



ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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Arizona Corporation Commission's Pipeline Safety Section gets Top Ranking from U.S. Department of Transportation

(Phoenix) The Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHSMA) ranked the Commission Pipeline Safety Section at 99.5 out of 100 on its yearly audit.

"This is more than about bragging rights," said Commission Chairman Susan Bitter Smith. "This shows the high level of expertise in our division and the high bar that is set here in our state for safety and for the reliability of services."

The Corporation's Safety Division conducts audits at 27 companies statewide. There are 38,442 thousand miles of main and service distribution pipeline in Arizona serving 1.3 million customers.

PHSMA's audit ensures states meet federal safety standards and provides significant grant funding for those that do. PHSMA reimburses 80% of operating costs to the agencies that meet or exceed the standards. For the Commission's Safety Division that means a reimbursement of \$1.2 million.

The Commission's Safety Division has consistently performed at the top tier. Over the past five years, the Division has received a score of 99 or higher. Only a handful of other states score 99 or higher.

Pipeline Safety Supervisor for the Commission, Robert Miller credits their high performance to their training programs that are becoming a model for other divisions around the country.

"We have a lot of training programs that other states don't have," he said. He added the Division is one of the only to offer a master meter operator courses. The Commission's inspectors are operating at the same level as federal inspectors.