



**David Miller, PE, F.ASCE**  
Director, Standards

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John Gale  
Director, Standards and Rulemaking  
Department of Transportation  
Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration  
Office of Pipeline Safety, Room E22-310  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E. (East Bldg.)  
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Gale,

The American Petroleum Institute (API) recognizes the important mission of your agency in improving pipeline safety including the use of voluntary consensus standards in accord with the National Technology and Advancement Act. API also realizes the critical role that research plays in shaping these documents and are happy to continue to work collaboratively with PHMSA in this important area. Coordinated actions through research can keep generating new knowledge toward standards, improving their overall effectiveness.

For example, late last year, API published API Recommended Practice (RP) 1177 - *Recommended Practice for Steel Pipeline Construction Quality Management Systems*, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, and PHMSA-related research was critical to its development. The API RP 1177 task group utilized results from PHMSA's funded research project entitled "Improving Quality Management Systems (QMS) for Pipeline Construction Activities" in the development of this standard.

API would like to thank you for your acknowledgement of the importance of research and look forward to continued participation in your research that supports our shared goal of safe pipeline operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Miller", followed by a horizontal line.