

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE
PIPELINE STANDARDS-DEVELOPING ORGANIZATIONS
COORDINATING COUNCIL
AND
THE PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
SAFETY ADMINISTRATION,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

I. PURPOSE

The Pipeline Standards-Developing Organizations Coordinating Council (PSDOCC) and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) (together, “the Parties”) enter into this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to enhance cooperation and coordination between the Parties to facilitate a more effective and efficient integration of pipeline safety research and development (R&D) results into the development and revision of voluntary consensus technical standards.

II. BACKGROUND

The PSDOCC provides a forum for coordination of the development, maintenance, and implementation of technical standards used in the pipeline industry. PSDOCC’s membership represents the organizations responsible for developing these standards, organizations that use the standards, organizations responsible for pipeline safety and integrity regulation, research organizations, and other related stakeholders.

PHMSA regulates the safety, reliability, and environmental soundness of the design, construction, testing, operation, maintenance, and spill response planning for U.S. natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline facilities and liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities in or affecting interstate and foreign commerce.

PSDOCC works closely with PHMSA to incorporate by reference appropriate standards and standards revisions into the pipeline safety regulations at 49 CFR Parts 192, 193, and 195.

The PHMSA R&D Program for pipelines helps achieve the pipeline safety mission by pursuing three program objectives:

1. Fostering development of new technologies that operators can use to improve safety performance and to more effectively address regulatory requirements,
2. Strengthening regulatory requirements and related national consensus standards, and
3. Improving the state and availability of knowledge used by industry and regulatory managers and pipeline safety field inspectors to better understand safety issues and to improve the quality of decisions made to improve safety performance.

Significant time and resources are spent reaching consensus on research strategy at R&D forums and other stakeholder events. Many stakeholder groups believe that successful R&D projects must provide for knowledge transfer to the standards-making process and for the identification and measurement of research benefits. A systematic process is vital to ensure that knowledge from pipeline safety research is transferred to end users. To strengthen regulatory requirements and related national consensus standards, the Parties agree that research contracts PHMSA awards must systematically transfer the knowledge they generate to the standards-making committees.

III. PROVISIONS OF AGREEMENT

In the spirit of cooperation and coordination the Parties agree to the following systematic process:

The PHMSA R&D Program for pipeline safety will:

- A. Strengthen the evaluation criteria used by the research solicitation merit review panels to facilitate knowledge transfer with standards developing organizations (SDOs).
- B. Require relevant project awards to facilitate knowledge transfer with affected SDOs. This will include having the research contractor coordinate with a designated SDO contact, inviting the contact to project and peer review meetings, and providing the contact with the draft final report for review.
- C. Categorize project awards from periodic research solicitations to identify which research projects have outputs that affect SDOs. This provision will be implemented on all related R&D projects awarded after the signature date of this agreement and on any other project that the Parties agree can benefit from the purpose of this agreement.
- D. Notify the PSDOCC, electronically, of all new research awards affecting SDOs. This tabulated information will include the following:
 - 1. Project title
 - 2. Contract number
 - 3. Contractor name
 - 4. Principal investigator contact information
 - 5. Contracting Officer's Technical Representative contact information
 - 6. Date project was awarded
 - 7. Project duration in months
 - 8. Affected SDO name
 - 9. Affected consensus standard name
- E. Continue developing an annual Panel Peer Review process for awarded research projects. This process will help ensure project outputs are of high quality, are on track for successful completion, and to streamline the knowledge transfer and integration into affected standards.

F. Notify the PSDOCC, electronically, once a previously identified and notified research project is complete. This information will include the following:

1. Project title
2. Contract number
3. Contractor name
4. Affected SDO name
5. Affected consensus standard name
6. Official project status
7. Statement of benefit from research output

The PSDOCC will:

G. Utilize the project list provided by PHMSA and coordinate with the individual SDO affected to designate a project champion. This project champion may review pertinent documents in confidence, and may attend important project meetings to facilitate connection to the standards process. This critical involvement accelerates project results (knowledge) into affected standards and improves the confidence that project outputs are of the high quality required for the standards development process.

H. Relay to the affected SDO information the PHMSA R&D Program has provided and request the SDO to formally decide whether or how the research project's output will be used.

I. With the affected SDO, jointly notify the PHMSA R&D Program, electronically, once a decision is reached on how the research project's output will be used. The notification will include the following information:

1. Project title
2. Contract number
3. Contractor name
4. Affected SDO name
5. Affected consensus standard name
6. Official decision on the research project output utilization

IV. OTHER PROVISIONS

A. The Parties agree that research project output may be utilized as follows -

1. Knowledge from the research project may be incorporated into a revision of an existing consensus standard.
2. Research project output may be incorporated into the creation of a new consensus standard.
3. The relative SDO may decide not to use the research project output.

- 4. Other – PSDOCC to describe
- B. The Parties agree that notifications should occur as soon as possible.
- C. The Parties agree that the SDOs identify standard development timing or scheduling.
- D. The Parties may meet periodically to address matters related to this MOA.

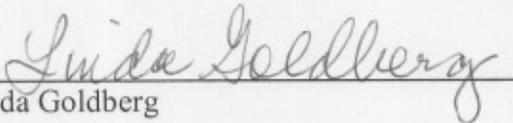
V. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS

The Parties designate the principal contacts identified in Attachment A. Each party's contact may be changed at its discretion upon notice to the other party.

VI. EFFECTIVE PERIOD/TERMINATION

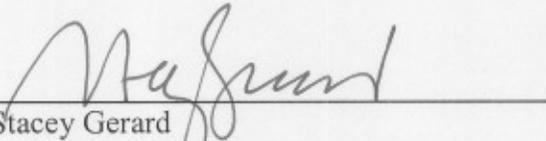
This MOA will be effective as of the date of final signature by both of the Parties and will remain in effect until terminated by either party. Each year the Parties will review the MOA to determine if the goals of the agreement are being met, or if modification or termination of the agreement is necessary. Either party may terminate this MOA and any annexes to the MOA by written notice to the other party.

APPROVED BY:



Linda Goldberg
Chair
Pipeline Standards-Development Organizations Coordinating Council

1-25-06
Date



Stacey Gerard
Associate Administrator
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation

1/19/06
Date

ATTACHMENT A: PRINCIPAL CONTACTS

The following are the principal initial contacts for each party:

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