



**Statement for the House and Senate Veterans Affairs and  
Emergency Preparedness Committee**

**November 16, 2016**

**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE COMMISSIONER**

**Patrick Pauly, Alternative Energy Emergency Response  
Training Program Administrator**

Good Morning Chairman Vulakovich, Chairman Costa, Chairman Barrar, Chairman Sainato and members of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committees, my name is Patrick Pauly, the Alternative Energy Emergency Response Training Program Administrator at the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy.

The "Alternative Energy Emergency Response Training Program" (AEER) at the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy (PSFA) currently offers two training programs specific to pipeline emergencies. These programs are available anywhere in Pennsylvania at no cost to first responders as well as elected officials and industry employees. Both programs are based on curriculum developed for the U.S. Department of Transportation and the National Association of State Fire Marshalls. The curriculum was written by Gregory Noll, a resident of PA, and Michael S. Hildebrand. The AEER Instructors that deliver these classes were trained by program author Greg Noll at the Fire Academy in Lewistown in late 2013 and early 2014. There are 50 instructors qualified to teach these two classes.

The 4-hour version of the class, "Pipeline Emergencies Awareness Training" can be delivered in an evening session during the week, or during the day in a weekend style delivery. The class goal is to introduce the students to the primary causes of pipeline incidents and the basic operations of pipelines. The 8-hour version of the class, "Pipeline Emergencies Operations Training" includes the entire 4-hour version of the class as well as additional materials and exercises. Additional information covered in this class includes the properties of products that are carried via pipelines, and pipeline types and pipeline markers. The exercises in the 8-hour class force the attending students to work through simulated pipeline emergencies that are based on previous incidents that actually occurred. The students have an opportunity to work through these scenarios and learn from past experiences.

Since these classes were made available, the PSFA has delivered eight of the 4-hour programs with a total of 194 students attending the classes. They were presented in 6 different counties. We have

delivered 12 of the 8-hour classes with a total of 321 students attending. They were delivered in 9 different counties.

We currently have two different pipeline/utility companies that have partnered with the PSFA for the delivery of these two classes. These companies provide one or more industry experts during the program that assist our instructors while teaching the class.

Beginning in 2017, the PSFA AEER program is sponsoring another pipeline program, "Pipeline Security for Rural Communities" at two different locations. This is an 8-hour class that discusses pipeline security threats and the mitigation strategies. These programs are also being offered to first responders, gas and oil pipeline industry employees, security contractors, and elected officials at no cost to those attending. This class is provided through Findlay University and is funded with Department of Homeland Security funds.

The PSFA also offers a 3-day class at the Lewistown Campus called "Flammable Gas and Liquid Firefighting". This program allows the attending students to participate in numerous outside exercises including live-fire training utilizing both flammable liquids and flammable gas. This cost is also free to municipal firefighters in Pennsylvania.

Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to discuss some of the pipeline safety programs we offer to the first responder community and your continued support of the fire services. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.