

Harold Montgomery Flaherty
U.S. DOT / Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
Operations Supervisor, Western Region

Harold Flaherty brings over seven years of experience in pipeline safety and transportation and over twenty-seven years in technical, managerial, and leadership roles from private industry. Currently, Mr. Flaherty oversees a team of eight highly skilled and knowledgeable inspectors, and outreach professionals, who inspect gas transmission and hazardous liquid facilities. Harold provides technical and administrative supervision while being responsible for the quality, timeliness, and effectiveness of overall staff performance. He relies heavily on his project management and data analytic skills to formulate and implement policies and procedures to prioritize inspections based on the highest risk involved and has participated in a plethora of other committee and improvement group activities while working at PHMSA.



Mr. Flaherty works closely with various federal, state, local officials, and pipeline operators within the Western Region regarding pipeline safety. He meets with staff regularly, both individually and in a group setting, for Engineering Training sessions (ETS), Safety/Accident sessions, Code sessions, Software training, and team developmental/leadership teachings.

Harold joined PHMSA's Office of Pipeline Safety in 2016 as an inspector in the Western Region. After eighteen months, he was promoted to an operation's supervisory role within the Western Region. Within a few years of being at PHMSA, Mr. Flaherty has distinguished himself as a driven leader who wants to improve PHMSA and dedicates his efforts to doing so and helping others improve. Internal committees and program improvement initiatives include: (a) CRM Committee. (b) Human Factors Conditions Committee for DOT. (c) chair for Construction Inspection Committee. (d) co-chaired External Technical Training Committee. (e) DOT Performance Appraisal Plan Project Team. (f) IPA Support Team. (g) WMS Guidelines Team. (h) DOT Mentoring Program as mentor and mentee. (i) DOT Ideas - Employee Recognition Project.

Mr. Flaherty has been the recipient of numerous awards throughout his career with PHMSA including the Secretaries Award for CIC Compendium (2018/2019); Administrators Award for CRM work (2020/2021), 15th annual PHMSA Awards – Team Award for Innovation: Construction Inspection Committee (2021/2022), Eagle Team Award: Work Management System User Guide and Training Team (2021/2022). Selected for the Advanced Leadership Development Program in 2022.

Prior to joining PHMSA, Mr. Flaherty's career has been wide-ranging with a diverse professional background. Harold worked as an inspector/team manager in Iowa, has experience in data communications, finance/accounting, business process development, and organizational development. Financial analysis of complex, frequently controversial rate and tariff cases for the State of Oregon. Technical skills in Government Licensing Software development, software programming, a customer representative/trainer, and project manager. Wireless and cellular data communication site development. Cyber security and planning of network elements for the Department of Energy and the building of data communication switches and fiber facilities for inner-city and long-haul fiber networks; this was done in a seven-state region, required managing up to seventy employees with fiber projects, with costs upwards of one hundred thirty million.

Harold earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA, in 1995 and obtained his Master of Business Administration with leniency in finance from Gonzaga University in 1996. While a student at Gonzaga, Mr. Flaherty was President of the IEEE society, president and captain of the Bulldog Hockey team, a student body senator and representative for his class, and actively involved managing the Freshmen orientation program at Gonzaga.

Harold has taken his professional educational development seriously by enrolling in numerous technical & managerial training courses including business courses at University of Colorado (UC), Leeds School of Business Customer Experience Program (CEP), a member of UC's Advisory Committee for CEP program, completed cyber security training at PHMSA, and obtained leadership certificate from Thayer University – West Point; utilized to improve understanding of military leadership, its' impacts in Federal Government, and greater comprehension of military culture and its approaches to problem solving.

Mr. Flaherty is very active in his local community by donating time to the Primary Immune Deficiency Foundation working as a patient advocate for PI patients as a crisis counselor for patients in need. Annually donates time and tickets for events in Colorado, i.e. GABF. Harold also worked at the Iowa bike collectives to repair bikes for in-need or underserved communities.

Mr. Flaherty enjoys reading, traveling, fly fishing, and continually learning. He is married to his wife Laura, who works with the Department of Energy in Redmond, OR. The couple have two precious pups, Chloe and Maizey, and one vicious cat, Obie.