



**United Refining Company • Petroleum Products**

Environmental Department

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July 15, 2015

Mr. Byron Coy, PE  
Director, Eastern Region  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration  
820 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 103  
West Trenton, NJ 08628

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CW

**RE: CPF 1-2015-5010  
Kiantone Pipeline Corporation**

Dear Mr. Coy:

This letter is in response to the Notice of Probable Violation and Proposed Civil Penalty received by Kiantone Pipeline Corporation regarding failure to inspect and test pressure relief valves at intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least once each calendar year. Kiantone does not contest the alleged violation but wishes to provide additional explanation that warrants mitigation of the civil penalty.

The main contributing factor to the delayed testing and inspection of the tank farm relief valves was a misinterpretation of the regulatory requirements by Kiantone Pipeline. Kiantone had incidentally reversed the requirement and believed that relief valves needed to be inspected and tested 'every calendar year, not to exceed 15 months,' which allowed rollover into the next year. The result of which would have been a delinquency of only 12 days rather than 102 days. Although the due date was still late, the timeframe was significantly less and the relief valves were still tested. Kiantone did not realize this misinterpretation until the PHMSA inspector provided a clear explanation during the audit from which this NOPV was generated. Kiantone has since corrected this scheduling error as can be seen in the following table:

Calendar Year	Tank Farm Relief Valve Testing/Inspection Performed
2011	12/2/2011
2012	3/14/2013
2013	12/19/2013
2014	12/22/2014

In addition to the misunderstanding of the regulatory requirements, Kiantone would also like to note that this error did not result in any unsafe condition or impact persons or the environment. Kiantone requests consideration of the above circumstances when PHMSA prepares issuance of the Final Order.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me directly at the above number.

Very truly yours,

UNITED REFINING COMPANY

Daniel Sobina  
Regulatory Compliance Manager