BEFORE THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF PIPELINE SAFETY

____________________________

In the Matter of

____________________________

Cameron LNG, LLC

____________________________

CPF 4-2019-3001
Notice of Probable Violation

____________________________

Respondent

____________________________

WITHDRAWAL OF REQUEST FOR HEARING

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration ("PHMSA"), Southwest Region, issued a Notice of Probable Violation ("NOPV") to Cameron LNG, LLC ("Cameron LNG") on July 30, 2019. The NOPV alleged two items of violation. With respect to Item 1, the NOPV alleged violations of 49 C.F.R. §§ 193.2011 (Reporting) and 191.5 (Immediate notice of certain incidents) and proposed a civil penalty of $41,600. With respect to Item 2, the NOPV alleged violations of 49 C.F.R. § 193.2017 (Plans and procedures) and proposed a Compliance Order. On August 16, 2019, Cameron LNG submitted an initial response to the NOPV, contesting the allegations and requesting a hearing on the entirety of the NOPV pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §§ 190.208 (Response options) and 190.211 (Hearing). A hearing was scheduled for December 3, 2019. As reflected in the Joint Status Report and Request to Postpone Hearing filed on November 15, 2019, the parties have been engaged in settlement discussions. As a result, the parties have successfully narrowed the issues in dispute and Cameron LNG withdraws its request for hearing filed pursuant to §§ 190.208 and 190.211.

Through settlement discussions, the parties have agreed that: (1) Item 1 be disposed of as a warning and the proposed civil penalty be withdrawn, and (2) Item 2 be disposed of as proposed in the NOPV. Specifically, with respect to Item 1, the PHMSA Southwest Region reviewed the circumstances and supporting documents involved in the case and determined that a finding of violation is not warranted. Therefore, the parties have agreed that Item 1 be issued as a warning and the associated proposed civil penalty be withdrawn. Accordingly, in light of the agreement reached between PHMSA and Cameron LNG, Cameron LNG is hereby withdrawing its request for hearing but not its appeal of Item 1 to allow the Southwest Region the opportunity to issue its regional recommendation that the Final Order in this matter reflect, with respect to Item 1, a determination that a violation is not warranted, that Item 1 be disposed of as a warning, and that the proposed civil penalty be withdrawn.
With respect to Item 2, Cameron LNG has agreed to comply with the proposed Compliance Order. Therefore, the parties have agreed that Item 2 be disposed of as proposed in the NOPV. Accordingly, in light of the agreement reached between PHMSA and Cameron LNG, Cameron LNG is hereby withdrawing its request for hearing of Item 2. In light of the agreement between PHMSA and Cameron LNG, in the event updated procedures are submitted to and approved by the Southwest Region prior to issuance of the Final Order, the Final Order should determine that this proceeding is closed. If the procedures are submitted to the Southwest Region after issuance of the Final Order, the Final Order should provide that the proceeding will close upon approval of the procedures by the Southwest Region.

Cameron LNG appreciates PHMSA’s willingness to engage in productive settlement discussions. Based on those discussions and the agreements reached by PHMSA and Cameron LNG, as reflected above, Cameron LNG withdraws its request for hearing and requests that PHMSA issue a Final Order as set forth herein.

Respectfully submitted,

Brett A. Snyder
Blank Rome LLP
1825 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: (202) 420-2656
bsnyder@blankrome.com

Attorney for Cameron LNG, LLC

Dated: November 21, 2019