



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

UPS OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

December 13, 2011

Mr. Werner Schweiger
Sr. Vice President, Operations
NSTAR/Hopkinton LNG Corp.
One NSTAR Way, NE 300
Westwood MA, 02090

CPF 1-2011-3003M

Dear Mr. Schweiger:

During the week of October 4, 2010, representatives of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code inspected Hopkinton LNG Corporation's (Hopkinton LNG) procedures for Hopkinton LNG Plant in Hopkinton, Massachusetts.

On the basis of the inspection, PHMSA has identified apparent inadequacies within Hopkinton LNG's plans or procedures, as described below:

1. 193.2513 Transfer procedures.

(c) In addition to the requirements of paragraph (b) of this section, the procedures for cargo transfer must be located at the transfer area and include provisions for personnel to:

(3) Before transfer, verify that:

(ii) All transfer hoses have been visually inspected for damage and defects;

Hopkinton LNG's Operating Procedures in Sec. 3 fail to require staff to inspect LNG hoses for damage and defects prior to each LNG truck transfer. The regulation is clear that procedures are required for the visual inspection of hoses.

2. 193.2605 Maintenance procedures.

(b) Each operator shall follow one or more manuals of written procedures for the maintenance of each component, including any required corrosion control. The procedure must include:

(1) The details of the inspections or tests determined under paragraph (a) of this section and their frequency of performance; and

Hopkinton LNG's Maintenance Procedure Sec. 3.6.C defines corrosion severity by the terms "GOOD" "FAIR" and "POOR." The values of "FAIR" and "POOR" corrosion have no measurement parameters for the corrosion technician to distinguish between them in order to properly classify corrosion severity.

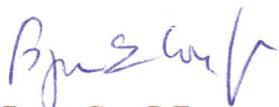
Response to this Notice

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.

It is requested (not mandated) that Hopkinton LNG maintain documentation of the safety improvement costs associated with fulfilling this Notice of Amendment (preparation/revision of plans, procedures) and submit the total, 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 1-2011-3003M** 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 and accompanied by the original (signed) paper copy to the Eastern Region Office.

Sincerely,



Byron Coy, P.E.
Director, Eastern Region
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

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