

JUN 09 2009

Mr. M. Dwayne Burton
Vice President
Pipeline Operations and Engineering
Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America
500 Dallas St. Suite 1000
Houston, TX 77002

Re: CPF No. 4-2006-1013

Dear Mr. Burton:

Enclosed is the Final Order issued in the above-referenced case. It makes a finding of violation and finds that you have completed the actions specified in the Notice required to comply with the pipeline safety regulations. This case is now closed. Your receipt of the Final Order constitutes service of that document under 49 C.F.R. § 190.5.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Wiese
Associate Administrator
for Pipeline Safety

Enclosure

cc: Mr. R. M. Seeley, Southwest Region Director, PHMSA

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED [7005 1160 0001 0046 9532]

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF PIPELINE SAFETY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590**

_____)	
In the Matter of)	
)	
Natural Gas Pipeline Company of)	CPF No. 4-2006-1013
America,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
_____)	

FINAL ORDER

On January 31 through February 4, 2005, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 60117, a representative of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) conducted an on-site pipeline safety inspection of the facilities and records of the Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America (Respondent or NGPL). Respondent's system consists of 2,367 miles of natural gas transmission pipeline, including 14 compressor stations and one storage facility. As a result of the inspection, the Director, Southwestern Region, OPS (Director), issued to Respondent, by letter dated May 2, 2006, a Notice of Probable Violation and Proposed Compliance Order (Notice). In accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 190.207, the Notice proposed finding that Respondent had violated 49 C.F.R. § 192.605(a) and proposed ordering Respondent to take certain measures to correct the alleged violations.

Respondent responded to the Notice by letter dated May 24, 2006 (Response). Respondent did not contest the allegation of violation and provided information concerning the corrective actions it had taken. Respondent did not request a hearing and therefore has waived its right to one.

FINDING OF VIOLATION

In its Response, Respondent did not contest the allegation in the Notice that it violated 49 C.F.R. § 192.605(a) as follows:

Item 1: The Notice alleged that Respondent violated 49 C.F.R. § 192.605(a), which states:

§ 192.605 Procedural manual for operations, maintenance, and emergencies.

(a) *General.* Each operator shall prepare and follow for each pipeline, a manual of written procedures for conducting operations and maintenance activities and for emergency response. For transmission lines, the manual must also include procedures for handling abnormal operations. This manual must be reviewed and updated by the operator at intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least once each calendar year. This manual must be prepared before operations of a pipeline system commence. Appropriate parts of the manual must be kept at locations where operations and maintenance activities are conducted.

The Notice alleged Respondent failed to have these required manuals of written procedures at each location where operations and maintenance activities are conducted. The Notice specifically alleged that Respondent violated 49 C.F.R. § 192.605(a) by failing to have those required manuals of written procedures at its locations in: Robstown, Texas; Victoria, Texas; Wharton, Texas; New Caney, Texas; Devers, Texas; Lufkin, Texas; Longview, Texas; Marshall, Texas; Roxton, Texas; Chico, Texas; Cameron, Louisiana; Pittsburg, Oklahoma; and Ratliff City, Oklahoma. During the OPS inspection, the inspector was referred to NGPL/KM Procedure 1900, a corporate procedure manual that provides guidelines for abnormal operations and stated that each location would develop site-specific procedures based on those guidelines. However, when personnel at the locations listed above were asked for their site-specific procedures, they were unable to provide them.

Respondent did not contest the allegation of violation. Accordingly, I find that Respondent violated 49 C.F.R. § 192.605(a) by failing to maintain manuals for handling abnormal operations for each location where operation and maintenance activities are conducted.

This finding of violation will be considered a prior offense in any subsequent enforcement action taken against Respondent.

COMPLIANCE ORDER

The Notice proposed a compliance order with respect to Item 1 in the Notice for violation of 49 C.F.R. § 192.605(a).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 60118(a), each person who engages in the transportation of gas or hazardous liquids or who owns or operates a pipeline facility is required to comply with the applicable safety standards established under chapter 601. The Director has indicated that Respondent has taken the following actions specified in the proposed compliance order:

On November 20, 2007, Respondent provided copies of the site-specific procedures for the 13 sites referenced in Item 1 of this Order. The procedures were reviewed by the Director and found to be adequate.

Accordingly, since compliance has been achieved with respect to this violation, the compliance terms are not included in this Order.

The terms and conditions of this Final Order shall be effective upon receipt.

Jeffrey D. Wiese
Associate Administrator
for Pipeline Safety

Date Issued