



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and  
Hazardous Materials Safety  
Administration**

12300 W Dakota Ave , Suite 110  
Lakewood, CO 80228

SENT TO COMPLIANCE REGISTRY  
Hardcopy  Electronically   
# of Copies 1 / Date 2/16/07

**NOTICE OF PROBABLE VIOLATION  
AND  
PROPOSED CIVIL PENALTY**

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

February 16, 2007

Mr. Bruce Johnston  
Operations Superintendent  
Pacific Operators Offshore, LLC  
P.O. Box 5565  
Oxnard, CA 93031

**CPF 5-2007-0003**

Dear Mr. Johnston:

On July 26-27, 2005, a representative of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code, conducted an on-site pipeline safety inspection of the Pacific Operators Offshore (POO) pipeline and facilities at your offices in Carpinteria, California.

As a result of the inspection, it appears that you have committed a probable violation of the Pipeline Safety Regulations, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations. The item inspected and the probable violation is:

1. **192.745 Valve maintenance: Transmission lines.**
  - (a) **Each transmission line valve that might be required during any emergency must be inspected and partially operated at intervals not exceeding 15-months, but at least once each calendar year.**

Pacific Operators Offshore did not inspect its mainline block valve, once a year, in the La Conchita plant for the last two years. Pacific Operators Offshore staff admitted that they failed to inspect this valve as required by Part 192.745(a).

Proposed Civil Penalty

Under 49 United States Code, § 60122, you are subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$100,000 for each violation for each day the violation persists up to a maximum of \$1,000,000 for any related series of violations. The Compliance Officer has reviewed the circumstances and supporting documentation involved in the above probable violation and has recommended that you be preliminarily assessed a civil penalty of \$10,000 as follows:

<u>Item number</u>	<u>PENALTY</u>
1	\$10,000

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. 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 5-2007-0003** and for each document you submit, please provide a copy in electronic format whenever possible.

Sincerely,



Chris Hoidal  
Director, Western Region  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

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

cc: PHP-60 Compliance Registry  
PHP-500 H. Monfared (#114345)