



**ConocoPhillips
Pipe Line Company**

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March 6, 2009

Chris Hoidal, Director Western Region
Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
12300 West Dakota Ave, Suite 110
Lakewood, CO 80228

RE: CPF No. 5-2009-5013

Dear Mr. Hoidal,

This letter is in response to your letter dated February 19, 2009 regarding the Notice of Probable Violation (NOPV), received by ConocoPhillips Pipe Line Company (CPPL) on February 24, 2009 issued as a result of the inspection on the Glacier pipeline system August 11 through 15, 2008. CPPL does contest the NOPV at this time, but desires to resolve this matter prior to a hearing if we can obtain your approval that the issue has been resolved per our response below. CPPL is available to discuss this matter prior to a hearing at your convenience.

By submitting this response, CPPL does not waive any right, privilege or objection that it may have in any separate or subsequent proceeding related in any way to the information provided in this response.

Item.1 §195.54 Accident reports.

(a) Each operator that experiences an accident that is required to be reported under §195.50 shall as soon as practicable, but not later than 30 days after discovery of the accident, prepare and file an accident report on DOT Form 7000-1, or a facsimile.

(b) Whenever an operator receives any changes in the information reported or additions to the original report on DOT Form 7000-1, it shall file a supplemental report within 30 days.

PHMSA's Position

CPPL did not determine the cause of a leak on their Glacier Pipeline at the Billings ConocoPhillips refinery. The DOT 7000-1 for Accident Report Number 20070305 has been marked "complete" even though the cause of the leak has not been determined. This failed segment of pipe was abandoned in place and replaced a new pipe section with a different alignment. Though the failed segment is abandoned and is difficult to excavate, it is important for CPPL to determine the cause of this failure so they may take mitigative actions to prevent similar failures of other pipelines in the future.

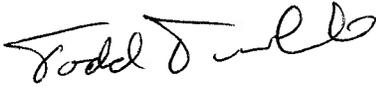
CPPL's Response

Regarding Item 1, CPPL did attempt to complete a site evaluation to determine the cause of the leak. CPPL hydro-vaced the area in several places to determine the approximate location of the source and the relief line suspected to be leaking. The pipeline systems in the area were shut down and a leak test was performed and confirmed the leak to be in the relief line. At that time, CPPL was unable to excavate the area to determine the exact cause of the leak due to the significant congestion of other pipes, cement piers, and conduits in the area. Also, immediately above the relief line, there is a 1'X3'X100' concrete slab from historical refinery operations that made access to the leak very unsafe for personal to dig any farther in that area to determine the exact cause of the leak. CPPL felt that the risk of sustaining an injury out weighed the importance of finding the exact cause of the leak. At that time, CPPL filled the line with grout and put another line in service as the relief line for the Glacier Pipeline System. CPPL agrees that identifying the cause of leaks is very important, but due to the safety and congestion circumstances mentioned above, CPPL was unable to go any farther in determining the exact cause of this leak. Attached to this letter are photos that demonstrate the congestion at the location and risks/dangers that would have been involved if CPPL would have exposed the relief line any farther.

CPPL believes that the relief line likely developed an external corrosion leak based on the extreme congestion of the area and presence of a containing concrete slab, electrical conduits, and permanent structures built on and near the piping. Due to these activities, the pipe coating was likely compromised allowing the cathodic protection to leave the pipe. CPPL will update the 7000-1 report to reflect external corrosion as the suspected cause of the leak, upon approval of the Western Region office.

Should you or anyone in your staff have any questions please call or e-mail me.

Sincerely,

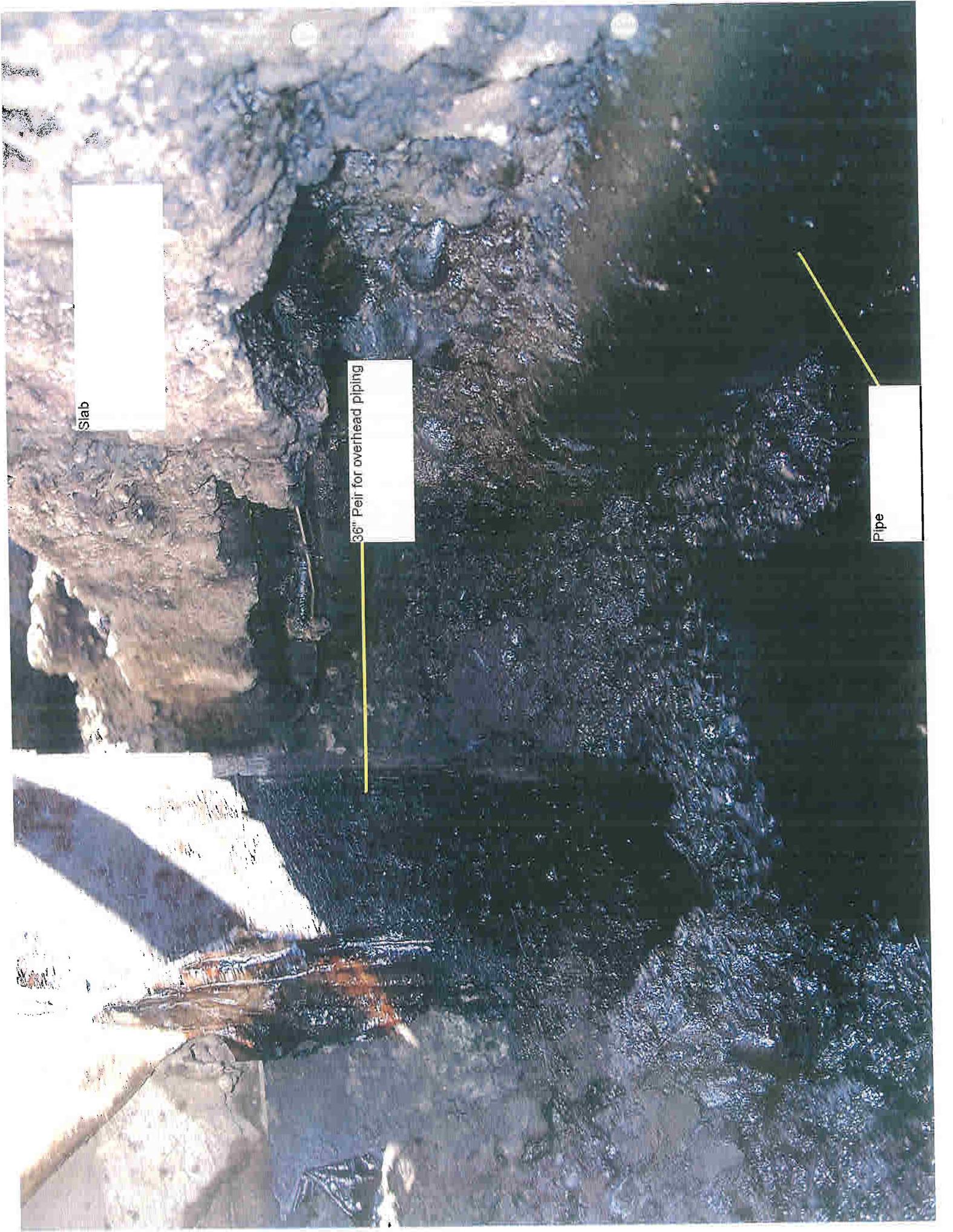
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Tullio". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Todd Tullio
Director, Regulatory Compliance

CC. Gerald Davis PHMSA
Scott Edwards CPPL
Mark Drumm CPPL



Approximate pipeline path



Slab

36" Peir for overhead piping

Pipe

