (NULCA) – The National Utility Locating Contractors Association is an organization of contract locators, facility owners, One-Call centers, excavators, S.U.E., and industry suppliers that share a common interest in safety and damage prevention. (www.nulca.org)

Underground Utility and Leak Locators Association (UULLA) – The Underground Utility and Leak Locators Association is a not-for-profit association of firms and individuals that are involved in providing underground utility and leak detection services to municipalities, private property owners, industry, engineers, architects and others. (www.uulla.org)