



*City of Preston*  
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*Bradley J. Wall, Councilmember*  
*Allyson Wadsworth, Councilmember*  
*Linda N. Acock, City Clerk*

Ms. Karen Lynch  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration  
Office of Pipeline Safety (PHP-20)  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, E22-230  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Preston City Technical Assistance Grant, Agreement No. DTPH5615GPPT01

Dear Ms. Lynch,

Preston City has completed a successful Pipeline Safety Assessment project in their community funded by the USDOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's Technical Assistance Grant program. This Final Report details the completed tasks included in this project.

## **FINAL REPORT**

### **Preston City Technical Assistance Grant**

Pipeline Safety Assessment, GIS Mapping and Public Awareness

#### **Background**

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Near critical utilities, schools and roads in Preston, Idaho runs a high-pressure natural gas line. Preston, with a population of approximately 5,100, is the county seat and largest city in mostly rural Franklin County. Given the potential impact to important infrastructure, the City of Preston saw the need to conduct a pipeline safety assessment to understand the pipeline location, utility locations, evacuation routes and zones, and potential impacts in the case of a hazardous pipeline emergency.

To be prepared for emergencies associated with the hazardous pipelines, the City of Preston requested a Technical Assistance Grant from PHMSA.

## **Task 1 Project Kickoff Meeting**

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A kickoff meeting was held wherein specific needs and details of the project were discussed among City staff and consultants. City staff determined the utility information that would need to be collected. It also outlined the data needed to create emergency evacuation maps. This meeting charted the course for an effective and efficient project.

## **Task 2 GPS Equipment Purchase**

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An industry-standard Trimble Geo7x Series Mapping Grade GPS unit with software and accessories was purchased. This allowed City staff to collect GPS points of critical infrastructure to be included in the GIS database. This purchase also allows the city to keep their GIS and associated response plans current and accurate.

## **Task 3 GPS Data Collection**

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City staff received training and technical support to collect GPS data points of features of the culinary water, stormwater, and sewer infrastructure systems to determine their locations in relation to hazardous pipelines and what utilities may be at risk. Feature points were collected to determine which critical utilities could be impacted by a pipeline emergency. A quality control review of the collected data was performed so it could be efficiently entered into a GIS database.

The GIS Specialists worked with Questar Gas, the pipeline operator, to acquire the locations of the hazardous pipelines to include in the GIS mapping.

## **Task 4 GIS Data Creation and Viewer Setup**

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With the data collected, GIS specialists began entering the utility features into GIS databases. System pipe alignments and features were drawn and populated. Mapbooks were also created as part of this task. Work sessions were held with City staff to review the mapbook and update the GIS. Hazardous gas pipelines and proposed future pipelines were also added to the GIS database.

## **Task 5 GIS Asset Management**

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Maintenance and repair history layers were added in GIS for City infrastructure near hazardous pipelines. City staff refined infrastructure asset management strategies to best protect the hazardous pipelines. A basic subscription to ArcGIS Online was purchased and online maps were set up in ArcGIS Online to give City staff real-time GIS access in the field.

## **Task 6 Onsite GIS Training**

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Consulting GIS Specialists provided training for City staff regarding the using and updating the GIS maps and databases to maximize their utility and keep them current.

## Task 7 Pipeline Risk Assessment

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A GIS-based pipeline safety risk assessment was conducted including proximity to existing infrastructure. This analysis identified different evacuation routes for each area of the City with alternatives. Evacuation zones were determined with information from Questar with the size and area dependent on the incident type (leak, rupture, fire, etc.).

A pdf version of this map is attached to this report.

## Task 8 Community Outreach and Public Awareness Campaign

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The findings of the Pipeline Safety Assessment, Evacuation Zones and Routes were shared with school officials, the fire department, police department, the county sheriff, public works and the city engineer. Coordination between the City, emergency personnel and school officials will be essential during an emergency event and this project has improved that coordination and provided information to each party involved.

To inform the public of the "811 Call Before You Dig" program, an information sheet was mailed to each household in the community with their monthly newsletter. The information was also posted on the City website.

The public information handout is attached to this final report.

## Summary

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The City of Preston appreciated this opportunity to work with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration on this successful project. We now have a better understanding of the locations of critical infrastructure and utilities in the community, an emergency response plan with evacuation routes and zones identified, and improved public awareness of the "811 Call Before You Dig" program to prevent accidental damage to hazardous pipelines in our community. With this foundation in place, our City will be able to keep this information up-to-date and continue making safety a priority in our community.

Sincerely,



Linda Acock  
Preston City Clerk

Enclosures: Preston City Evacuation Zone Map and Hazardous Pipeline Evacuation Area Map  
Preston City Public Information Sheet