



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety Administration**

901 Locust Street, Suite 480
Kansas City, MO 64106

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO: Kevin.Burdick@ONEOK.com and
Roger.Thorpe@ONEOK.com

September 30, 2020

Mr. Kevin Burdick
Executive VP and Chief Operating Officer
ONEOK Inc.
100 West Fifth Street,
Tulsa, OK 74103
Kevin.burdick@ONEOK.com

CPF 3-2020-1004M

Dear Mr. Burdick:

During July and August 2018, representatives of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code, inspected your subsidiary's, Viking Gas Transmission Company (Viking), procedures near Ada, Minnesota, regarding compressor stations.

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

1. **§ 192.605 Procedural manual for operations, maintenance, and emergencies.**
 - (a) . . .
 - (b) **Maintenance and normal operations. The manual required by paragraph (a) of this section must include procedures for the following, if applicable, to provide safety during maintenance and operations.**

(1) Operating, maintaining, and repairing the pipeline in accordance with each of the requirements of this subpart and subpart M of this part.

§192.735 Compressor stations: Storage of combustible materials.

(a) Flammable or combustible materials in quantities beyond those required for everyday use, or other than those normally used in compressor buildings, must be stored a safe distance from the compressor building.

Viking's Procedure NGPsaf3.340 "Flammable and Combustible Material" (rev 6-13-13) is inadequate because it does not describe common materials that could be flammable or combustible (such as cardboard boxes, wooden pallets, paper products) in quantities beyond those required for everyday use to ensure that those materials are stored a safe distance from the compressor building, and not inside the compressor building. The procedure mentions "Class A combustibles," but does not define what Class A combustible materials are. The procedure also discusses limiting flammable and combustible materials storage in the compressor buildings, and warehousing flammable and combustible materials a safe distance from compressor buildings, however, there is not enough information for a person on staff to know what quantities are required for everyday use, or materials or quantities normally used in the compressor buildings. Therefore, Viking must amend its procedures to define what Class A combustible materials are, and address the quantities of flammable or combustible materials beyond what is required for everyday use.

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 45 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 Viking Gas Transmission Company maintain documentation of the safety improvement costs associated with fulfilling this Notice of

Amendment (preparation/revision of plans, procedures) and submit the total to Mr. Allan Beshore, Director, Central Region, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. In correspondence concerning this matter, please refer to **CPF 3-2020-1004M** and, for each document you submit, please provide a copy in electronic format whenever possible.

Sincerely,

Gregory A. Ochs,
Director, Central Region, OPS
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

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

CC: Mr. Roger Thorpe, Vice President Gas Pipeline Operations, Viking Gas Transmission Company, 100 West Fifth Street, Tulsa, OK 74103 Roger.Thorpe@ONEOK.com