



## **Design Guideline for Seismic Resistant Water Pipeline Installations**

Washington, April 18, 2005 – The American Lifelines Alliance (ALA) today issued “Design Guideline for Seismic Resistant Water Pipeline Installations” prepared by G&E Engineering Systems Inc. of Oakland, California. The ALA initiated development of this guideline to provide water utilities with clear and practical guidance for designing water pipelines with improved resistance to damage from earthquakes. In 2003, the ALA found that water utilities in the United States, including those in regions of high seismic risk, install the vast majority of their pipelines with little if any consideration of seismic resistance. A key reason for this deficiency in existing practice was determined to be the absence of adequate seismic design requirements in existing standards for the design and installation of water pipelines. The guideline is intended to provide water utility personnel, pipe designers, and manufacturers with cost-effective approaches to seismic design of water pipelines. Since it represents the current best practice, the guideline identifies procedural gaps and informational needs in the hope that the engineering and manufacturing communities concerned will address these gaps and refine the guidelines before adoption as or reference in national standards and guidelines occurs. The document is posted on the ALA Website ([www.americanlifelinesalliance.org](http://www.americanlifelinesalliance.org)) under the “New Guidelines” page.

The American Lifelines Alliance, which is managed by the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) with funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the Department of Homeland Security, is a public-private partnership with the goal of reducing risks to lifelines (utility and transportation systems) from a variety of hazards.

**CONTACT:** Joe Steller, ALA Program Director, 202 289-7800 x 130; email: [jsteller@nibs.org](mailto:jsteller@nibs.org).