

# Community Liaison Services General Overview

**SC Safety Seminar  
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PHMSA, Southern Region**



# Presentation Overview

- Program Mission & Vision
- Community and Technical Services (CATS) to Community Liaison Services (CLS)
- Program Changes
- Program Focus Areas
- PERI Process
- State Excavator Enforcement & PHMSA Evaluation



# Community Liaison Program Mission

***Our Mission*** is to advance public safety, environmental protection, and pipeline reliability by facilitating clear communications among all pipeline stakeholders, including the public pipeline operators, and government officials.

***Our Vision*** is to reach out to all pipeline safety stakeholders by:

- Communicating information to help communities understand pipeline risks and improve pipeline safety and environmental protection.
- Fostering effective communications regarding pipeline safety among PHMSA, other federal agencies, state pipeline safety regulators, elected and emergency officials, pipeline operators and the public.
- Serving as “honest brokers” in facilitating permits required for safety-related pipeline repairs.



# Community Liaison Services Supervisory Program Manager

- Manages the CLS program
- Develops the Annual National CLS Action Plan and Strategic Plan
  - Establishes risk-based priorities for regionally based Community Liaisons
  - Communicates national program initiatives to Community Liaisons
- Provide support in hiring of new Community Liaisons
- Create and deliver communications targeting community and governmental organizations (presentations, newsletters, etc.)
- Facilitate bi-monthly CLS meetings
- Actively attend and present at stakeholder meetings and conferences
- Manage and support damage prevention initiatives
- Grant program management
- Serve as OPS liaison to Stakeholder Communication website, OPS public website, and OPS internal SharePoint site



# Community Liaison Services Responsibilities

- Participate with state and regional damage prevention groups and the Common Ground Alliance to further the implementation of damage prevention best practices.
- Help states assess their damage prevention programs and opportunities.
- Serve as designated PHMSA representatives before a wide variety of stakeholders.
- Routinely provide informational presentations to various stakeholder groups to broaden public awareness of our country's energy transportation pipeline systems.
- Meet with federal, state and local regulatory agencies, and pipeline operators to facilitate timely issuance of permits necessary for conducting pipeline integrity activities.
- Provide consultation to regulators, regulated parties and other stakeholders regarding new and amended regulatory requirements.
- Respond to public inquiries and complaints regarding pipelines and pipeline operations.



# Drivers for Change in CLS

In February 2016, the CATS Managers were realigned to the PHMSA headquarters and now report to the Office of Policy and Programs, Program Development Division (PHP-20).

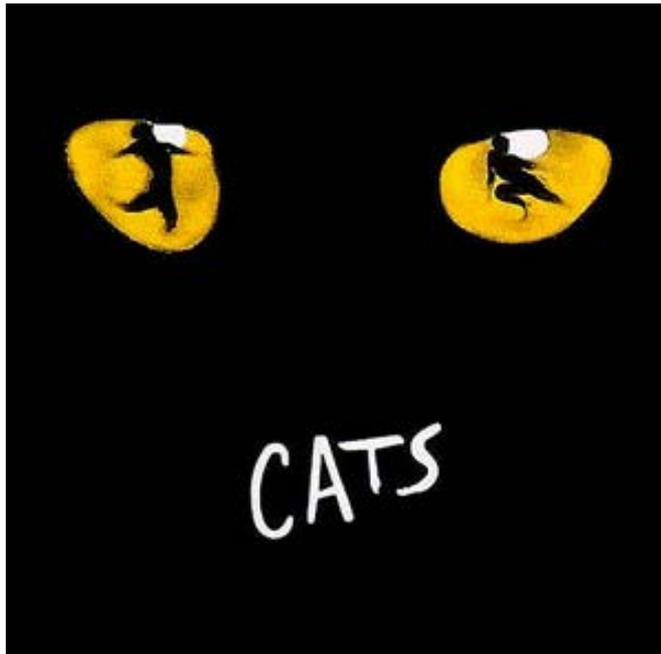
In January 2017, the name of the Community Assistance and Technical Services (CATS) program was changed to Community Liaison Services

In December 2016 Mr. Alan Mayberry appointed as Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety

In February 2017 Community Liaison Services officially changed to the Outreach and Engagement Division (PHP-20)



# Program Name Change



*In **January 2017**, the name of the Community Assistance and Technical Services (**CATS**) program was changed to Community Liaison Services*



# Name Change

## Community Assistance & Technical Services (CATS)



## Community Liaison (CL)



**Effective:** January 1, 2017

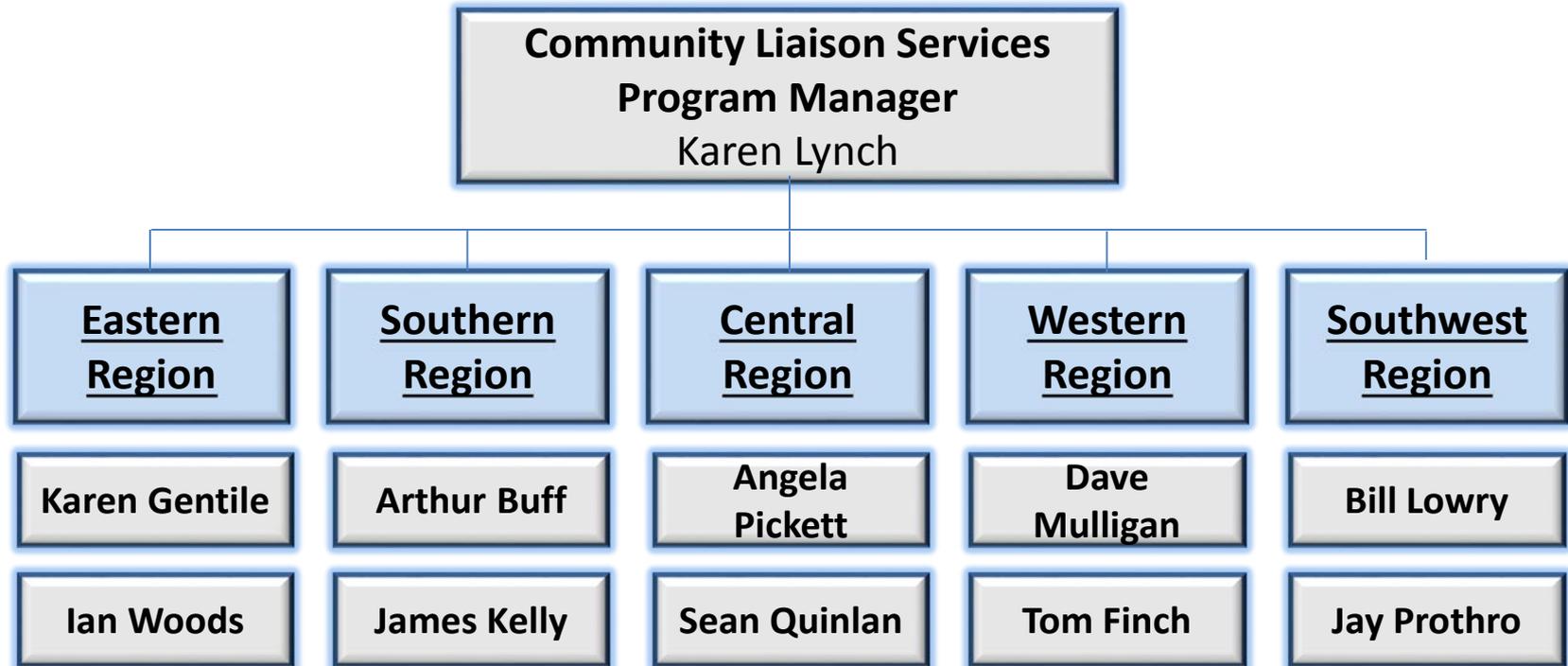
### Why?

- More appropriately aligns with current roles and responsibilities
- Better articulates role to various stakeholders
- Stakeholders can more clearly interface with the agency staff
- CATS acronym was too long and difficult to explain



# Office of Pipeline Safety

## Community Liaisons



For more information: <http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/CATS.htm>



# PHMSA Regions



# Community Liaison Services

*“Trusted, unified voice of Pipeline Safety”*



# Pipeline Safety Policy/Programs Development

- Damage prevention
  - established process for enforcement
  - PHMSA's Pipeline Data Mart (PDM) allows you to [query state-specific pipeline excavation damage data](#).
- Public awareness programs
  - 49 CFR 192.616 and 195.440: messages to first responders and public officials
  - Public Awareness Program Working Group (PAPWG)
- Emergency response: *Preparedness/Awareness/Outreach/Safety*
- Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA)
- Pipeline Emergency Responders Initiative (PERI)



# Pipeline Technical Services and Support

- Public inquiries
  - pipeline enforcement records
  - pipeline data and information
  - new construction projects
- Whistleblowers
- Post incident/accident communications
  - represent PHMSA in media engagement
  - liaison between the Region and Headquarters office
- Siting and permit initiatives
  - Jurisdiction and siting
  - Information complying with PHMSA regulations



# Pipeline Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach



- National Call 811 Program
  - coordinating regional 811 activities
    - ✓ National Safe Digging Month (NSDM) in April
    - ✓ National Safety Month in June
    - ✓ National 811 Day in August
    - ✓ National Preparedness Month in September
- Educate stakeholders on pipeline safety, damage prevention, and high priority rulemakings
- Participate and represent PHMSA in various forums, meetings, symposiums, and conferences
- Participate in the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) and on CGA committees



# Collaboration, Relationships, & Partnerships

- Promote R&D programs and CAAP
  - conduct and support research for regulatory and enforcement activities
  - Recommendations for advisory bulletins
- Participate on the State Damage Prevention review panel
- Participate on Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) teams
- Serve on pipeline safety working groups, committees, and/or rulemaking teams
  - participate in approx. 32 working groups, committees, and PHMSA teams



# Regional Support & Technical Services

- Located within each PHMSA region
  - **Central Region:** *Illinois; Indiana; Iowa; Kansas; Michigan; Minnesota; Missouri; Nebraska; North Dakota; South Dakota; Wisconsin*
  - **Eastern Region:** *Connecticut; Delaware; Maine; Maryland; Massachusetts; New Hampshire; New Jersey; New York; Ohio; Pennsylvania; Rhode Island; Vermont; Virginia; Washington, D.C.; West Virginia*
  - **Southern Region:** *Alabama; Florida; Georgia; Kentucky; Mississippi; North Carolina; Puerto Rico; South Carolina; Tennessee*
  - **Southwest Region:** *Arkansas; Louisiana; New Mexico; Oklahoma; Texas*
  - **Western Region:** *Alaska; Arizona; California; Colorado; Hawaii; Idaho; Montana; Nevada; Oregon; Utah; Washington; Wyoming*
- Support inspection activities
- Maintain records of top 3 pipeline stakeholder concerns in each region



# What is a Pipeline Emergency Responders Initiative (PERI)?



**Public-private partnership among emergency response organizations and pipeline operators to improve emergency response.**



# What Do We Want To Accomplish With PERI?

- ✓ Enhance responders understanding of pipeline risks and hazards;
- ✓ Strengthen relations in the interest of public safety;
- ✓ Improve management of pipeline emergencies nationwide



# What We are Trying to Prevent

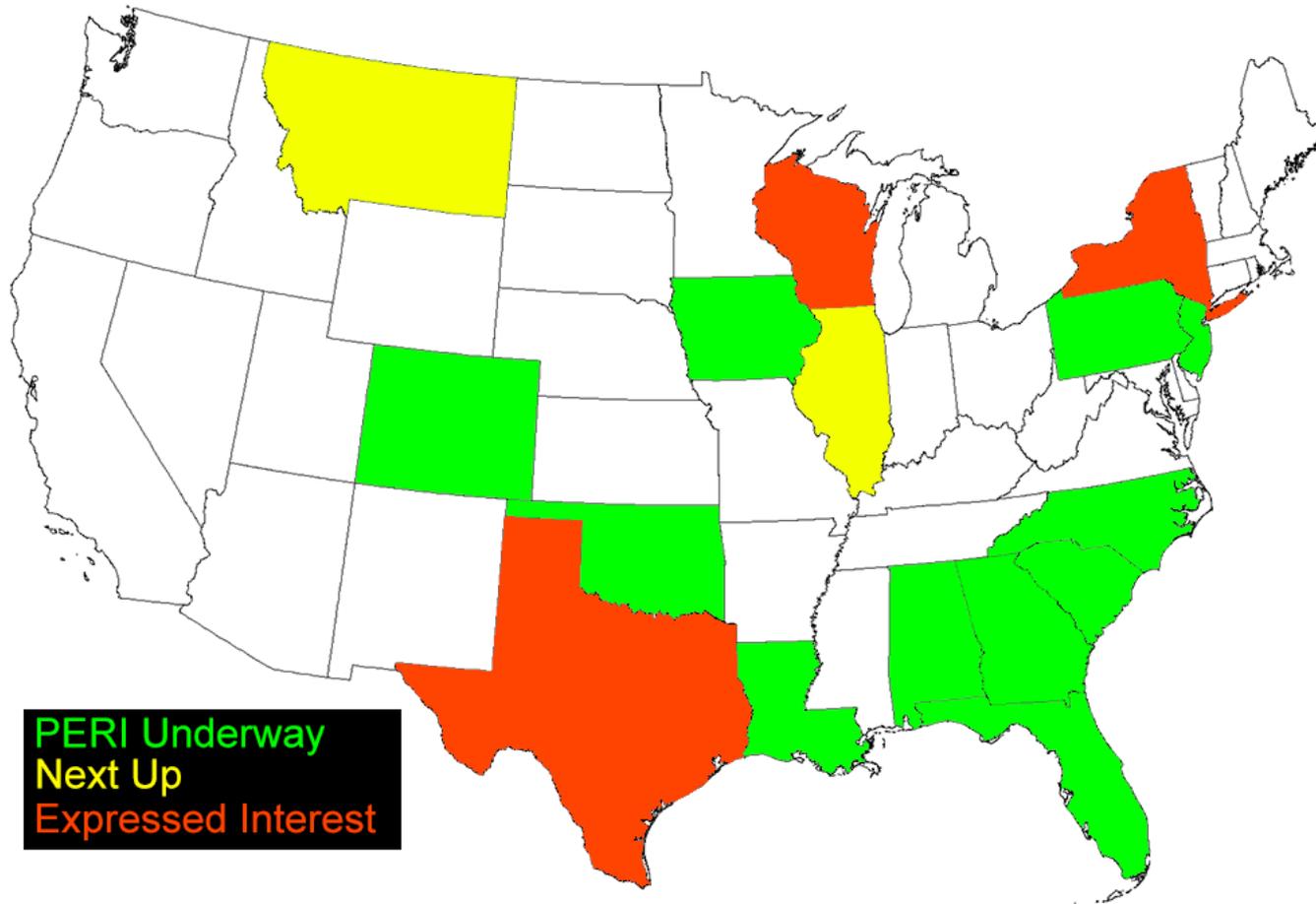


# Goals and Objectives of PERI

- Improve and sustain effective communication among emergency responders and pipeline operators
- Increase emergency responders' awareness of pipelines in their jurisdictions
- Establish a baseline to evaluate pipeline emergency response preparedness
- Identify weaknesses in existing regulatory and emergency response programs and develop solutions
- Develop a sustainable comprehensive pipeline emergency response training program



# Status of PERIs



# Challenges Moving Forward with PERI

- Providing sustainable pipeline safety training for ERs
- Overcoming low priority placed on pipeline emergencies training
- Key emergency responder participation
- Meeting logistics
- Increased demands on time of ERs
- Establishing baseline to measure progress
- Establishing entity and funding to sustain program



# History of the Excavation Enforcement Rule

- Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement and Safety (PIPES) Act of 2006
  - Heavy focus on preventing excavation damage to pipelines (a leading cause of serious pipeline incidents)
  - New **limited** enforcement authority for PHMSA pertaining to excavators who damage pipelines in states with inadequate damage prevention enforcement programs
- ANPRM published October 29, 2009
- NPRM published April 2, 2012
- Final rule published July 15, 2015
- Rule becomes effective January 1, 2016



# Regulation Overview

The regulation is considered “backstop” authority

- 49 CFR 196 -- Protection of Underground Pipelines from Excavation Activity
  - The federal safety standard applicable to excavators
- 49 CFR 198.51 to 198.63 -- Subpart D—State Damage Prevention Enforcement Programs
  - Seven (7) criteria to evaluate state enforcement
- PHMSA has enforcement authority over excavators only in states determined to have inadequate enforcement programs



# The Regulation is NOT...

- An attempt to create a national one-call law
- A takeover of state damage prevention programs
- An attempt to nullify state damage prevention or one-call laws, including state enforcement
- An attempt to establish a large federal enforcement regime

**PHMSA wants states to enforce their own one-call laws to adequately ensure safety.**



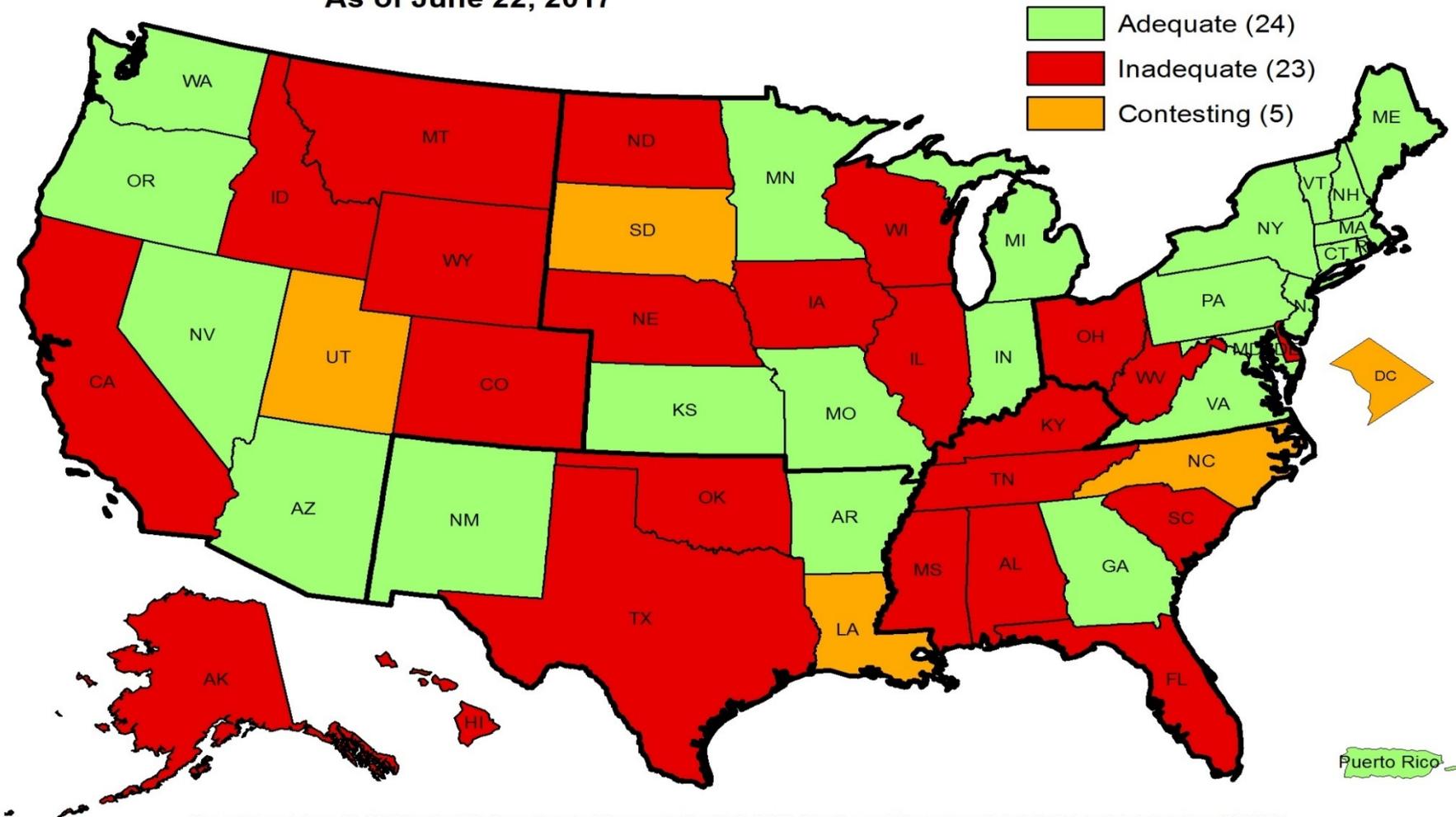
# What if a State's Enforcement Program is Deemed Inadequate?

- PHMSA will support state efforts to develop an adequate enforcement program
  - Letters of support
  - Review proposed legislation
  - Review rules, regulations, process, procedures, etc.
  - Discuss program development
  - Stakeholder education
- PHMSA urges the state to use the checklist along with the guidance, as a road map to improve state enforcement



# Adequacy of One-Call Law Enforcement Programs

As of June 22, 2017



Map produced June 22, 2017 by the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT), Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)  
 Map provided as a reference only. PHMSA makes no representations or warranties of any kind, express or implied, about the completeness, accuracy, reliability, suitability or availability with respect to this map for any purpose. PHMSA expressly disclaims liability for errors and omissions in the contents of this map.



# PHMSA's Approach to Federal Enforcement

- General philosophy:
  - Strategic and targeted enforcement on a limited basis; federal authority should be considered “backstop”
  - Primary goal: encourage change in State behavior (states should enforce their own laws)
  - PHMSA will enforce 49 CFR 196 (PHMSA cannot enforce state laws)
  - PHMSA will allow states an opportunity to investigate
  - PHMSA will encourage states to take enforcement action, e.g. mandatory training, warning letter, civil penalty, if warranted
  - PHMSA cannot enforce in states with adequate programs



# Points of Contact

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