



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and  
Hazardous Materials Safety  
Administration**

901 Locust Street, Suite 462  
Kansas City, MO 64106-2641

**NOTICE OF PROBABLE VIOLATION  
and  
PROPOSED COMPLIANCE ORDER**

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

December 12, 2008

Mr. Robert S. Bahnick  
Sr. Vice President of Operations and Technical Services  
Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline Inc.  
4700 Hwy 56  
Owensboro, KY 42301

**CPF 3-2008-1005**

Dear Mr. Bahnick:

On June 2-5, July 8-10, 22-24, and August 5-8, 2008, representatives of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code inspected your records and various facilities in Kansas and Missouri.

As a result of the inspection, it appears that you have committed probable violations of the Pipeline Safety Regulations, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations. The items inspected and the probable violation(s) are:

1. **§192.203 Instrument, control, and sampling pipe and components.**
  - (b) **Materials and design. All materials employed for pipe and components must be designed to meet the particular conditions of service and the following:**
    - (9) **Each control line must be protected from anticipated causes of damage and must be designed and installed to prevent damage to any one control line from making both the regulator and the over-pressure protective device inoperative.**

Several Southern Star fuel gas regulator stations at the compressor stations were installed such that the control lines for the operator and monitor were on the same pressure sensing tap. Single failure at the tap would result in the loss of both the operator and monitor causing an over-pressure situation.

The locations noted in the field were the Hugoton Regulator Station at the Ottawa Compressor Station and the Low Pressure Fuel Measurement at the Americus Compressor Station. All the facilities noted were installed after 1971.

**2. §192.227 Qualification of welders.**

**(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, each welder must be qualified in accordance with section 6 of API 1104 (incorporated by reference, see § 192.7) or section IX of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (incorporated by reference, see § 192.7). However, a welder qualified under an earlier edition than listed in § 192.7 of this part may weld but may not requalify under that earlier edition.**

Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline Inc (Southern Star) did not correctly test the coupons that were pulled for a welder's qualification test per API 1104.

Review of a 2004 qualification test found that a welder qualified on a 2 3/8 inch diameter butt weld for single qualification. The weld was cut into four straps where two of the straps were subjected to the nick break test and the other two were tested via the root bend and face bend test. According to API 1104, there should have been two nick break tests and two root bend tests. API 1104 does not allow a substitution of the face bend test for a root bend test.

**3. §192.625 Odorization of gas.**

**(a) A combustible gas in a distribution line must contain a natural odorant or be odorized so that at a concentration in air of one-fifth of the lower explosive limit, the gas is readily detectable by a person with a normal sense of smell.**

**(b) After December 31, 1976, a combustible gas in a transmission line in a Class 3 or Class 4 location must comply with the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section unless:**

**(1) At least 50 percent of the length of the line downstream from that location is in a Class 1 or Class 2 location;**

**(2) The line transports gas to any of the following facilities which received gas without an odorant from that line before May 5, 1975:**

**(i) An underground storage field;**

**(ii) A gas processing plant;**

**(iii) A gas dehydration plant; or**

**(iv) An industrial plant using gas in a process where the presence of an odorant:**

**(A) Makes the end product unfit for the purpose for which it is intended;**

- (B) Reduces the activity of a catalyst; or**
- (C) Reduces the percentage completion of a chemical reaction**
- (3) In the case of a lateral line which transports gas to a distribution center, at least 50 percent of the length of that line is in a Class 1 or Class 2 location.;**

Southern Star is not odorizing a lateral in the Welda operating area that is over 50% Class 3.

Review of the class location records in the Welda operating area found that the lateral DW-003 did not meet the exception to odorization provided in §192.625(b)(3) and is not being odorized. The lateral in question does not have at least 50% of its length in Class one or Class two locations. Greater than 50% of the length of the line is located in Class three locations.

#### **4. §192.751 Prevention of accidental ignition.**

**Each operator shall take steps to minimize the danger of accidental ignition of gas in any structure or area where the presence of gas constitutes a hazard of fire or explosion, including the following:**

- (a) When a hazardous amount of gas is being vented into open air, each potential source of ignition must be removed from the area and a fire extinguisher must be provided.**
- (b) Gas or electric welding or cutting may not be performed on pipe or on pipe components that contain a combustible mixture of gas and air in the area of work.**
- (c) Post warning signs, where appropriate.**

Southern Star personnel did not remove a potential source of ignition in one of their town border stations.

At the AFG Glass Plant tap, a battery is utilized to start the heaters for the regulators in the regulator building. The wires that connect the heater to an outside power source terminate inside the building. The open ends of the wire could cause an unintentional ignition if the connection is done inside the building. The wires should terminate outside the building.

#### Proposed Compliance Order

Pursuant to 49 United States Code § 60118, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration proposes to issue a Compliance Order to Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline Inc. with respect to Item 3. Please refer to the *Proposed Compliance Order* that is enclosed and made a part of this Notice.

Warning Items

With respect to item(s) one, two, and four, we have reviewed the circumstances and supporting documents involved in this case and have decided not to conduct additional enforcement action or penalty assessment proceedings at this time. We advise you to promptly correct these item(s). Be advised that failure to do so may result in Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline Inc being subject to additional enforcement action.

Response to this Notice

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.

In your correspondence on this matter, please refer to **CPF 3-2008-1005** and for each document you submit, please provide a copy in electronic format whenever possible.

Sincerely,



Ivan A. Huntoon  
Director, Central Region  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Enclosures: *Proposed Compliance Order*  
*Response Options for Pipeline Operators in Compliance Proceedings*

## PROPOSED COMPLIANCE ORDER

Pursuant to 49 United States Code § 60118, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) proposes to issue to Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline Inc a Compliance Order incorporating the following remedial requirements to ensure the compliance of Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline Inc with the pipeline safety regulations:

1. In regard to Item Number 3 of the Notice pertaining to odorization of the DW-003 lateral, provide a schedule of when odorization will be installed on the lateral. Additionally, Southern Star must conduct an evaluation of the entire Southern Star system to identify all branch lines and mainlines that meet the criteria for odorization outlined in §192.625(b). This Schedule for odorization on DW-003 and the evaluation is to be completed within 60 days of your receipt of the Final Order for this case. Additionally, Southern Star must:
  - A. Provide a schedule detailing Southern Star's plans for providing odorization for all pipelines that are determined to require odorization. Odorization is to be completed within one (1) year of your receipt of the Final Order.
  - B. Provide your current procedures relating to the installation, operation, and maintenance of odorizers. Additionally, provide your current procedures for review and determination of which transmission pipelines must be odorized. Provide these procedures within 30 days of your receipt of the Final Order.
2. Southern Star shall maintain documentation of the safety improvement costs associated with fulfilling this Compliance Order and submit the total to Ivan A. Huntoon, Director, Central Region, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. Costs shall be reported in two categories: 1) total cost associated with preparation/revision of plans, procedures, studies and analyses, and 2) total cost associated with replacements, additions and other changes to pipeline infrastructure.

## **Response Options for Pipeline Operators in Compliance Proceedings**

The requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 190, Subpart B (§§ 190.201–190.237) govern response to Notices issued by a Regional Director, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

Be advised that all material submitted by a respondent in response to an 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).

### **I. Procedures for Responding to a NOTICE OF PROBABLE VIOLATION:**

Within 30 days of receipt of a Notice of Probable Violation, the respondent shall respond to the Regional Director who issued the Notice in the following way:

#### **a. When the Notice contains a proposed CIVIL PENALTY\* --**

1. If you are not contesting any violations alleged in the Notice, pay the proposed civil penalty and advise the Regional Director of the payment. This authorizes PHMSA to make findings and to close the case with prejudice to the respondent. Payment terms are outlined below;
2. If you are not contesting any violations alleged in the Notice but wish to submit written explanations, information, or other materials you believe warrant mitigation of the civil penalty, you may submit such materials. This authorizes PHMSA to make findings and to issue a Final Order assessing a penalty amount up to the amount proposed in the Notice;
3. If you are contesting one or more of the items in the Notice but are not requesting an oral hearing, submit a written response to the allegations and/or seek elimination or mitigation of the proposed civil penalty. Refer to 49 C.F.R. § 190.225 for assessment considerations, which include the respondent's ability to pay and the effect on the respondent's ability to stay in business, upon which civil penalties are based; or
4. Request a hearing as described below to contest the allegations and/or proposed assessment of a civil penalty.

#### **b. When the Notice contains a proposed COMPLIANCE ORDER\* --**

1. If you are not contesting the compliance order, notify the Regional Director that you intend to take the steps in the proposed compliance order;

2. If you are not contesting the compliance order but wish to submit written explanations, information, or other materials you believe warrant modification of the proposed compliance order in whole or in part, or you seek clarification of the terms of the proposed compliance order, you may submit such materials. This authorizes PHMSA to make findings and issue a compliance order;
3. If you are contesting the proposed compliance order but are not requesting an oral hearing, submit written explanations, information, or other materials in answer to the allegations in the Notice and stating your reasons for objecting to the proposed compliance order items in whole or in part; or
4. Request a hearing as described below to contest the allegations and/or proposed compliance order items.

c. When the Notice contains a **WARNING ITEM** --

No written response is required. The respondent is warned that if it does not take appropriate action to correct these items, enforcement action will be taken if a subsequent inspection reveals a violation.

\* Failure of the respondent to respond to the Notice within 30 days of receipt constitutes a waiver of the right to contest the allegations in the Notice and authorizes the Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety to find facts as alleged in the Notice without further notice to the respondent and to issue a Final Order.

II. **Procedures for Responding to a NOTICE OF AMENDMENT\***—

Within 30 days of receipt of a Notice of Amendment, the respondent shall respond to the Regional Director who issued the Notice in the following way:

- a. If you are not contesting the Notice, notify the Regional Director of your plans to address the inadequacies identified in the Notice;
- b. If you are not contesting the Notice but wish to submit written explanations, information, or other materials you believe warrant modification of the Notice of Amendment in whole or in part, or you seek clarification of the terms of the Notice of Amendment, you may submit such materials. This authorizes PHMSA to make findings and issue an Order Directing Amendment;
- c. If you are contesting the Notice of Amendment but are not requesting an oral hearing, submit written explanations, information, or other materials in answer to the allegations in the Notice and stating your reasons for objecting to the Notice of Amendment items in whole or in part; or

d. Request a hearing as described below to contest the allegations in the Notice.

\* Failure of the respondent to respond to the Notice within 30 days of receipt constitutes a waiver of the right to contest the allegations in the Notice and authorizes the Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety to find facts as alleged in the Notice without further notice to the respondent and to issue a Final Order.

### III. **Procedure for Requesting a Hearing**

A request for a hearing must be in writing and accompanied by a statement of the issues that the respondent intends to raise at the hearing. The issues may relate to the allegations, new information, or to the proposed compliance order or proposed civil penalty amount. Refer to 49 C.F.R. § 190.225 for assessment considerations upon which civil penalties are based. A respondent's failure to specify an issue may result in waiver of the right to raise that issue at the hearing. The respondent's request must also indicate whether or not respondent will be represented by counsel at the hearing. Failure to request a hearing in writing within 30 days of receipt of a Notice waives the right to a hearing. In addition, if the amount of the proposed civil penalty or the proposed corrective action is less than \$10,000, the hearing will be held by telephone, unless the respondent submits a written request for an in-person hearing. Complete hearing procedures can be found at 49 C.F.R. § 190.211.

### IV. **Extensions of Time**

An extension of time to prepare an appropriate response to a Notice may be granted, at the agency's discretion, following submittal of a written request to the Regional Director. The request must indicate the amount of time needed and the reasons for the extension. The request must be submitted within 30 days of receipt of the Notice.

### V. **Freedom of Information Act**

Any material provided to PHMSA by the respondent, and materials prepared by PHMSA including the Notice and any order issued in this case, may be considered public information and subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). If you believe the information you are providing is security sensitive, privileged, confidential or may cause your company competitive disadvantages, please clearly identify the material and provide justification why the documents, or portions of a document, should not be released under FOIA. If we receive a request for your material, we will notify you if PHMSA, after reviewing the materials and your provided justification, determines that withholding the materials does not meet any exemption provided under the FOIA. You may appeal the agency's decision to release material under the FOIA at that time. Your appeal will stay the release of those materials until a final decision is made.

### VI. **Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act Information**

The Small Business and Agricultural Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and 10 Regional Fairness Boards were established to receive comments from small businesses about federal agency enforcement actions. The Ombudsman will annually evaluate the enforcement activities and rate each agency's responsiveness to small business. If you



wish to comment on the enforcement actions of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, call 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247) or go to [http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman/dsp\\_faq.html](http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman/dsp_faq.html).

VII. **Payment Instructions**

***Civil Penalty Payments of Less Than \$10,000***

Payment of a civil penalty of less than \$10,000 proposed or assessed, under Subpart B of Part 190 of the Pipeline Safety Regulations can be made by certified check, money order or wire transfer. Payment by certified check or money order (containing the CPF Number for this case) should be made payable to the "Department of Transportation" and should be sent to:

Federal Aviation Administration  
Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center  
Financial Operations Division (AMZ-341) P.O. Box 25082  
Oklahoma City, OK 73125-4915

Wire transfer payments of less than \$10,000 may be made through the Federal Reserve Communications System (Fedwire) to the account of the U.S. Treasury. Detailed instructions are provided below. Questions concerning wire transfer should be directed to the Financial Operations Division at (405) 954-8893, or at the above address.

***Civil Penalty Payments of \$10,000 or more***

Payment of a civil penalty of \$10,000 or more proposed or assessed under Subpart B of Part 190 of the Pipeline Safety Regulations must be made wire transfer (49 C.F.R. § 89.21 (b)(3)), through the Federal Reserve Communications System (Fedwire) to the account of the U.S. Treasury. Detailed instructions are provided below. Questions concerning wire transfers should be directed to the Financial Operations Division at (405) 954-8893, or at the above address.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFERS

(1) <u>RECEIVER ABA NO.</u> 021030004	(2) <u>TYPE/SUB-TYPE</u> (Provided by sending bank)
(3) <u>SENDING BANK ABA NO.</u> (Provided by sending bank)	(4) <u>SENDING BANK REF NO.</u> (Provided by sending bank)
(5) <u>AMOUNT</u>	(6) <u>SENDING BANK NAME</u> (Provided by sending bank)
(7) <u>RECEIVER NAME</u> TREAS NYC	(8) <u>PRODUCT CODE</u> (Normally CTR, or as provided by sending bank)
(9) <u>BENEFICIAL (BNF) = AGENCY LOCATION CODE</u> BNF = /ALC-69-14-0001	(10) <u>REASONS FOR PAYMENT</u> Example: PHMSA - CPF # / Ticket Number/Pipeline Assessment number

**INSTRUCTIONS:** You, as sender of the wire transfer, must provide the sending bank with the information for blocks (1), (5), (7), (9), and (10). The information provided in Blocks (1), (7), and (9) are constant and remain the same for all wire transfers to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation.

**Block #1** - RECEIVER ABA NO. - "021030004". Ensure the sending bank enters this 9-digit identification number; it represents the routing symbol for the U.S. Treasury at the Federal Reserve Bank in New York.

**Block #5** - AMOUNT - You as the sender provide the amount of the transfer. Please be sure the transfer amount is punctuated with commas and a decimal point. **EXAMPLE: \$10,000.00**

**Block #7** - RECEIVER NAME - "TREAS NYC". Ensure the sending bank enters this abbreviation. It must be used for all wire transfers to the Treasury Department.

**Block #9** - BENEFICIAL - AGENCY LOCATION CODE - "BNF=/ALC-69-14-0001". Ensure the sending bank enters this information. This is the Agency Location Code for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation.

**Block #10** - REASON FOR PAYMENT - "AC-payment for PHMSA Case # / To ensure your wire transfer is credited properly, enter the case number/ticket number or Pipeline Assessment number, and country."

**NOTE:** A wire transfer must comply with the format and instructions or the Department cannot accept the wire transfer. You as the sender can assist this process by notifying the Financial Operations Division (405) 954-8893 at the time you send the wire transfer.

May 2008