

# Unusually Sensitive Area Definitions Public Meeting

Technical issues with the webinar, email

[PHMSA.PipelineSafety@dot.gov](mailto:PHMSA.PipelineSafety@dot.gov)

Steven Fischer  
PHMSA  
Senior Program Manager



# Safety First

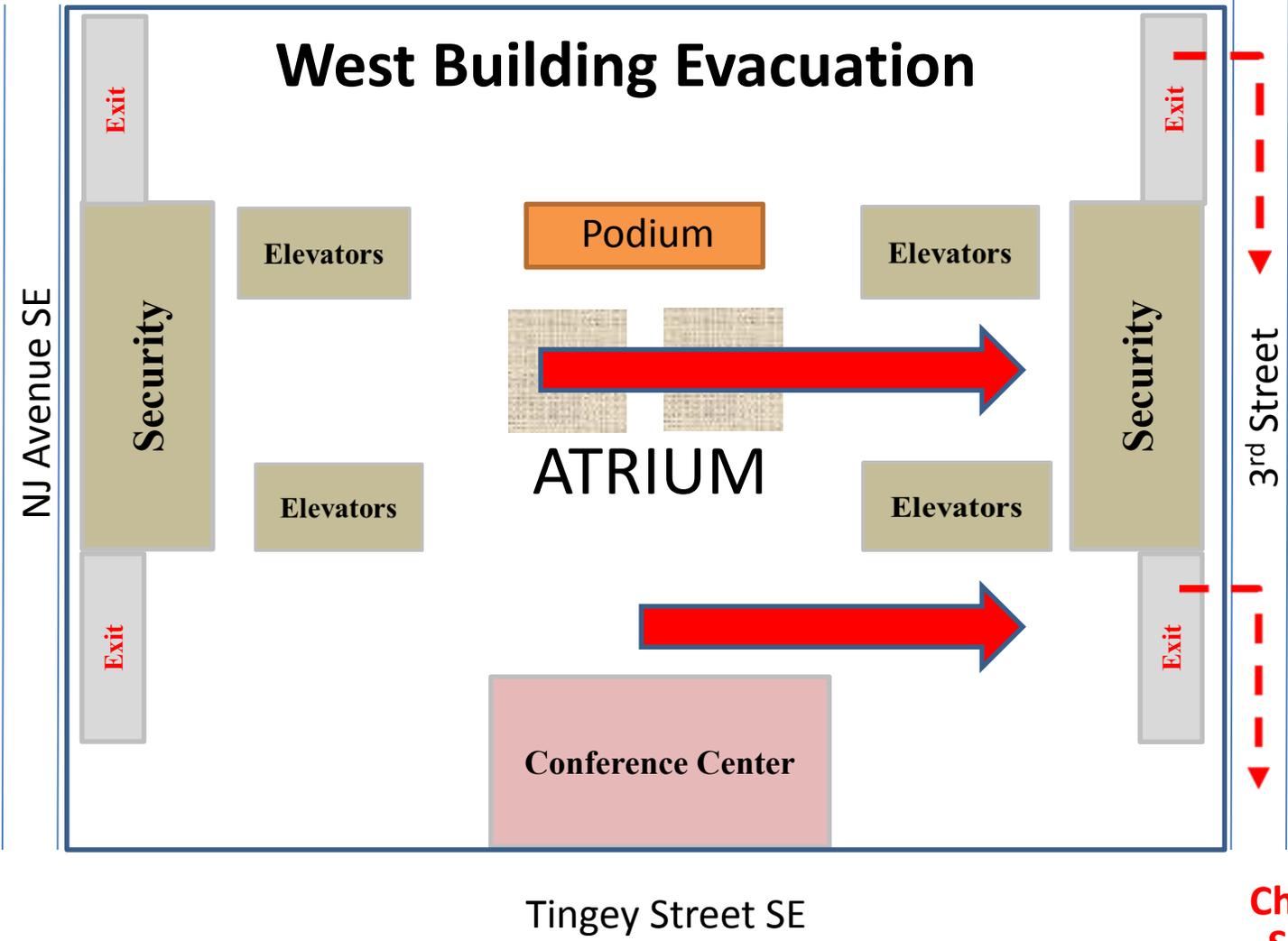
- USDOT West Atrium, 1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington, DC
- Emergency – alarm will sound and provide information
- Shelter in place – move into the Conference Center
- Medical emergency
  - Call 911 and Security (202-366-0333) – Sam Hall
  - CPR certified volunteer in case of medical emergency to provide emergency aid
  - Retrieve the AED – Hung Nguyen



# Safety First

- Evacuation
  - Christie Murray and Steve Fischer will lead evacuation to the waterfront
  - Rally point is near the waterfront at the fountain
  - Sam Hall and Annmarie Robertson will sweep room to make sure everyone has evacuated





Walk to the waterfront

Christie Steve



# USA Meeting Agenda

8:00 am (ET)	Registration Opens
8:30 am - 8:45 am	Welcome, Agenda Overview, and Safety Briefing - Steve Fischer, Senior Program Manager, PHMSA
8:45 am - 9:00 am	PHMSA Opening Remarks – Howard “Skip” Elliott, PHMSA Administrator
9:00 am - 9:30 am	Background and Strategy in Moving Forward - Steve Fischer
9:30 am - 10:00 am	PHMSA Drinking Water and Ecological USA Update - Leigha Gooding, GIS Coordinator, PHMSA
10:00 am - 10:15 am	Break
10:30 am - 11:00 am	Questions for Consideration – Leigha Gooding
11:00 am - 12:15 pm	Eco USA Panel Q&A Discussion Facilitator: Dr. Christie Murray, Director of Outreach and Engagement, PHMSA <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leigha Gooding, PHMSA</li><li>• Erol Alavi, Supervisor, Integrity Engineering, Plains All American Pipeline, L.P. (American Petroleum Institute)</li><li>• Bonnie Freeman, President, FreemanGIS, Inc. (American Petroleum Institute subject matter expert)</li><li>• Carl Weimer, Executive Director, Pipeline Safety Trust</li><li>• Jacques Rotolo, Engineer/Pipeline Compliance Specialist, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Pipeline Division</li></ul>
12:15 pm - 12:30 pm	Final Remarks and Next Steps – Dr. Christie Murray
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch – On your own



# Housekeeping

- Restrooms are located near the elevators
- Visitors will need to display temporary ID and require an escort in the USDOT building
- Silence your mobile devices to minimize disruptions
- Webinar participation, submit your questions to [PHMSA.PipelineSafety@dot.gov](mailto:PHMSA.PipelineSafety@dot.gov)
- The meeting registration page contains agenda and pre-reads: <https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/meetings/MtgHome.mtg?mtg=142>



# Housekeeping

- Audience participation
  - We encourage your comments and input
  - Please hold comments until we open the floor
  - Please wait until we are able to get a microphone to you
  - State your name and company/organization
  - Please keep remarks brief – 3 minutes
  - Please engage in civil discourse
  - Disruptive individuals will be asked to leave
- Written comments can be submitted to the USA docket:  
Docket No: PHMSA-2017-0094





U.S. Department of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials  
Safety Administration**

# PHMSA Leadership Opening Remarks

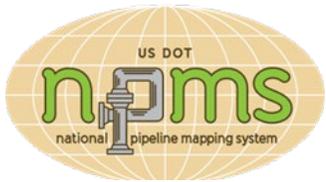
**Mr. Howard “Skip” Elliott  
Administrator  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials  
Safety Administration (PHMSA)**



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Pipeline and Hazardous Materials  
Safety Administration**

*“To protect people and the environment by advancing the safe transportation of energy and other hazardous materials that are essential to our daily lives.”*

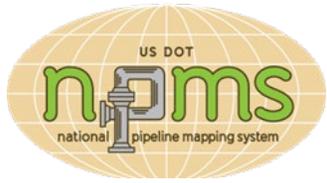




# Background and Strategy in Moving Forward

Steven Fischer  
PHMSA

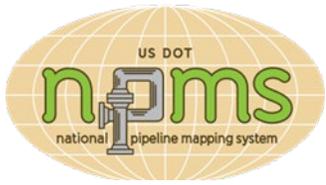




# Purpose of the USA Public Meeting

- Follow-up to the November 17, 2017 PHMSA public meeting
- PHMSA is here to facilitate discussion and listen to your input
- PHMSA continues to learn and evaluate
  - Data Pilot Project
  - How best to define new USAs
- Determine the best path forward to address the Congressional mandate – inform future policy





# Background

Discussions today are important – PIPES Act of 2016

- Great Lakes
- Marine Coastal Waters
- Coastal Beaches



**New USA Ecological Resources**

SECTION 19. UNUSUALLY SENSITIVE AREAS -- Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety (PIPES) Act of 2016

(b) Unusually Sensitive Areas (USA) Ecological Resources.--The Secretary of Transportation shall revise section 195.6(b) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, to **explicitly state that the Great Lakes, coastal beaches, and marine coastal waters are USA ecological resources** for purposes of determining whether a pipeline is in a high consequence area (as defined in section 195.450 of such title).



# Input from 2017 Public Meeting

- Great Lakes mapped as commercially navigable waterways
- Inland extent of coastal beaches and marine coastal waters
  - Inclusion of wetlands
  - Inland distance
- Support for using the NOAA Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI)
  - Data availability and quality vary
  - NOAA may include additional waterways in the future



# Input from the 2017 Public Meeting

- Marine Coastal Waters – include ESI wetlands to offshore areas
- Coastal Beaches – ESI shoreline data categorized as a beach
  - Environmentally sensitive areas adjacent to beaches
  - Intent of the mandate is limited to recreational areas
- Limit mapping of Great Lakes, coastal beaches, and marine coastal waters to areas found to be unusually sensitive



# Data Pilot Project

- Conducted fall of 2018 - Purpose
  - Effort to create/maintain new GIS data, and quality of source data to support definitions
  - Compare ESI shoreline and 2018 Eco USA data to determine percent of shoreline classified as Eco USA
    - 59% of Lower 48
    - 54% of Lower 48 and Alaska
  - Sample maps - displayed during questions for consideration
  - Findings help inform ongoing policy discussions



# Moving Forward

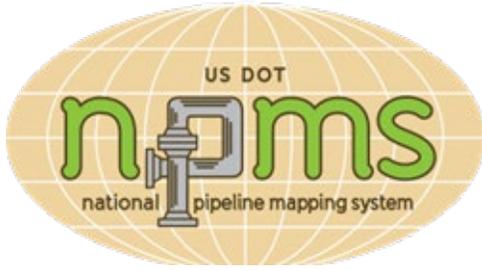
- PHMSA plans to update the NPMS and identify the Great Lakes as an Eco USA
  - Great Lakes are identified by the USGS, a Federal agency known for mapping geographic features
  - Questions remain
    - Align with 33 U.S.C. 1268 definition of the Great Lakes
    - Limit to the Great Lakes
    - Mapping of connecting waters



# Moving Forward

- Review and discuss feedback received
  - June 12, 2019 Public Meeting
  - USA Docket ID: PHMSA-2017-0094
- Next Steps
  - Map the Great Lakes as USA Ecological Resource
  - Investigate/evaluate data recommendations
  - Move forward with defining and mapping coastal beaches and marine coastal waters as USA Ecological Resources





**THINK SPATIALLY** 



**GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)**  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# Thank You

## Webcast Viewers

[PHMSA.PipelineSafety@dot.gov](mailto:PHMSA.PipelineSafety@dot.gov)

