



U.S. Department
of Transportation

8701 S. Gessner, Suite 1110
Houston, TX 77074

Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration

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

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

April 1, 2014

Mr. Pete Kirsch
Sr. VP, Pipeline Operations and Engineering
Enable Gas Transmission, LLC
Enable Mississippi River Transmission, LLC
1111 Louisiana Street
Houston, TX 77002

CPF 4-2014-1004

Dear Mr. Kirsch:

In 2006, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. §60118(c) and 49 C.F.R. §190.341, Enable Gas Transmission, LLC (formerly Centerpoint Gas Transmission Co.) filed a special permit request with Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), for a waiver from certain provisions of 49 C.F.R. §192 (§192.111 and §192.201). PHMSA issues special permits to pipeline operators if the agency determines that a waiver of a particular regulation or standard is not inconsistent with pipeline safety. On July 31, 2007 PHMSA issued an order granting Enable Gas Transmission, LLC (EGT) a special permit with certain conditions and limitations (Order). *See* PHMSA-2006-25802.

The EGT pipeline, Line CP, is a 172-mile, 42-inch diameter pipeline that transports natural gas from Panola County, Carthage, Texas to Richland Parish, Perryville, Louisiana. In calendar years 2006 and 2007, EGT built and began its operation.

As a result of a Control Room Management inspection conducted September 9-10, 2013, it appears that you have committed a probable violation of the Order. As stated in 49 C.F.R. §190.203(f), when information obtained from an inspection indicates that further OPS action is warranted, OPS may initiate one or more enforcement proceedings prescribed in §§ 190.207 and 190.235.

1. **Condition 25 - Order Granting Special Permit [Docket No. PHMSA-2006-25802] Grant of Special Permit; CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission Company (now known as Enable Gas Transmission, LLC).**

Mainline Valve Control: Mainline valves located on either side of a pipeline segment containing a High Consequence Area (HCA) where personnel response time to the valve exceeds one hour must be remotely controlled by the SCADA system. The SCADA system must be capable of opening and closing the valve and monitoring the valve position, upstream pressure and downstream pressure. As an alternative, a leak detection system for mainline valve control is acceptable.

EGT verified there are 2 valves on Line CP that are remotely controlled by the SCADA system. The EGT Line CP Special Permit Pipeline Procedures and Procedure Addendums state,

“Additional Mainline Valve Control requirements for special permit areas of Line CP.

Mainline valves located on either side of pipeline segment containing a High Consequence Area (HCA) where personnel response time to the valve exceeds one (1) hour must be remotely controlled by the SCADA system. The SCADA system must be capable of opening and closing the valve and monitoring the valve position, upstream pressure and downstream pressure.”

EGT stated that the valve maintenance requirements for the 2 valves do not include the testing and inspection of SCADA to ensure the system is capable of opening and closing each valve and monitoring each valve position, upstream and downstream pressure. The Enable Operating and Maintenance Plan Procedure No. 232 Emergency Valve Operation and Maintenance (Ref. 192.179 and 192.745), section A. Requirement states,

- “1. The following are designated as emergency valves:
 - a. All mainline sectionalizing block valves as specified by DOT 192.179.

...

Note: See Addendum for Additional Special Permit Pipeline Requirements.

Each of these valves shall be partially operated at intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least once each calendar year.

- 2. The inspection and maintenance will include the following:
 - a. Check valve for atmospheric corrosion.
 - b. Lubrication will be applied, if applicable.
 - c. The valve support and pipe support, if applicable, will be checked.
 - d. Any required maintenance will be performed.
 - e. All valves will be operated from full open to full close if practical. Otherwise, the valves will be operated from full open to one half closed or operated through as much travel as possible without interrupting the flow of gas to the point of possible operational upset.
 - f. The Company shall take prompt remedial action when any valve is found inoperable, unless the Company designates an alternative valve.
 - g. Upon completion of the inspection and maintenance, the inspector will verify that the valve is left in the proper operating position.”

PHMSA expects SCADA to be included as part of the annual inspection and testing of valves that are remotely controlled by SCADA.

2. **§192.631 Control room management.**

(e) **Alarm management. Each operator using a SCADA system must have a written alarm management plan to provide for effective controller response to alarms. An operator's plan must include provisions to:**

- (5) **Monitor the content and volume of general activity being directed to and required of each controller at least once each calendar year, but at intervals not to exceed 15 months, that will assure controllers have sufficient time to analyze and react to incoming alarms;**

Enable failed to monitor the content and volume of general activity being directed to and required of each controller at least once each calendar year, but at intervals not to exceed 15 months, to assure controllers have sufficient time to analyze and react to incoming alarms. Enable exceeded the interval of 15 months for 5 controllers.

The Enable Gas Transmission System Control Program Procedure PS-08-01-202 EGT SYSTEM CONTROL ALARM MANAGEMENT, section 2.12 Review Controller Activity, original date 4/29/2010 and the Enable Mississippi River Transmission System Control Program Procedure PS-08-01-252 ENABLE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRANSMISSION SYSTEM CONTROL – ALARM MANAGEMENT PLAN, section 2.8.4 Review Controller Activity, original date 1/01/2011 states,

“The content and volume of activities for each controller shall be monitored, and if necessary remedied, to assure sufficient time to analyze and properly act on incoming alarms, as appropriate. Annual monitoring of each controller, not to exceed 15 months, will be initiated by Maintenance Management System (MMS) and shall be conducted by System Control, with the findings documented on Form GT8268, ‘Activity Review’, and maintained for five (5) years by System Control Management.”

The Code of Federal Regulations §192.631(a)(2) states that procedures required for 192.631(c) be implemented no later than August 1, 2012. Enable had procedures in place for EGT on April 29, 2010 and for EMRT on January 1, 2011. PHMSA reviewed the forms CT8268 for EGT and EMRT and found the following:

- EGT had 3 controllers that exceeded the 15 month interval on the Activity Review by 58, 66 and 79 days respectively.
- EMRT had 2 controllers that exceeded the 15 month interval on the Activity Review by 12 and 17 days respectively.

The Enable System Control Program Procedures were in place and implemented prior to August 1, 2012. The operator failed to monitor the content and volume of general activity being directed to and required of each controller at least once each calendar year at intervals not to exceed 15 months, to assure controllers have sufficient time to analyze and react to incoming alarms.

Warning Items

With respect to item 2, 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 this item. Failure to do so may result in additional enforcement action.

Proposed Compliance Order

With respect to item 1 pursuant to 49 United States Code § 60118, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration proposes to issue a Compliance Order to Enable Gas Transmission, LLC. Please refer to the *Proposed Compliance Order*, which is enclosed and made a part of this Notice.

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. All material you submit in response to this enforcement action may be 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 4-2014-1004** and for each document you submit, please provide a copy in electronic format whenever possible.

Sincerely,



R. M. Seeley
Director, Southwest 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 Enable Gas Transmission, LLC a Compliance Order incorporating the following remedial requirements to ensure the compliance of Enable Gas Transmission, LLC with the pipeline safety regulations:

1. In regard to Item Number 1 of the Notice pertaining to Enable's failure to have a process that includes SCADA in the testing and inspection of remote controlled valves, Enable must develop procedures for valve maintenance of remote controlled valves to require the testing of SCADA in conjunction with the annual maintenance of said valves.
2. Test and inspect the remote controlled valves per the newly developed procedures and provide documentation of the completed inspection to PHMSA.
3. Provide PHMSA with the documentation that verifies completion of numbers 1 and 2 above within 60 days following the receipt of the Final Order.
4. It is requested (not mandated) that Enable Gas Transmission, LLC maintain documentation of the safety improvement costs associated with fulfilling this Compliance Order and submit the total to R. M. Seeley, Director, Southwest Region, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. It is requested that these costs 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.