



**Credible.
Independent.
In the public interest.**

PIPELINE SAFETY TRUST FACTSHEET:

Needs for More Publicly Available Information

Pipeline releases pose a serious threat to public safety, the environment, and private property. Though there have been programmatic improvements in recent years within the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), some of the most important public information pieces are still missing. OPS needs to provide easily accessible, accurate information so local governments and the public can independently gauge the safety of the pipelines that run through their communities. Providing greater information to the public on nearby pipelines, will increase the public's understanding and involvement in pipeline safety, and thereby increase trust in our important pipeline infrastructure. Congress can help this process by:

- Directing OPS to reinstate public access to the National Pipeline Mapping System, so local governments can plan safely and the public can be aware of the pipelines that run through their midst
- Requiring OPS to create a web-based enforcement docket, where the public could view enforcement as it progresses, which would include the OPS Notice of Probable Violation, the company's responses, transcripts of hearings and the final decision.
- Requiring OPS to develop a timely web-based docket system for viewing their independent inspection of pipeline companies which would include pipeline segment, date of inspection, type of inspection, concerns noted, corrections required as well as the current documented information of operations, maintenance and training programs
- Requiring an annual report to Congress on progress in civil and criminal enforcement and penalty collection, until it is clear that OPS is using its enforcement authority to prevent pipeline incidents
- Requiring companies to report over-pressurization events to OPS, and those reports to be easily available to the public
- Changing the requirements for the annual reports on integrity management programs from hazardous liquid pipeline operators, so the information is broken out by state mileage
- Requiring OPS to clean up their operator identification number system to remove duplication, and so the public can easily identify what operator identification number goes with which pipeline
- Reauthorize and provide appropriations for Pipeline Safety Improvement Grants so local and state initiatives and organizations can help local communities receive and understand pipeline safety information

The **Pipeline Safety Trust** promotes fuel transportation safety through education and advocacy, by increasing access to information, and by building partnerships with residents, safety advocates, government, and industry that result in safer communities and a healthier environment. The **Pipeline Safety Trust** was established in 2003 from part of the criminal fines imposed as a result of the June 1999 Olympic Pipe Line rupture in Bellingham, Washington, which resulted in the deaths of three youths.