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A Department of Transportation report to Congress, entitled "Federal-State Relations in Gas Pipeline Safety," looks back on five years of progress in safety programs in the transportation of natural gas since the passage of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968.

Since then, 48 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico are now in partnership with the Federal government to provide the Nation with safer pipelines and related technology and management. Louisiana and New Jersey have not yet joined the partnership.

The report notes that:

- * Almost all of the States have enacted some legislation toward strengthening the partnership.

- * State gas safety expenditures have increased from an annual average of \$651,000 in 1967-68 to more than \$2,390,000 in 1972.

- * State agency personnel assigned to gas safety have increased from 43 man-years during 1967 to 147 man-years in 1972.

- * Twenty-two States are voluntarily serving as DOT agents to aid in the enforcement of Federal safety standards on interstate transmission facilities.

- * Agencies in 46 States made 12,606 safety inspections of intra-state gas facilities in 1973 and uncovered 73,726 deficiencies. By the end of the year 72,093 of these had been remedied. The others are being corrected.

- more -

The report also gives a description of each State's gas pipeline safety program, staff size, inspections made, numbers of violations discovered and action taken, budget requirements for years ahead, Federal funds received, and problems peculiar to individual States.

Included in the report are charts, maps and graphs with explanatory text, giving details on safety jurisdiction of municipal systems, State agency expenditures for pipeline safety, State personnel directly involved in pipeline safety, Federal gas pipeline safety grants-in-aid, 1971-73, projected Federal assistance to be requested annually for intrastate programs, etc.

Copies of "Federal-State Relations in Gas Pipeline Safety" can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402. Price in U. S. postpaid: \$2.35; in GPO Bookstore, \$2.00. Stock number 5000-00064.

Government agencies can receive individual copies from: Department of Transportation, Office of Public Affairs (S-81), 400 Seventh Street, S. W., Washington, D. C. 20590.

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