



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Research and
Special Programs
Administration**

400 Seventh St. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

JUL 28 2004

Mr. Steven J. Malcolm
President
Williams Alaska Petroleum, Inc.
1100 H and H Lane
North Pole, Alaska 99705

Re: CPF No. 56704, MAPCO Alaska Petroleum, Inc.

Dear Mr. Malcolm:

Enclosed is the Final Order issued by the Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety in the above-referenced case. It makes findings of violation and finds that you have completed the actions specified in the Notice required to comply with the pipeline safety regulations. The Final Order also finds that you have addressed the inadequacies in your procedures that were cited in the Notice of Amendment. This case is now closed. Your receipt of the Final Order constitutes service of that document under 49 C.F.R. § 190.5.

Sincerely,

James Reynolds
Pipeline Compliance Registry
Office of Pipeline Safety

Enclosure

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
RESEARCH AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF PIPELINE SAFETY
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

In the Matter of

Williams Alaska Petroleum Inc./
MAPCO Alaska Petroleum Inc.,

Respondent.

CPF No. 56704

FINAL ORDER

On February 26 and 27, 1996, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 60117, a representative of the Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) conducted an on-site pipeline safety inspection of Respondent's facilities and records in North Pole, Alaska. As a result of the inspection, the Director, Western Region, OPS, issued to Respondent, by letter dated June 4, 1996, a Notice of Probable Violation, Proposed Compliance Order, and Notice of Amendment (Notice). In accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 190.207, the Notice proposed finding that Respondent had committed violations of 49 C.F.R. Parts 195 and 199 and proposed that Respondent take certain measures to correct the alleged violations. The Notice also proposed, in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 190.237, that Respondent amend its procedures for operations, maintenance, and emergencies (OM&E).

Respondent responded to the Notice by letter dated July 5, 1996 (Response). Respondent did not contest the allegations of violation and provided information concerning the corrective actions it planned to take. Respondent submitted documentation of the completion of the corrective actions by letter dated September 9, 1996. Respondent did not request a hearing, and therefore waived its right to one.

FINDINGS OF VIOLATION

In its Response, Respondent did not contest the violations alleged in the Notice. Accordingly, I find that Respondent violated the following sections of 49 C.F.R. Parts 195 and 199, as more fully described in the Notice:

49 C.F.R. §§ 195.420(a) and (b) – failing to maintain each valve necessary for the safe operation of its pipeline system; and failing to inspect each mainline at least twice each calendar year, with intervals not exceeding 7½ months. Respondent could not verify that it had inspected and maintained each isolation valve and supply line valve at the required intervals;

49 C.F.R. § 195.401(b) – failing to correct within a reasonable time several deficiencies in Respondent’s corrosion protection system. Annual cathodic protection surveys for 1994 and 1995 indicated low pipe-to-soil potentials at Richardson Highway and Seavy Road. Respondent failed to correct the protection levels within a reasonable time. Respondent also failed to closely monitor or correct elevated casing-to-soil potentials noted in the surveys;

49 C.F.R. § 195.406(b) – failing to have adequate pressure controls and protective equipment to protect Respondent’s supply line from exceeding 110 percent of maximum operating pressure in the event of a surge or variation from normal operating conditions on Respondent’s supply line or on the upstream line operated by another operator;

49 C.F.R. § 195.428(a) – failing to inspect and test each pressure control device protecting Respondent’s supply line at least once each calendar year, with intervals not exceeding 15 months. Respondent failed to verify that surge suppressor PCV 101 had adequate capacity to protect Respondent’s supply line and that the device had been properly inspected and tested by its operator; and

49 C.F.R. § 199.1(a) – failing to develop and implement by April 20, 1990, a program for testing covered employees for the presence of prohibited drugs and alcohol.

These findings of violation will be considered prior offenses in any subsequent enforcement action taken against Respondent.

COMPLIANCE ORDER

The Notice proposed a compliance order with respect to Items 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 in the Notice. Under 49 U.S.C. § 60118(a), each person who engages in the transportation of hazardous liquids or who owns or operates a pipeline facility is required to comply with the applicable safety standards established under Chapter 601. The Director, Western Region, OPS, has reviewed the corrective action taken by Respondent and has indicated that the corrective action has achieved compliance with respect to these violations. Accordingly, since compliance has been achieved, it is not necessary to include the compliance terms in this order.

AMENDMENT OF PROCEDURES

Item 3 in the Notice alleged inadequacies in Respondent’s OM&E manual and proposed to require amendment of Respondent’s procedures to comply with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 195.402. Respondent did not contest the alleged inadequacies and submitted copies of its amended procedures, which the Regional Director reviewed. Accordingly, based on the results of this review,

I find that Respondent's original procedures as described in the Notice were inadequate to ensure safe operation of its pipeline system, but that Respondent has corrected the identified inadequacies. No need exists to issue an order directing amendment.



Stacey Gerard
Associate Administrator
for Pipeline Safety

JUL 28 2004

Date Issued