

hazardous materials may be transported to staging areas within 50 miles of the point of origin. Further transportation of the hazardous materials from staging areas must be in full compliance with the HMR.

This Waiver Order is effective September 10, 2017, and shall remain in effect for 30 days from the date of issuance.

**Drue Pearce,**

*Acting Administrator, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.*

[FR Doc. 2017-20355 Filed 9-22-17; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

[Docket No. PHMSA-2016-0128]

#### Pipeline Safety: Meeting of the Voluntary Information-Sharing System Working Group

**AGENCY:** Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a public meeting of the Voluntary Information-Sharing System (VIS) Working Group. The VIS Working Group will convene to continue the discussion on the need for, and the identification of, a voluntary information-sharing system.

**DATES:** The VIS Working Group will meet on November 29, 2017, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on November 30, 2017, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., ET. Members of the public who wish to attend in person are asked to register no later than November 19, 2017. Individuals requiring accommodations, such as sign language interpretation or other ancillary aids, are asked to notify the working group by November 22, 2017. For additional information see the **ADDRESSES** section.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Hilton Arlington, 950 North Stafford Street, Arlington, Virginia 22203. The meeting agenda and any additional information will be published on the following VIS Working Group and registration page at: <https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/meetings/MtgHome.mtg?mtg=126>.

The meeting will not be web cast; however, any documents presented will be available on the meeting Web site and posted on the E-Gov Web site: <http://www.regulations.gov> under

docket number PHMSA-2016-0128 within 30 days following the meeting.

#### Public Participation

This meeting will be open to the public. Members of the public who wish to attend in person are asked to register at: <https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/meetings/MtgHome.mtg?mtg=126> to facilitate entry and guarantee seating. Members of the public who attend in person will also be provided an opportunity to make a statement during the meeting.

**Services for Individuals with Disabilities:** The public meeting will be physically accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals requiring accommodations, such as sign language interpretation or other ancillary aids, are asked to notify Cheryl Whetsel at [cheryl.whetsel@dot.gov](mailto:cheryl.whetsel@dot.gov).

**Written comments:** Written comments on the meeting may be submitted to the docket in the following ways:

**E-Gov Web site:** <http://www.regulations.gov>. This site allows the public to enter comments on any **Federal Register** notice issued by any agency.

**Fax:** 1-202-493-2251.

**Mail:** Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., West Building, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

**Hand Delivery:** Room W12-140 on the ground level of the DOT West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

**Instructions:** Identify the docket number PHMSA-2016-0128 at the beginning of your comments. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), including any personal information provided. You should know that anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). Therefore, you may want to review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000, (65 FR 19477) or view the Privacy Notice at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) before submitting any such comments.

**Docket:** For access to the docket or to read background documents or comments, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> at any time or to Room W12-140 on the ground level of the DOT West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC,

between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

If you wish to receive confirmation of receipt of your written comments, please include a self-addressed, stamped postcard with the following statement: "Comments on PHMSA-2016-0128." The Docket Clerk will date stamp the postcard prior to returning it to you via the U.S. mail.

#### Privacy Act Statement

DOT may solicit comments from the public regarding certain general notices. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at [www.dot.gov/privacy](http://www.dot.gov/privacy).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information about the meeting, contact Cheryl Whetsel by phone at 202-366-4431 or by email at [cheryl.whetsel@dot.gov](mailto:cheryl.whetsel@dot.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

The VIS Working Group is a recently created advisory committee established in accordance with Section 10 of the Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of 2016 (Pub. L. 114-183), the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (5 U.S.C., App. 2, as amended), and 41 CFR 102-3.50(a). On December 15, 2016, the Secretary of Transportation (the Secretary) appointed 24 members to the committee. The first committee meeting convened on December 19, 2016, to conduct committee and staff introductions, review the mandate requirements, review the committee charter and bylaws, introduce the concept of voluntary information-sharing, and discuss plans for future meetings. The last committee meeting was on June 29-30, 2017, to discuss existing integrity management regulations, assessment types and tools, geographic information system pipeline data, operator implementation, and the potential need for short-term subcommittees.

##### II. Meeting Details and Agenda

The VIS Working Group agenda will include briefings on topics such as the mission and objective of the VIS effort, best practices, examples of existing information-sharing systems, safety management systems, and the establishment of subcommittees. As part of its work, the committee will ultimately provide recommendations to

the Secretary, as required and specifically outlined in Section 10 of Public Law 114–183, addressing:

(a) The need for, and the identification of, a system to ensure that dig verification data are shared with in-line inspection operators to the extent consistent with the need to maintain proprietary and security-sensitive data in a confidential manner to improve pipeline safety and inspection technology;

(b) Ways to encourage the exchange of pipeline inspection information and the development of advanced pipeline inspection technologies and enhanced risk analysis;

(c) Opportunities to share data, including dig verification data between operators of pipeline facilities and in-line inspector vendors to expand knowledge of the advantages and disadvantages of the different types of in-line inspection technology and methodologies;

(d) Options to create a secure system that protects proprietary data while encouraging the exchange of pipeline inspection information and the development of advanced pipeline inspection technologies and enhanced risk analysis;

(e) Means and best practices for the protection of safety and security-sensitive information and proprietary information; and

(f) Regulatory, funding, and legal barriers to sharing the information described in paragraphs (a) through (d).

The Secretary will publish the VIS Working Group's recommendations on a publicly available DOT Web site. The VIS Working Group will fulfill its purpose once its recommendations are published online.

The agenda will be published on the PHMSA meeting page <https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/meetings/MtgHome.mtg?mtg=126>, once it is finalized.

Issued in Washington, DC on September 19, 2017, under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.97.

**Alan K. Mayberry,**

*Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.*

[FR Doc. 2017–20389 Filed 9–22–17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910–60–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

[Docket No. PHMSA–2017–0109; Notice No. 2017–08]

#### Hazardous Materials: Emergency Waiver No. 2

**AGENCY:** Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of emergency waiver order.

**SUMMARY:** The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is issuing an emergency waiver order to persons conducting operations under the direction of Environmental Protection Agency Regions 2 or 4 or United States Coast Guard 7th District within the Hurricane Irma emergency and disaster areas of Florida, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, and the United States Virgin Islands. This Waiver Order is effective September 8, 2017, and shall remain in effect for 30 days from the date of issuance.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Adam Horsley, Deputy Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazardous Materials Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, telephone: (202) 366–4400.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

In accordance with the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 5103(c), the Acting Administrator for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), hereby declares that an emergency exists that warrants issuance of a Waiver of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR, 49 CFR parts 171–180) to persons conducting operations under the direction of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2 (290 Broadway, New York, NY 10007–1866) or Region 4 (61 Forsyth Street SW., Atlanta, GA 30303) or United States Coast Guard (USCG) 7th District (Brickell Plaza Federal Building, 909 SE 1st Avenue, Miami, FL 33131–3050) within the Hurricane Irma emergency and disaster areas of Florida, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, and the United States Virgin Islands. The Waiver is granted to support EPA and USCG in taking appropriate actions to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a threat to public health, welfare, or the environment caused by actual or potential oil and hazardous materials incidents resulting from Hurricane Irma.

On September 5, 2017, the President issued an Emergency Declaration for

Hurricane Irma for all 67 Florida counties (EM–3385), and all 78 municipalities in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (EM–3384). On September 7, 2017, the President issued an Emergency Declaration for Hurricane Irma for all 46 South Carolina counties and the Catawba Indian Nation (EM–3386), and a Major Disaster Declaration for all of the United States Virgin Islands (DR–4335).

This Waiver Order covers all areas identified in the declarations, as amended. Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 5103(c), PHMSA has authority delegated by the Secretary (49 CFR 1.97(b)(3)) to waive compliance with any part of the HMR provided that the grant of the waiver is: (1) In the public interest; (2) not inconsistent with the safety of transporting hazardous materials; and (3) necessary to facilitate the safe movement of hazardous materials into, from, and within an area of a major disaster or emergency that has been declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 *et seq.*).

Given the continuing impacts caused by Hurricane Irma, PHMSA's Acting Administrator has determined that regulatory relief is in the public interest and necessary to ensure the safe transportation in commerce of hazardous materials while EPA and USCG execute their recovery and cleanup efforts in Florida, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, and the United States Virgin Islands. Specifically, PHMSA's Acting Administrator finds that issuing this Waiver Order will allow EPA and USCG to conduct their emergency support function under the National Response Framework to safely remove, transport, and dispose of hazardous materials. By execution of this Waiver Order, persons conducting operations under the direction of EPA Regions 2 or 4 or USCG 7th District within the Hurricane Irma emergency and disaster areas of Florida, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, and the United States Virgin Islands are authorized to offer and transport non-radioactive hazardous materials under alternative safety requirements imposed by EPA Regions 2 or 4 or USCG 7th District when compliance with the HMR is not practicable. Under this Waiver Order, non-radioactive hazardous materials may be transported to staging areas within 50 miles of the point of origin. Further transportation of the hazardous materials from staging areas must be in full compliance with the HMR.

This Waiver Order is effective September 8, 2017, and shall remain in