



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration

820 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 103
West Trenton, NJ 08628
609.989.2171

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT

OVERNIGHT EXPRESS MAIL

September 24, 2012

Mr. Randy Barnard
Vice President, Operations
Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC
2800 Post Oak Blvd.
Houston, TX 77056

CPF 1-2012-1021M

Dear Mr. Barnard:

During the week of March 26, 2012, a representative of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code inspected Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC's procedures for O&M in White Haven, PA.

On the basis of the inspection, PHMSA has identified the apparent inadequacies found within Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC's plans or procedures, as described below:

1. 192.605 Procedural manual for operations, maintenance, and emergencies

Each operator shall include the following in its operating and maintenance plan:

(a) General. Each operator shall prepare and follow for each pipeline, a manual of written procedures for conducting operations and maintenance activities and for emergency response. For transmission lines, the manual must also include procedures for handling abnormal operations. This manual must be reviewed and updated by the operator at intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least one each calendar year. This manual must be prepared before operations of a pipeline system commence. Appropriate parts of the manual must be kept at locations where operations and maintenance activities are conducted.

Williams Gas Pipeline – Transco’s procedure for atmospheric corrosion was inadequate in that it failed to provide appropriate guidance to inspecting pipe under thermal insulation in accordance with 192.481b.

The procedure did not provide sufficient details on what areas of the insulated piping should be inspected, such as damaged insulation, low points of vertical runs, areas where pipe supports penetrate the insulation jacketing, or areas with caulking deterioration. In addition, the procedure did not provide adequate guidance on when portions of insulation should be removed to evaluate potential issues identified by visual observations.

2. 192.605 Procedural manual for operations, maintenance, and emergencies

Each operator shall include the following in its operating and maintenance plan:

(a) General. Each operator shall prepare and follow for each pipeline, a manual of written procedures for conducting operations and maintenance activities and for emergency response. For transmission lines, the manual must also include procedures for handling abnormal operations. This manual must be reviewed and updated by the operator at intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least one each calendar year. This manual must be prepared before operations of a pipeline system commence. Appropriate parts of the manual must be kept at locations where operations and maintenance activities are conducted.

Williams Gas Pipeline – Transco’s procedure for atmospheric corrosion was inadequate in that it failed to provide appropriate guidance to inspect pipelines at pipe supports in accordance with 192.481(b).

The procedure does not provide sufficient details on how to inspect piping that is in contact with pipe supports and what actions should be taken when corrosion is noted.

Response to this Notice

This Notice is provided pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 60108(a) and 49 C.F.R. § 190.237. Enclosed as part of this Notice is a document entitled *Response Options for Pipeline Operators in Compliance Proceedings*. Please refer to this document and note the response options. Be advised that all material you submit in response to this enforcement action is subject to being made publicly available. If you believe that any portion of your responsive material qualifies for confidential treatment under 5 U.S.C. 552(b), along with the complete original document you must provide a second copy of the document with the portions you believe qualify for confidential treatment redacted and an explanation of why you believe the redacted information qualifies for confidential treatment under 5 U.S.C. 552(b). If you do not respond within 30 days of receipt of this Notice, this constitutes a waiver of your right to contest the allegations in this Notice and authorizes the Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety to find facts as alleged in this Notice without further notice to you and to issue a Final Order.

If, after opportunity for a hearing, your plans or procedures are found inadequate as alleged in this Notice, you may be ordered to amend your plans or procedures to correct the inadequacies (49 C.F.R. § 190.237). If you are not contesting this Notice, we propose that you submit your amended procedures to my office within 30 days of receipt of this Notice. This period may be extended by written request for good cause. Once the inadequacies identified herein have been addressed in your amended procedures, this enforcement action will be closed.

CPF 1-2012-1021M

It is requested (not mandated) that Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC maintain documentation of the safety improvement costs associated with fulfilling this Notice of Amendment (preparation/revision of plans, procedures) and submit the total to, as well as any correspondence relating to this Notice to: Byron Coy, PE, Director, PHMSA Eastern Region, 820 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 103, W. Trenton, NJ 08628. Please refer to **CPF 1-2012-1021M** on each document you submit, and please provide a (signed) copy in electronic format whenever possible. Smaller files may be emailed to Byron.Coy@dot.gov. Larger files should be sent on a CD accompanied by the original (signed) paper copy to the Eastern Region Office.

Sincerely,



Byron Coy, PE
Director, Eastern Region
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Enclosure: *Response Options for Pipeline Operators in Compliance Proceedings*