

NAVAJO NATION OIL & GAS COMPANY

A Federal Corporation

Post Office Box 4439 • Window Rock, Arizona • 86515

Telephone (928) 871-4880 • FAX (928) 871-4882



VIA E-Mail

May 09, 2017

Frank Causey, P.E.
Acting Director, Southwest Region
Office of Pipeline Safety
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
8701 South Gessner, Suite 630
Houston, TX 77074

**Re: Navajo Nation Oil & Gas Company
CPF No. 4-2017-5009
Response to Notice of Probable Violation and Proposed Compliance Order**

Dear Mr. Causey:

Pursuant to § 190.208(b) of the regulations of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, 49 C.F.R. § 190.208 (2016), the Navajo Nation Oil and Gas Company (NNOGC) submits a Response to the Notice of Probable Violation and Proposed Compliance Order (Notice) issued by PHMSA's Office of Pipeline Safety in CPF No. 4-2017-5009 on April 6, 2017. NNOGC received the Notice via certified mail on April 11, 2017. Therefore, this response is timely under § 190.208.

NNOGC is a federally chartered corporation under section 17 of the Indian Reorganization Act. NNOGC is owned by the Navajo Nation and was created for the benefit of its people. NNOGC owns and operates the Running Horse Pipeline, headquartered in Montezuma Creek, Utah. The RHP is an 87-mile, 16-inch diameter crude oil pipeline extending from Montezuma Creek, Utah, through southwestern Colorado, and terminating at Bisti, New Mexico. The RHP transports oil from NNOGC's production interests in the Greater Aneth field in Southeast Utah.

PHMSA's Notice asserts that NNOGC committed a probable violation of 49 C.F.R. § 194.101 and 49 C.F.R. § 194.119 for not submitting an oil response plan for the Running Horse Pipeline to PHMSA. The Notice states that during an inspection, PHMSA inspectors observed that NNOGC has an oil response plan, but that it had not been submitted to the agency. The proposed compliance order would direct NNOGC to submit its oil spill response plan within 30 days of receipt of PHMSA's final order in this proceeding.

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NNOGC does not contest the allegation in the Notice. On May 9, 2017, NNOGC submitted its Oil Spill Response Plan to PHMSA, as directed in the proposed compliance order. Enclosed with this letter is the Oil Spill Response Plan that NNOGC submitted.

NNOGC is committed to public safety and operating its pipeline in accordance with PHMSA's regulations. NNOGC takes the issue identified in PHMSA's Notice seriously and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

Please contact me at (505) 599-6060 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Joseph P. Robertson".

Joseph P. Robertson, P.E.
Director of Pipeline Operations

Enclosure: NNOGC Oil Spill Response Plan for the Running Horse Pipeline