

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Page Quarterly Report

**Date of Report:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Report – March 31, 2016

**Contract Number:** DTPH5615T00009

**Prepared for:** Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

**Project Title:** Development of Comprehensive Pressure Test Design Guidelines

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**For quarterly period ending:** March 31, 2016

### Objective

The objective of this project is to develop comprehensive guidelines for the design of pressure tests that could be incorporated into industry standards. A goal of this project is to provide guidance on how to plan for, execute and evaluate pressure tests based on the most current knowledge and industry needs. The work will draw heavily on what has been learned by pipeline operators and pressure-testing contractors who have performed pressure tests on thousands of miles of pipelines. As well, the work will take into account the significant amount of research on pressure testing that has been carried out from the 1960s through the present by government, private and public organizations.

### Results and Conclusions

An interim report providing review and critique of Industry Standards and Recommended Practices was delivered on January 26, 2016 (Task 2 deliverable). The scope of the report was to review existing industry standards, recommended practices, research papers and other literature related to the pressure testing of liquid and natural gas pipelines. The intent of the review was to determine the scope of the information already covered in existing guidance documents and to identify any deficiencies or disagreements, or both, between documents. An important finding from our work on Task 2 is that there are some key concepts that will need clarification or additional information, or both, in order to provide the industry with one comprehensive document that provides clear guidance in the case of conflicts and dispels any misinformation or inappropriate guidance. Eight key concepts, covering all three phases of pressure testing (planning, execution and evaluation), were identified for clarification.

Efforts related to interviews with selected pipeline operators and pressure-testing services contractors (Task 3), and the development of guidelines related to pressure test planning (Task 4), continued this second quarter. An interim report providing results of interviews with pipeline operators and pressure-testing services contractors is scheduled to be submitted to PHMSA by May 12, 2016 (Task 3).

### Plans for Future Activity

Work will continue on Tasks 3 and 4 in the next quarter (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter). Tasks 3 and 4 are scheduled to be completed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter. Work will initiate for the development of guidelines related to pressure test execution (Task 5) in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter. Task 5 is scheduled to be completed in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter.