

NEWS RELEASE March 28, 2014 For Immediate Release, Contact: Brian Kalk, (701) 261-0373 Randy Christmann, (701) 328-4091 Julie Fedorchak, (701) 391-1140

PSC Hosting Pipeline Safety Operator Training in Bismarck

BISMARCK, ND – Pipeline operators from the region will be in Bismarck next week to learn the latest in state and federal pipeline operator safety regulations.

The Pipeline Safety Operator Training, hosted by the North Dakota Public Service Commission, will be held April 2-3 at the Comfort Inn in Bismarck. More than 130 pipeline operators from North Dakota, South Dakota, and some neighboring states will be attending. Registration has been closed due to the great turnout and interest in the event.

Speakers will cover a variety of topics in concurrent sessions including updates on regulations, damage prevention, inspection basics, and emergency plans. The training will also include updates from the North and South Dakota Gas Pipeline Safety Program managers, the North Dakota Common Ground Alliance, The North Dakota Pipeline Association and managers from One-Call.

The training is held every year, with the location switching each year between North Dakota and South Dakota. The training is hosted by the North Dakota Public Service Commission's gas distribution and intrastate pipeline safety program.

Note to the media: The Commissioners will be giving opening remarks and answering questions from attendees on Wednesday morning, April 2, at 8 a.m. Afterwards, they will be available for quick interviews. A copy of the full agenda is available at www.psc.nd.gov (click on the North Dakota/South Dakota Pipeline Safety Operator Training link).

The North Dakota Public Service Commission is a constitutionally created state agency with authority to permit, site and regulate certain business activities in the state including electric and gas utilities, telecommunications companies, power plants, electric transmission lines, pipelines, railroads, grain elevators, auctioneers, commercial weighing devices, pipeline safety and coal mine reclamation. For more information, contact the Public Service Commission at (701) 328-2400 or www.psc.nd.gov.

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