



Transportation
Security
Administration

JAN 14 2016

The Honorable Eliot Engel
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Engel:

Thank you for your December 22, 2015, letter. Secretary Johnson asked that I respond on his behalf.

I share your concerns about the security of our Nation's vast energy infrastructure. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) strengthens and enhances the security of a complex transportation network through cooperative and collaborative efforts with significant sector operators to develop best practices, share information, and reduce risk. For pipelines, TSA engages in a cooperative effort with industry and other government partners to develop a risk-based approach to security.

With regard to Department of Homeland Security cooperation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), specifically in relation to cybersecurity, I recently met with the Chairman of FERC to discuss our responsibilities and mutual interest in pipeline security. Following this meeting, TSA's Surface Division Director, TSA's Pipeline Manager, FERC's Director for the Office of Energy Infrastructure Security, and FERC's Cyber Security Advisor met to discuss additional opportunities to collaborate on cybersecurity activities. Members of my staff would be more than happy to provide you with a briefing on our pipeline security efforts.

The pipeline physical and cyber security framework for industry is provided by the TSA Pipeline Security Guidelines—a copy of which is enclosed. These guidelines were developed with the assistance of industry and government members of the Pipeline Sector and Government Coordinating Councils, industry association representatives, and other interested parties.

To assist in pipeline industry-specific planning and coordination, TSA works closely with two stakeholder councils that have been established for the mode. The Pipeline Sector Coordinating Council is comprised of the representatives of pipeline operators and industry associations. Similarly, the Government Coordinating Council is comprised of

representatives of other Federal departments and agencies with interests in the pipeline industry, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Energy, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, and FERC. These councils create a structure through which representatives of the private sector and government can collaborate or share existing approaches to pipeline protection and work together to advance security capabilities.

TSA maintains a robust security information sharing effort that includes briefings during monthly industry security-focused conference calls, pipeline security forums, and classified cyber-security briefings in conjunction with Department of Homeland Security Industrial Control Systems Cyber Emergency Response Team.

TSA's recent efforts in cybersecurity have been related to the provisions of Executive Order 13636, "Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity." Under the Executive Order, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) was directed to develop a voluntary framework for reducing cyber risks to critical infrastructure, recognizing that the national and economic security of the United States depends on the reliable functioning of vital systems and assets working together to effectively manage cybersecurity dangers and liabilities. NIST released the voluntary Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity for use across all critical infrastructure sectors on February 12, 2014. Working with our Transportation Systems Sector (TSS) stakeholders and government partners, TSA organized an effort to implement guidance specifically for the sector. This document, TSS Cybersecurity Framework Implementation Guidance, was released in June 2015 to our stakeholders, including the pipeline industry. I have enclosed a copy for your review.

Thank you for sharing your concerns with me. TSA will continue our efforts to reduce the risk of terrorist attacks against surface transportation systems through cooperative relationships with government partners, including FERC and the transportation industry. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Peter V. Neffenger
Administrator

Enclosures