As required by the Norman Y. Mineta Research and Special Programs Improvement Act, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) plans to conduct an audit of the progress of the Research and Special Programs Administration’s Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) and Office of Hazardous Materials Safety (HMS) in implementing congressional mandates and other safety recommendations for improving pipeline and hazardous materials safety.

The Act requires the Inspector General to provide a report to the Secretary of Transportation and the Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration containing a list of outstanding congressional mandates and open safety recommendations made by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) or OIG regarding pipeline safety and hazardous materials safety. The objective of the audit is to assess OPS’s and HMS’s progress in implementing both congressional mandates and NTSB and OIG pipeline and hazardous materials safety recommendations.

We plan to begin the audit the week of December 6, 2004. The audit will be conducted at the Offices of Pipeline Safety and Hazardous Materials Safety in Washington, DC, and will be performed by staff from the

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1 The Act created, among other things, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration in the Department of Transportation.
San Francisco, California, office. We will contact your audit liaison to arrange an entrance conference.

If you have any questions or need additional information prior to the entrance conference, please contact me at (202) 366-1992 or Ms. Robin K. Hunt, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Hazardous Materials, Security and Special Programs, at (415) 744-3090.

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