

Damage Prevention Gets a Boost!

The Pipeline Group, Inc. Announces the Opening of New Pennsylvania Office

Monday, May 1, 2006 - Midland, TX - The Pipeline Group, Inc. is pleased to announce the opening of a new office in Western Pennsylvania. The new office will provide a high caliber team of industry professionals to meet the ever-growing, damage prevention needs of the pipeline industry in the northeastern US.

Under the leadership of **James A. Mings** and **William E. Balin**, the new office is set to begin operations on June 1st and will provide *Government Liaison-Emergency Response* and *Public Education-Contractor Awareness* Programs, distribution mailings, and regulatory documentation for Pipeline Companies in a twenty-two state area.

Mr. Mings has been in the pipeline industry since 1979, holding various positions of responsibility, most recently Area Operations Manager for a major pipeline company with facilities in Northeastern OH and Western PA. Mings also holds an MBA from Robert Morris College (now University) of Pittsburgh, PA and two professional designations: Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM) and Registered Environmental Manager (REM). He also holds membership in the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE).

Mr. Balin has eight years of service in the One-Call/Damage Prevention Industry and holds a BS degree in Education from Geneva College. Most recently, Balin has been Manager of Marketing & Education for a state One-Call Center. In addition, he is an active member of the American Public Works Association (APWA) and has held the positions of Secretary and President in the Western Pennsylvania APWA Chapter. He is also the current chairman of the One Call Systems International (OCSI) education committee and One-Call representative to the Common Ground Alliance Membership, Marketing, Communications, and Educational Programs committee.

Joe Murphy, President of The Pipeline Group, Inc., had these comments about the new office: "The Pipeline Group is very excited about this new team of professionals who will provide the best service available to our clients in the Northeast."

The new office will be located in the northern Pittsburgh suburban area. At this time, Mr. Mings can be contacted directly at (724) 316-3992 or james.mings@pipelinegroup.com and Mr. Balin at (724) 504-4230 or bill.balin@pipelinegroup.com. The mailing address will be: **The Pipeline Group, Inc., P.O. Box 467, Zelienople, PA 16063**. The web site for the new office will be www.pipelinegroup.com/pa.