

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Statement of

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Before the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT, INVESTIGATIONS, AND OVERSIGHT  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Good morning, Chairman Carney, Ranking Member Bilirakis, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee. As General Manager of the Pipeline Security Division (PSD) of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), I am pleased to appear today to discuss TSA's role in protecting the security of our Nation's pipelines. I appreciate the Subcommittee's interest in this important infrastructure issue.

**Pipelines: A Critical Economic and Security Interest**

The United States relies on over 2.5 million miles of pipelines, operated by over 3,000 companies, for transporting petroleum and natural gas. This includes 2.2 million miles of natural gas distribution pipelines, 320,500 miles of natural gas transmission pipelines, and 168,000 miles of hazardous liquid transmission pipelines. This massive infrastructure delivers approximately two-thirds of the petroleum products and nearly all of the natural gas used in the United States. In delivering oil and gas resources, our pipeline system provides jobs, heats homes, and allows businesses to operate efficiently. It is part of the life blood of the American economy, a vast network of underground transmission lines that provides energy to residential neighborhoods, commercial sites, and industrial centers across the country. Preserving the security of this system is critical to our economic well-being and to our national security.

Because our Nation's pipeline system is of such critical importance, there is a risk that terrorists may target it with the goal of producing mass casualties and significant economic aftershocks. Less than three years ago, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) arrested members of a group allegedly plotting to blow-up supply tanks and pipelines feeding fuel to the John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport in New York. The threat to pipelines is real and evolving, and we must remain ever vigilant to safeguard our Nation's pipeline system.

TSA is dedicated to maintaining a robust, nationwide pipeline security program that instills public confidence in the reliability of the Nation's critical energy infrastructure, enhances public safety, and promotes the continued functioning of other critical infrastructure sectors that depend on secure and reliable sources of energy delivered by pipeline.

TSA's role in pipeline security has its genesis in the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (ATSA), passed by Congress in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. While aviation security is a central component of ATSA, the Act also confers upon TSA primary responsibility for providing security in all modes of transportation, including pipelines. Congress added substantial new pipeline-specific mandates in the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (9/11 Act). Pursuant to these authorities, and prioritizing activities based on risk, TSA promotes pipeline security through collaboration across the national pipeline network.

### **Promoting Pipeline Security Through a Collaborative Network**

TSA maintains clear lines of communications and close working relationships with government and industry partners to share critical information related to pipeline security. In particular, we are continuing to build upon our strong working relationship with the Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). TSA and PHMSA maintain virtually daily contact, including 24/7 communication and information sharing in the event of a pipeline incident. Through close coordination with PHMSA and vigorous outreach efforts to pipeline industry stakeholders, we have made substantial progress in defining and solidifying the relative roles of TSA and PHMSA in coordinating the protection of the pipeline system, with TSA having primary responsibility for security matters and PHMSA having primary responsibility for safety matters.

TSA and PHMSA have worked in close collaboration on a number of initiatives designed to improve pipeline safety and security, such as the Pipeline Security and Incident Recovery Plan, the Transportation Systems Sector Specific Plan, and the Pipeline Security Modal Annex. Both agencies are active members in the Oil & Natural Gas (ONG) Government Coordination Council and the Pipeline Government Coordinating Council. Additionally, TSA and PHMSA participate in the ONG Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council in which governmental agencies, pipeline industry stakeholders, and other security partners collaborate on pipeline and critical infrastructure security matters.

In addition to its close collaboration with PHMSA, TSA works to maintain close relationships with State, local, international, and non-governmental stakeholders. For example, for the past five years, TSA and Natural Resources Canada have co-hosted an annual International Pipeline Security Forum to enhance government and pipeline industry domain awareness and facilitate a dialogue on pipeline security issues. The conference is attended by officials from the U.S. and Canadian governments, pipeline associations, pipeline operators, and representatives from the security, intelligence, and law enforcement communities. The 2010 Forum is planned for October 28-29 in Philadelphia. The Forum provides an opportunity for

pipeline industry, industry association, and government representatives to exchange security information and best practices.

Additionally, TSA leverages the DHS Homeland Security Information Network to share information between DHS and other government, private sector, and non-governmental organizations involved in pipeline antiterrorism and incident management activities.

### **Current Initiatives to Improve Security**

TSA has undertaken a number of initiatives to improve the security of pipelines. I would like to highlight a few examples of our key programs:

Pipeline Corporate Security Reviews: The centerpiece of TSA's pipeline security program is the Pipeline Corporate Security Review (PCSR). Begun in 2003, PCSRs have enabled TSA to build relationships with pipeline operators to assess their corporate security plans and programs and to provide them with recommendations for improvement. TSA has conducted PCSRs on all of the top 100 pipeline systems and is currently working on second-round reviews of these systems.

Pipeline Employee Security Awareness Training: TSA developed a 30-minute training CD for pipeline operators. The training covers topics such as security measures, awareness of vulnerabilities, potential threats, and targeting. To date, TSA has delivered training CDs to over 300 companies, providing training to an estimated 61,000 pipeline employees.

Pipeline Security Smart Practices: TSA's Pipeline Security Smart Practices reflect the lessons learned from PCSRs over several years. A qualitative and quantitative examination of data from PCSRs, coupled with literature research regarding pipeline security measures and consultation with the pipeline industry, identified smart practices operators can implement to promote an effective security program. This document is intended to assist operators in their security planning and the implementation of security measures to protect their facilities.

Cross-Border Pipeline Assessments: Canada is one of the world's largest producers and exporters of energy and is the top source for U.S. oil and natural gas imports. In 2006, Canada exported to the United States 2.3 million barrels of oil and petroleum products per day (11 percent of the U.S. supply) and 3.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas (16 percent of the U.S. supply); this energy is overwhelmingly moved by pipeline. TSA has been leading an in-depth analysis of cross-border pipeline systems, as part of a team that included Natural Resources Canada and private industry. Assessment teams of Canadian and U.S. subject matter experts in pipeline operations, control systems, infrastructure interdependencies, and assault planning visit critical cross-border pipeline infrastructure, identify security gaps, and recommend protective measures to address them. Pipeline operators have used the assessment results to target improvements to the security of their systems. To date, joint U.S.- Canadian teams have reviewed six of the largest pipeline systems, or approximately 25 percent of the total cross-border systems.

## **Conclusion**

TSA will continue its efforts to enhance the security of pipeline systems as directed by the 9/11 Act and other statutory and DHS requirements. Although TSA has been given clear authority and responsibility for the oversight and enforcement of pipeline security, we recognize that the success of this effort relies on the close coordination and ongoing cooperation with industry and government partners, including PHMSA. This coordination enhances TSA's ability to improve pipeline security in a manner that is safe and allows for the efficient flow of commerce. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Subcommittee today. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.