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PIPELINE OPERATORS SHARE SAFETY RECORD, IMPROVEMENT PLANS

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, the Association of Oil Pipe Lines (AOPL) shared industry-wide pipeline safety results and plans for further pipeline safety improvements in its new *2015 API-AOPL Annual Liquids Pipeline Safety Performance Report & Strategic Plan*.

“Even with a 99.999% safe delivery rate for crude oil and petroleum product pipelines we are pushing for further pipeline safety improvements through a host of industry-wide efforts from leak detection to emergency planning and response,” said Andy Black, President and CEO of AOPL.

The new report reflects the commitment of pipeline operators annually to report pipeline safety data to the public. Sharing and learning from such information allows pipeline operators to gauge their performance and guide their efforts to improve pipeline safety even further. Pipeline safety result takeaways from this year include:

- 99.999% of crude oil and petroleum product barrels delivered by pipeline reach their destination safely
- Liquids pipeline incidents along pipeline rights of way are down 50% since 1999
- Most barrels released in 2013 caused by natural or outside forces or 3rd party excavation
- Corrosion caused pipeline incidents are down 76% since 1999
- Third-party damage caused incidents are down 78% since 1999
- Most pipeline incidents are small in size: 35% of incidents were under 1 barrel, two-thirds were 5 barrels or less, and only 20 pipeline incidents were larger than 500 barrels in 2013
- Two-thirds of incidents reported to PHMSA are inside operator facilities and not along pipeline rights of way where they come into contact with the public or environment
- Materials, seam or weld failure caused the most operations & maintenance-related barrels released
- Equipment failure was the most frequent incident cause, although the most frequent incident causes were also the smallest in barrels per incident

The report also contains the industry-wide strategic initiatives pipeline operators will undertake in 2015 to improve pipeline safety. Planned actions are based upon stakeholder engagement, safety expert recommendations, review of safety data and results, and lessons learned from pipeline incidents. Pipeline operators will jointly pursue pipeline safety improvement goals to: 1) improve inspection technology capabilities, 2) enhance threat identification & response, 3) expand safety culture and management practices, and 4) boost response capabilities.

In 2015, pipeline operators will complete development of industry-wide recommended practices (RPs) begun in 2014 on pipeline crack detection and management, pipeline safety management systems, leak detection program management and emergency planning and response. Industry-wide implementation of these RPs is a central theme of 2015. Pipeline operators will also develop industry-wide guidance on the appropriate uses of hydrostatic pressure pipeline testing and an RP for pipeline construction quality management systems.

The new report is part of the industry-wide *Pipeline Safety Excellence*[™] initiative to improve pipeline safety. A copy of the *2015 API-AOPL Annual Liquids Pipeline Safety Performance Report & Strategic Plan* can be found at <http://www.aopl.org/safety/safety-excellence-program/>, along with additional summary materials on pipeline safety performance, spending and improvement efforts.

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