USDOT PHMSA
Office of Pipeline Safety

2018 API – AGA Joint Committee
Oil & Gas Pipeline Welding Practices

Kenneth Lee
Director, Engineering & Research Division
Howard "Skip" Elliott

Howard "Skip" Elliott was sworn in as the fifth Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) by Secretary Elaine L. Chao on October 30, 2017.

Elliott joins PHMSA following his recent retirement from CSX Transportation in Jacksonville, FL, where he served as Vice President of Public Safety, Health, Environment, and Security. Elliott’s portfolio at CSX included hazardous materials, transportation safety, homeland security, railroad policing, crisis management, environmental compliance and operations, occupational health management, and continuity of business operations.

Elliott has more than 40 years of experience in the boardroom, on Capitol Hill, and in state houses and city halls and is a leading advocate in developing and implementing computer-based tools to assist emergency response officials, first responders, and homeland security personnel in preparing for and responding to railroad hazmat and security incidents.

Elliott has earned honors from a number of institutions and is a recipient of the Association of American Railroads’ (AAR) prestigious Holden-Proefrock award for lifetime achievement in hazardous materials transportation safety. Elliott has served on the AAR’s Risk Management Working Committee and its Security Committee, and is a member of the American Society of Industrial Security and the FBI-DHS Domestic Security Alliance Council.

Skip Elliott earned a double major in English and Forensic Studies at Indiana University, and a Master of Science from Columbia Southern University.
Deputy Administrator

Drue Pearce

On August 7, 2017, Ms. Drue Pearce was appointed to be the Deputy Administrator for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

Pearce most recently served as Director of Government Affairs at Holland & Hart LLP, where she focused on energy, natural resource and manufacturing industries. For six years beginning in 2010, she was a Senior Policy Advisor at Crowell & Moring LLP. In both positions, she split her time between the D.C. and Alaska offices.

Pearce has an extensive background in federal transportation and pipeline safety. In 2006, she was named as the Federal Coordinator for Alaskan Natural Gas Transportation Projects, where she oversaw efforts to advance the nation's energy, environmental, and economic security by expediting the delivery of Alaska natural gas to North American markets.

Prior to that, Pearce served as Senior Advisor to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, she was named by the Secretary of the Interior to the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council on behalf of the Department of the Interior. In addition, she was appointed by Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Technical Pipeline Safety Standards Committee, a position she held for six years.

Prior to her federal service, Pearce served in the Alaska House of Representatives, where she became the Minority Whip in just her second term, and the Alaska State Senate, where she became the first woman to serve two terms as Senate President. She chaired Alaska's Senate Natural Resources Committee where she worked on both energy and transportation legislation.

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About Pipeline Research & Development

The mission of PHMSA’s Pipeline Safety Research & Development Program is to sponsor projects focused on providing technical solutions that will improve pipeline safety, reduce the environmental impact of failures, and enhance the reliability of the Nation’s pipeline transportation system.

The research program has the following objectives:

• Employ a coordinated and collaborative approach to address mutual pipeline challenges with a wide set of pipeline stakeholders
• Help remove technical and sometimes regulatory barriers on a given challenge
• Tell the research story by measuring our research results, outputs, and impacts
• Promote transparency by posting online R&D program/project actions and products.

Updated: Monday, November 6, 2017
Pipeline Safety: Operator Qualification, Cost Recovery, Accident and Incident Notification, and Other Pipeline Safety Changes

A Rule by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration on 01/23/2017
OQ Rule: J. In-Service Welding

Error in preamble language

....To allow in-service welding, PHMSA is adopting Appendix B of API 1104 into parts 192 and 195. Therefore, PHMSA is not creating new requirement but only including Appendix B into already adopted API 1104 to qualify in service welding procedures or in service welders to perform in-service welding operators must follow Appendix B of API 1104. In addition, currently, PHMSA does not allow in service welding and, therefore, there are no existing options in the regulations for in service welding.
§ 192.225 Welding procedures.
(a) Welding must be performed by a qualified welder or welding operator in accordance with welding procedures qualified under section 5, section 12, Appendix A or Appendix B of API Std 1104 (incorporated by reference, see § 192.7), or section IX of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME BPVC) (incorporated by reference, see § 192.7) to produce welds meeting the requirements of this subpart. The quality of the test welds used to qualify welding procedures must be determined by destructive testing in accordance with the applicable welding standard(s).
§ 192.227 Qualification of welders.
(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, each welder or welding operator must be qualified in accordance with section 6, section 12, Appendix A or Appendix B of API Std 1104 (incorporated by reference, see § 192.7), or section IX of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME BPVC) (incorporated by reference, see § 192.7). However, a welder or welding operator qualified under an earlier edition than the listed in § 192.7 of this part may weld but may not requalify under that earlier edition.
§ 195.214 Welding procedures.

(a) Welding must be performed by a qualified welder or welding operator in accordance with welding procedures qualified under section 5, section 12, Appendix A or Appendix B of API Std 1104 (incorporated by reference, see § 195.3), or Section IX of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME BPVC) (incorporated by reference, see § 195.3). The quality of the test welds used to qualify the welding procedures must be determined by destructive testing.
§ 195.222 Welders and welding operators: Qualification of welders and welding operators.

(a) Each welder or welding operator must be qualified in accordance with section 6, section 12, Appendix A or Appendix B of API Std 1104 (incorporated by reference, see § 195.3), or section IX of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (ASME BPVC), (incorporated by reference, see § 195.3) except that a welder or welding operator qualified under an earlier edition than listed in § 195.3, may weld but may not requalify under that earlier edition.
Rulemaking

• Recent Rulemakings include:
  – Excess Flow Valve (Oct 2016)
  – OQ, Cost Recovery, & Other (Jan 2017)

• Regulatory Reform: 2-for-1, zero net cost

• Rules Pending include:
  – Valve & Rupture Detection, Gas Transmission & Gathering, Hazardous Liquid, Plastic Pipe
  – Standards Update (API 1104, 21st edition)
Thank You!

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