

Pages 1 through 2 redacted for the following reasons:

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Referred to OST.

**From:** [Behm, Mitchell](#)  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: {From External} Re: {From External} President Donald J. Trump Announces Intent to Nominate Individuals to Key Administration Posts | The White House  
**Date:** Saturday, May 16, 2020 4:02:20 PM

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Thanks (b)(6) All is good.

Mitch Behm  
Deputy Inspector General  
US Department of Transportation  
Phone: [202-366-1959](tel:202-366-1959)

On May 16, 2020, at 3:27 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mitch, OMG- missed that one. Wow. They really only trust their own bench. No reflection on you or the others like Steve Linick.

I feel for you. Do what you can to hold the troops together and keep folks focused. Admit given the situation- and w everyone being out of the office that will be a challenging task. Just do what you can. That is all that anyone can ask.

If I can help in any way let me know- be glad to chat. Hang in there! (b)(6)

On Fri, May 15, 2020 at 10:17 PM Behm, Mitchell

<[Mitchell.Behm@oig.dot.gov](mailto:Mitchell.Behm@oig.dot.gov)> wrote:

Thanks (b)(6). And Skip Elliott, the PHMSA Administrator was named Acting IG. Wild.

Mitch Behm  
Deputy Inspector General  
US Department of Transportation  
Phone: [202-366-1959](tel:202-366-1959)

On May 15, 2020, at 10:13 PM, (b)(6)  
(b)(6) wrote:

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Mitch, was sorry to see this. I think you would have been an excellent choice to carry on all of the good things and impactful work that Cal had started.

Chin up as Mr Soskin will need all of your expertise and advice. And given the situation the clock is running so who knows.

Be safe and well. (b)(6)

President Donald J. Trump Announces Intent to Nominate Individuals to Key Administration Posts | The White House

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/president-donald-j-trump-announces-intent-nominate-individuals-key-administration-posts-29/>

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(b)(6)

**From:** [Ward, Chuck](#)  
**To:** [Behm, Mitchell](#)  
**Subject:** Re: DOT OIG Whitehouse Announcements  
**Date:** Saturday, May 16, 2020 3:53:54 PM

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Thank you, Mitch. Mr. Elliott will be taking command of a highly effective and increasingly highly efficient organization as a result of your proactive and engaged leadership as Deputy and Acting IG over the past 4+ years. The willingness to push others to think differently and do and be better is not always adequately acknowledged as a key to understanding how and why people and organizations improve over time. As Deputy again, I hope you're given continued latitude to operate in a similarly proactive manner, though I'm certain that even if the Deputy role is modified, you'll fill the position effectively.

Looking forward to supporting you and the new Acting IG in this transition.

Ending on a personal note, you would have been a crackerjack permanent DOT IG, if you had been nominated.

Chuck

Sent from my iPhone

On May 16, 2020, at 1:35 PM, Behm, Mitchell <[Mitchell.Behm@oig.dot.gov](mailto:Mitchell.Behm@oig.dot.gov)> wrote:

Good afternoon OIG. I hope that you are all enjoying your weekends. Better yet, I hope that you are reading this on Monday morning and that you each had a great weekend.

In any event, many of you have probably already seen the news that the President announced his intent to nominate Eric J. Soskin to serve as Inspector General at the Department of Transportation. Here is a link to the announcement:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/president-donald-j-trump-announces-intent-nominate-individuals-key-administration-posts-29/>

Additionally, I was notified yesterday evening, that the President designated PHMSA Administrator Howard "Skip" Elliott to also take on the role of Acting Inspector General at DOT. As such, I will return to my position as Deputy Inspector General. I will be meeting with Mr. Elliott Monday morning to begin working through the details of how this transition will work. I will keep you all posted as new information is available.

As always, I hope that you and your families are all healthy and safe.

**Mitch Behm**

Deputy Inspector General  
US Department of Transportation  
Phone: 202-366-1959

**From:** [Schuler, Karl G.](#)  
**To:** [Behm, Mitchell](#)  
**Subject:** RE: {From DOT} FW: Inspector General designation  
**Date:** Saturday, May 16, 2020 3:33:47 PM

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Sounds good.

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**From:** Behm, Mitchell <[Mitchell.Behm@oig.dot.gov](mailto:Mitchell.Behm@oig.dot.gov)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 16, 2020 12:25 PM  
**To:** Schuler, Karl G. <[Karl.G.Schuler@oig.dot.gov](mailto:Karl.G.Schuler@oig.dot.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: {From DOT} FW: Inspector General designation

Will keep you posted.

Mitch Behm  
Deputy Inspector General  
US Department of Transportation  
Phone: [202-366-1959](tel:202-366-1959)

On May 16, 2020, at 11:27 AM, Schuler, Karl G. <[Karl.G.Schuler@oig.dot.gov](mailto:Karl.G.Schuler@oig.dot.gov)> wrote:

Thanks Mitch. (b)(6) and hadn't heard. Do you know if Skip Elliot will be coming in next week? If so, I'll reach out to JM Directors (this weekend if needed; otherwise on Monday) to get his JM support rolling (e.g. computer, cell phone, accounts, etc).

Interesting times,

--Karl

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**From:** Behm, Mitchell <[Mitchell.Behm@oig.dot.gov](mailto:Mitchell.Behm@oig.dot.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 15, 2020 7:17 PM  
**To:** Seese, Amanda <[Amanda.Seese@oig.dot.gov](mailto:Amanda.Seese@oig.dot.gov)>; Barry DeWeese <[Deweese.Barry@oig.dot.gov](mailto:Deweese.Barry@oig.dot.gov)>; Poirier, Omer <[Omer.Poirier@oig.dot.gov](mailto:Omer.Poirier@oig.dot.gov)>; Chawaga, M. Elise <[Elise.Chawaga@oig.dot.gov](mailto:Elise.Chawaga@oig.dot.gov)>; Schuler, Karl G. <[Karl.G.Schuler@oig.dot.gov](mailto:Karl.G.Schuler@oig.dot.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: {From DOT} FW: Inspector General designation

And Skip Elliott is now the Acting IG.

Mitch Behm  
Deputy Inspector General  
US Department of Transportation  
Phone: [202-366-1959](tel:202-366-1959)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Inman, Todd (OST)" <[todd.inman@dot.gov](mailto:todd.inman@dot.gov)>  
**Date:** May 15, 2020 at 7:03:56 PM EDT  
**To:** "Behm, Mitchell" <[Mitchell.Behm@oig.dot.gov](mailto:Mitchell.Behm@oig.dot.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Simpson, Joan (OST)" <[joan.simpson@dot.gov](mailto:joan.simpson@dot.gov)>, "Bradbury, Steven (OST)" <[steven.bradbury@dot.gov](mailto:steven.bradbury@dot.gov)>  
**Subject: {From DOT} FW: Inspector General designation**

Mitch,

We just received this and as a courtesy wanted to pass along a copy.

Thanks

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## Appendix. Agency Comments



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

## Memorandum

### Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Subject: INFORMATION: Management Response to the  
Office of Inspector General (OIG) Draft Report on  
PHMSA's Oversight of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)  
Facilities

Date: April 1, 2020

From: Howard R. Elliott      HOWARD  
PHMSA Administrator      ROBERT ELLIOTT

Digitally signed by HOWARD  
ROBERT ELLIOTT  
Date: 2020.04.01 14:35:03  
-04'00'

To: Barry J. DeWeese  
Assistant Inspector General for Surface Transportation Audits

PHMSA is committed to protecting people and the environment by advancing the safe transportation of energy and other hazardous materials that are essential to our daily lives. Under section 60103 of Title 49, United States Code, PHMSA has the authority to prescribe minimum safety standards for the siting, design, construction, and operational and maintenance of LNG facilities. PHMSA inspects LNG facilities and operators to ensure and enforce compliance with Federal regulatory requirements. PHMSA currently has regulatory oversight over more than 150 LNG facilities, a number expected to grow as the U.S. LNG export market continues to expand.

The OIG draft report acknowledged that PHMSA's inspections of existing interstate LNG facilities complied with Agency standards. Specifically, OIG noted that PHMSA performed inspections during the required inspection interval, used a standardized question-set, reported inspection results to operators within congressionally mandated timeframes, and addressed unsatisfactory conditions identified during inspections. PHMSA recognizes that its safety oversight of LNG facilities fulfills an important role in preventing accidents. Recent and ongoing PHMSA efforts to ensure that sufficient management and inspection resources remain available to carry out its regulatory responsibilities relative to LNG facilities include the following:

- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on August 31, 2018, strengthening coordination between the agencies to improve the permitting process for FERC jurisdictional LNG facilities.
- Completed a Workforce Management Study in August 2019, to assess the near-term adequacy of the Federal pipeline safety inspector workforce. The workforce planning assessment found that the currently authorized PHMSA Federal inspector force is adequate to perform safety oversight of the regulated pipeline industry.



- Established a formal standard operating procedure (SOP) in September 2019, for reviewing LNG siting. Prior to finalizing the SOP, PHMSA used detailed checklists that documented the siting review process and project trackers that contained internal schedules and milestones to ensure quality assurance and control reviews by management.
- Detailed two employees to PHMSA’s Office of Pipeline Safety Division of Engineering & Research in November 2019, to support the LNG program efforts. This Division onboarded one of the details to a full-time position and began onboarding another full-time engineer in February 2020, to conduct LNG safety design reviews. PHMSA is in the process of hiring one additional engineer. In addition, PHMSA’s Office of Chief Counsel has specialized experience and a team of attorneys to assist with all legal matters related to the LNG safety program.
- Establishing a field team of specialized inspectors focused on LNG facilities. This section will operate under a regional office and maintain oversight of all national LNG inspection requirements, beginning in the Spring of 2020.
- Updating Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 193, and plan to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) titled “Pipeline Safety: Amendments to Liquefied Natural Gas Facilities” in the Spring of 2020.

Upon review of OIG’s draft report, PHMSA concurs with the three recommendations as written. On March 11, 2020, we provided documentation to OIG on actions PHMSA completed to implement Recommendations 1 and 3 and request OIG close both recommendations within 30-days after issuing the final audit report. We plan to implement Recommendation 2 by December 31, 2020.

PHMSA appreciates the opportunity to respond to the OIG’s draft report. Please contact Nancy White, Director of Policy and Planning, at (202) 366-1419 with any questions or if you would like additional details.

