



## NOTICE OF AMENDMENT

### VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 10, 2023

Mr. Walter L. Allen  
Vice President Natural Gas Liquids Operations  
ONEOK NGL Pipeline, LLC  
100 West Fifth Street, Tulsa OK 74103

**CPF 4-2023-037-NOA**

Dear Mr. Allen:

From March 4 to September 23, 2022, a representative of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code (U.S.C.) inspected ONEOK NGL Pipeline, LLC's (ONEOK) integrity management plan in Spearfish, South Dakota.

On the basis of the inspection, PHMSA has identified the apparent inadequacy found within ONEOK's procedures, as described below:

**1. § 195.402 Procedural manual for operations, maintenance, and emergencies.**

(a) . . . .

(c) *Maintenance and normal operations.* The manual required by paragraph (a) of this section must include procedures for the following to provide safety during maintenance and normal operations:

(1) . . . .

(3) Operating, maintaining, and repairing the pipeline system in accordance with each of the requirements of this subpart and subpart H of this part.

**§ 195.452 Pipeline integrity management in high consequence areas.**

(a) . . . .

(j) *What is a continual process of evaluation and assessment to maintain a pipeline's integrity? -*

(1) *General.* After completing the baseline integrity assessment, an operator must continue to assess the line pipe at specified intervals and periodically evaluate the integrity of each pipeline segment that could affect a high consequence area.

ONEOK's written integrity management plan was inadequate to assure safe operation of a pipeline facility in accordance with § 195.402(c)(3). Specifically, ONEOK's integrity management plan, *ONEOK HLIMP (Rev 1.1 – Effective: 11/1/21)*, failed to include procedures to periodically evaluate the integrity of each pipeline segment that could affect a high consequence area in accordance with § 195.452(j)(1).

Section 10 of ONEOK's integrity management plan requires a periodic evaluation of pipeline segments, but the plan failed to provide details on this periodic evaluation, and it failed to state how often the periodic evaluation must occur. The plan must contain a step by step process that personnel can follow to conduct the periodic evaluation.

Therefore, ONEOK's written integrity management plan was inadequate to assure safe operation of a pipeline facility in accordance with § 195.402(c)(3). ONEOK must revise its integrity management plan to include detailed procedures to conduct a periodic evaluation in accordance with § 195.452(j)(1).

#### Response to this Notice

This Notice is provided pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 60108(a) and 49 C.F.R. § 190.206. 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).

Following the receipt of this Notice, you have 30 days to submit written comments, revised procedures, or a request for a hearing under § 190.211. 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 an Order Directing Amendment. If 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. § 190.206). 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 ONEOK maintain documentation of the safety improvement costs associated with fulfilling this Notice of Amendment (preparation/revision of plans, procedures) and submit the total to Bryan Lethcoe, Director, Southwest Region, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. In correspondence concerning this matter, please refer

to **CPF 4-2023-037-NOA** and, for each document you submit, please provide a copy in electronic format whenever possible.

Sincerely,

Bryan Lethcoe  
Director, Southwest Region  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Enclosure: Response Options for Pipeline Operators in Enforcement Proceedings

cc: Brent Theede, Compliance Manager, [Brent.Theede@oneok.com](mailto:Brent.Theede@oneok.com)