Donald F. Santa, Jr.
President

June 30, 2009

Mr. Jeffrey D. Wiese
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear ~~Mr. Wiese~~ Jeff:

Thank you for your letter dated June 5, 2009, in which you highlight the importance of PHMSA and the pipeline industry taking a cooperative, proactive approach in response to concerns about the adequacy of pipeline fabrication, construction practices, procedures and quality control. We appreciate your recognition of the initiatives undertaken by the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA) and The INGAA Foundation, Inc., to raise the awareness of our members and to formulate strategies for addressing these challenges.

To encourage the member companies of INGAA to assign a high priority to these issues both collectively and individually, I have shared your letter with the board of directors of INGAA. Likewise, Richard Hoffmann will be sharing with members of the INGAA Foundation your companion letter to him in his capacity as the Executive Director of the Foundation.

Thank you and the members of the PHMSA staff in Washington, D.C., and the regional offices for providing us with the opportunity on June 18, 2009, to present the action plan proposed by INGAA to address the pipe quality issues that were the focus of the INGAA pipe quality summit on June 11, 2009. This action plan is an important first step in understanding and addressing current industry issues and we appreciate the comments from PHMSA on this version of the action plan.

INGAA has shared its proposed action plan with our counterparts at the American Gas Association, the American Petroleum Institute and the Association of Oil Pipelines. We recognize the value to all concerned from developing a coordinated, consistent industry approach to these issues. We intend to be inclusive in further development of the plan and in its implementation.

Interstate Natural Gas Association of America
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This version of the proposed INGAA action plan does not address the full scope of the issues referenced in your letter which are concerns of all our members. Both INGAA and INGAA Foundation member companies have participated in the PHMSA and INGAA Foundation workshops and other forums that have focused on welding and the other construction practices noted in your letter. The education and dialogue at these forums have resulted in increased diligence by all of the parties who are keys to future success. We will keep you informed as we further develop our action plan.

Thank you again for your letter and for meeting with INGAA last week.

Respectfully,

Donald F. Santa