

April 6, 2020

The following message is sent on behalf of Sonya Proctor, TSA Assistant Administrator for Surface Operations:

Dear Pipeline Security Partners,

During this time of uncertainty and the continually changing environment due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, there are questions regarding how TSA will continue to implement the various security assessments within its pipeline security program. First and foremost, TSA affirms that the health and safety of every worker is of the utmost importance, and we must take every reasonable precaution to minimize the exposure of all parties to the COVID-19 virus. I know this is your concern, as well. All of our discussions and decisions are based on this premise.

TSA would like to take this opportunity to give you an update on how we are approaching on site Corporate Security Reviews (CSRs), Critical Facility Security Reviews (CFSRs), and Validated Architecture Design Reviews (VADRs) scheduling during this time when various safety conditions and restrictions are limiting the availability of workforce personnel.

All on site assessments are being postponed and we will work with you to reschedule these assessments for a date after May 31, 2020. Where it is possible, in planning for an assessment, we may contact you to encourage you to provide any pre assessment documentation in preparation for an on-site visit. We recognize that you may be operating with reduced staffing as you meet your operational demands.

It is important to acknowledge that the threats to pipeline security remain and we continue to be concerned regarding cyber threats. There is no reason to believe there has been any change in that threat assessment.

In light of the impact of the response to COVID-19 on pipeline operations, TSA will, when conducting Corporate Security Reviews and Critical Facility Security Reviews adjust its assessment of the recommended activities in Appendix A of the *TSA Pipeline Security Guidelines*. TSA recognizes that planned security activities such as, employee security training and exercises may have been or may have to be postponed in light of travel and workforce protection restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will ensure this is considered when conducting assessments in the future.

During this difficult time, many of your workers are considered “essential” and we know that they are ensuring the security of critical infrastructure upon which the Nation relies. We send our deep appreciation to the workers who are performing these critical functions under challenging circumstances.

TSA remains committed to the collaborative security partnerships that we have with our industry partners across all surface modes and looks forward to reengaging with our pipeline partners across the Nation, as soon as safely possible. As always, we will continue to facilitate information sharing and to address any security concerns that you may have.

Should you have any questions on any of these matters, please reach out to these points of contact:

- Chris Masters – [Christopher.masters@tsa.dhs.gov](mailto:Christopher.masters@tsa.dhs.gov) mobile 907 341 7550
- Nate Beam - [Nathan.beam@tsa.dhs.gov](mailto:Nathan.beam@tsa.dhs.gov) mobile 202 253 9982
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Best regards,

*Sonya*

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