



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials Safety
Administration**

SENT TO COMPLIANCE REGISTRY

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12300 W. Dakota Ave., Suite 110
Lakewood, CO 80228

WARNING LETTER

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

September 8, 2008

Mr. Kelly Roberts
EH&S Advisor
Linn Energy, LLC
600 Travis, Suite 5100
Houston, TX 77002

CPF 5-2008-0021W.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

From July 7-9, 2008, a representative of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code, conducted an onsite inspection of your Linn Western Operating, Inc.'s (Linn Western) pipeline facilities and records in Brea, California.

As a result of the inspection, it appears that you have committed probable violations as noted below of pipeline safety regulations, Title 49, CFR, Part 192. The items inspected and the probable violations are:

1. **§ 192.603(b): Each operator shall keep records necessary to administer the procedures established under § 192.605.**

§ 192.605 (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.

§ 192.615 Emergency Plans.

(c) Each operator shall establish and maintain liaison with appropriate fire, police, and other public officials to:

(1) Learn the responsibility and resources of each government organization that may respond to a gas pipeline emergency;

(2) Acquaint the officials with the operator's ability in responding to a gas pipeline emergency;

(3) Identify the types of gas pipeline emergencies of which the operator notifies the officials; and

(4) Plan how the operator and officials can engage in mutual assistance to minimize hazards to life or property.

Linn Western pipeline personnel could not produce records of liaison with public officials.

2. § 192.459 External corrosion control: Examination of buried pipeline when exposed.

Whenever an operator has knowledge that any portion of a buried pipeline is exposed, the exposed portion must be examined for evidence of external corrosion if the pipe is bare, or if the coating is deteriorated.

And

§ 192.475 Internal corrosion control: General.

(b) Whenever any pipe is removed from a pipeline for any reason, the internal surface must be inspected for evidence of corrosion.

Linn Western pipeline personnel could not produce records of external and internal pipe examination of the East Coyote Gas Line when the line was rerouted in 2008.

3. § 192.479 Atmospheric corrosion control: Monitoring.

(a) Each operator must clean and coat each pipeline or portion of pipeline that is exposed to the atmospheric, except pipelines under paragraph (c) of this section.

The coating of the East Coyote Gas Line at the Breitburn tie-in facility deteriorated to a point that atmospheric corrosion could be seen at an early stage.

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. We have reviewed the circumstances and have decided not to assess you a civil penalty. We advise you to correct the items identified in this letter. Failure to do so will result in Linn Western being subject to additional enforcement action.

No reply to this letter is required. If you choose to reply, in your correspondence please refer to **CPF 5-2008-0021W**. Be advised that all material you submit in response to this enforcement action is subject to being 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).

Sincerely,



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

cc: PHP-60 Compliance Registry
PHP-500 (P. Nguyen, #122101)