



# Memorandum

**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**


Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

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Subject: INFORMATION: Audit of the Research and  
Special Programs Administration's Progress in  
Implementing Recommendations for Improving  
Pipeline Safety

Date: April 10, 2003

From: Alexis M. Stefani   
Principal Assistant Inspector General  
for Auditing and Evaluation

Reply to  
Attn of: JA-1:x61992

To: Administrator  
Research and Special Programs Administration

As required by the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (Act), the Office of Inspector General (OIG) plans to conduct an audit of the Research and Special Programs Administration Office of Pipeline Safety's (OPS) progress in implementing the OIG recommendations for improving pipeline safety.<sup>1</sup> The Act requires the Inspector General to periodically report to Congress on OPS's progress in implementing the recommendations, and to identify options for OPS to consider in expediting implementation of the recommendations.

The objective of the audit is to assess the OPS's progress in implementing the OIG recommendations for improving pipeline safety. Specifically, we will assess whether OPS has (1) fulfilled pipeline safety mandates from legislation enacted in 1992 and 1996; (2) expanded research and development to improve on technologies used in pipeline inspections; (3) provided specialized training to pipeline inspectors on technologies used in, and reports generated from, pipeline inspections; (4) corrected shortcomings in pipeline data collection and analysis; and (5) established timetables to implement open National Transportation Safety Board pipeline safety recommendations. We will identify options for OPS to consider in expediting implementation of the recommendations. Also, with the need to protect the Nation's infrastructure of pipelines, we plan on reviewing OPS's involvement in the security of the pipeline system.

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<sup>1</sup> Pipeline Safety Program (Report Number RT-2002-069, March 13, 2000).

The audit will be conducted at the Office of Pipeline Safety in Washington, D.C., and selected regional and field offices nationwide; the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts; the Transportation Safety Institute in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and selected state pipeline agencies, industry institutes, and pipeline companies. Our staff in San Francisco, California, will conduct the audit.

We plan to begin the audit the week of May 5, 2003. We will contact your audit liaison in the Office of Administration 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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cc: Edward Brigham, DRP-2  
Stacey Gerard, DPS-1  
Michael Hartley, DMA-10  
Martin Gertel, M-1