

# WARNING LETTER

## CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

May 26, 2017

Mr. Matt Thompson  
Vice President Energy  
QEP Energy  
1050 17th St, Suite 800  
Denver, CO 80265

**CPF 5-2017-1006W**

Dear Mr. Thompson:

On August 17 through 21, 2015, a representative of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code, inspected QEP Marketing Company's (QEP) Clear Creek Gas Storage gas transmission unit located near Evanston, Wyoming.

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

1. **§192.481 Atmospheric corrosion control: Monitoring.**
  - (a) **Each operator must inspect each pipeline or portion of pipeline that is exposed to the atmosphere for evidence of atmospheric corrosion, as follows:**

<b>If the pipeline is located:</b>	<b>Then the frequency of inspection is:</b>
Onshore	At least once every 3 calendar years, but with intervals not exceeding 39 months
Offshore	At least once each calendar year, but with intervals not exceeding 15 months

QEP's records existed indicating that an atmospheric corrosion survey was conducted in 2005 and 2008. There are no records indicating that a survey was conducted in 2011 or 2014. Records do document an atmospheric corrosion survey conducted in 2015.

2. **§192.605 Procedural manual for operations, maintenance, and emergencies.**  
**(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. For transmission lines, the manual must also include procedures for handling abnormal operations. This manual must be reviewed and updated by the operator at intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least once each calendar year. This manual must be prepared before operations of a pipeline system commence. Appropriate parts of the manual must be kept at locations where operations and maintenance activities are conducted.**

QEP's records indicated that an annual review of the operator's written procedures manual was conducted annually as required by 192.605(a) in the years 2005 through 2009 but no annual review was conducted in 2010 through 2014. The records did indicate that an annual review was conducted in August 2015.

Under 49 United States Code, § 60122, you are subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$205,638 per violation per day the violation persists up to a maximum of \$2,056,380 for a related series of violations. For violation occurring between January 4, 2012 to August 1, 2016, the maximum penalty may not exceed \$200,000 per violation per day, with a maximum penalty not to exceed \$2,000,000 for a related series of violations. For violations occurring prior to January 4, 2012, the maximum penalty may not exceed \$100,000 per violation per day, with a maximum penalty not to exceed \$1,000,000 for a related series of violations. 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 correct the item(s) identified in this letter. Failure to do so will result in QEP Energy Company 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 5-2017-1006W**. 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,

Kim West  
Acting Director, Western Region  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

cc: PHP-60 Compliance Registry  
PHP-500 B. Brown (#149941)