



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PIPELINE SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES RESOLUTION

NAPSR Western Region Resolution 2019-1

A RESOLUTION SEEKING A PHMSA TQ CERTIFIED WEB-BASED OR DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE DESIGNED FOR EXCAVATION CONTRACTORS AND PERSONNEL THAT IS SPECIFIC TO PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION EXCAVATION & PIPELINE SAFETY.

WHEREAS: Excavation is the leading cause of hazardous leaks on pipelines that are responsible for serious incidents, injuries, fatalities and property damage; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Department of Transportation - Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has regulations to help prevent damage and hazardous leaks resulting from excavation activities in order to protect people and the environment; and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Department of Labor - Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has safety regulations for underground installations and construction activities to assure safe and healthful working conditions; and

WHEREAS: PHMSA and OSHA establish national policy and regulations, set and enforce standards, and provide training, outreach, education and assistance; and

WHEREAS: PHMSA Training and Qualification (TQ) and OSHA Training often sponsor structured and cooperative processes for regulatory and industry officials in order to develop training to help prevent hazards; and

WHEREAS: PHMSA and OSHA include in regulations, but are not limited to performance-based standards to protect pipeline facilities and workers prior to and during excavation activities; and

WHEREAS: There are nationally recognized Best Practices that encourage compliance with the PHMSA and OSHA performance-based standards that can reduce hazardous leaks and protect worker safety and health.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That NAPSRS requests PHMSA to:

- 1) Explore the feasibility of developing a TQ instructional design model with appropriate Critical Task Selection Board (CTSB) members with the eventual intent of developing and offering a course for excavation employers and its employees; and
- 2) Explore different options on the design and content of the course so that it incorporates safe pipeline excavation performance based standards and Best Practices; and
- 3) Partner with OSHA to look at including worker trench and excavating safety objectives for underground installations; and
- 4) Review the option of also instituting a learning management system to provide course completion traceability for stakeholders; and
- 5) Explore the possibility of issuance of a certification to identify that the individuals have completed the course; and study the possibility of offering certification at some level.