May 1, 2013

Mr. Wayne Simmons
Vice President, Operations
Products Pipelines
Plantation Pipe Line Company
Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P.
500 Dallas Street, Suite 1000
Houston, TX 77002

CPF 2-2011-5009

Dear Mr. Simmons:

On February 28, 2013, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) issued to Plantation Pipe Line Company (PPL) a Final Order in the above-referenced case. The Order included a Compliance Order. OPS withdrew the proposed civil penalty.

The Compliance Order required PPL to “...prepare a plan to confirm the maximum operating pressure (MOP) of the Bremen-Knoxville Line (Line 8KX)...” The intent was that PPL must not operate its Line 8KX above an MOP of 1440 psig without an approved plan from the Director of the OPS Southern Region.

The OPS Southern Region received your correspondence dated April 24, 2013, in which you stated PPL’s intent to maintain the MOP of Line 8KX at 1440 psig. You further stated, “Should it be necessary to increase the MOP in the future, KM [PPL] will develop a plan and submit it to the Director, Southern Region as required by the Order.”

Your actions make the plan required by the Compliance Order moot at this point. Therefore, we have closed this case with the understanding (as stated in your letter) that Line 8KX will operate at an MOP of 1440 psig or less and that PPL will develop a plan and submit it to the Director, OPS Southern Region as required by the Compliance Order if the need to raise the MOP above 1440 psig occurs at any time in the future. That is, the terms of the Compliance Order survive this case closure for PPL [KM] or any future operator of the pipeline.
Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Wayne T. Lemoi
Director, Office of Pipeline Safety
PHMSA Southern Region