



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration**

840 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 300
West Trenton, NJ 08628
609.771.7800

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT

OVERNIGHT EXPRESS DELIVERY

April 8, 2019

Mr. Brian Sheppard
VP, Eastern Pipeline Operations
Dominion Energy Transmission, Inc.
925 White Oaks Boulevard
Bridgeport, WV 26330

CPF 1-2019-1009M

Dear Mr. Sheppard:

From November 14 – 15, 2017, a representative of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) pursuant to Chapter 601 of Title 49 of the United States Code (U.S.C.) inspected Dominion Energy Transmission, Inc.'s (Dominion) TL-342 Retest & Replacement construction project in Wetzel County, WV, and reviewed Dominion's procedures for continuing surveillance subsequent to the inspection.

On the basis of the inspection, PHMSA has identified the apparent inadequacies found within Dominion's plans or procedures, as described below:

1. § 192.613 Continuing surveillance.

(a) Each operator shall have a procedure for continuing surveillance of its facilities to determine and take appropriate action concerning changes in class location, failures, leakage history, corrosion, substantial changes in cathodic protection requirements, and other unusual operating and maintenance conditions.

Dominion's procedures for continuing surveillance of its facilities were inadequate. Specifically, Dominion's Standard Operating Procedure *01/Continuing Surveillance of Pipeline Facilities, Section 065/Continuing Surveillance*, revised 8/2/2018 (SOP), failed to include continuing surveillance provisions for unusual operating and maintenance conditions such as soil erosion, replacement of a pipeline segment, or other circumstances. The SOP failed to include guidance on when and how to evaluate the depth of cover of facilities experiencing these conditions and to take appropriate actions when discovered.

Following the construction project inspection conducted in November of 2017, PHMSA requested and reviewed Dominion's SOP. Based on that review, Dominion's procedures were deemed inadequate for addressing the unusual operating and maintenance condition of replacing a pipeline segment. Dominion should consider adding provisions in its SOP for addressing this condition, including steps such as:

- Performing an analysis to assess the potential safety impacts of inadequate depth of cover resulting from erosion, short pipeline segment replacements, or other circumstances.
- Implementing measures to address these potential safety impacts, when appropriate.

Response to this Notice

This Notice is provided pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 60108(a) and 49 C.F.R. § 190.206. 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. 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).

Following the receipt of this Notice, you have 30 days to submit written comments, revised procedures, or a request for a hearing under §190.211. 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 an Order Directing Amendment. If your plans or procedures are found inadequate as alleged in this Notice, you may be ordered to amend your plans or procedures to correct the inadequacies (49 C.F.R. § 190.206). If you are not contesting this Notice, we propose that you submit your amended procedures to my office within **60 days** of receipt of this Notice. This period may be extended by written request for good cause. Once the inadequacies identified herein have been addressed in your amended procedures, this enforcement action will be closed.

It is requested (not mandated) that Dominion maintain documentation of the safety improvement costs associated with fulfilling this Notice of Amendment (preparation/revision of plans, procedures) and submit the total to Robert Burrough, Director, Eastern Region, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. In correspondence concerning this matter, please refer to **CPF 1-2019-1009M** and, for each document you submit, please provide a copy in electronic format whenever possible.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 609-771-7800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Burrough".

Robert Burrough
Director, Eastern Region
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

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