



March 3, 2023

(Via Email and U.S. Mail)

Mr. Robert Burrough
Director, Eastern Region,
Office of Pipeline Safety
PHMSA
840 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 300
West Trenton, NJ 08628
Robert.burrough@dot.gov

RE: CPF No. 1-2023-004-NOA

Dear Mr. Burrough:

National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation ("National Fuel") is in receipt of and has reviewed the Notice of Amendment dated February 2, 2023, CPF No. 1-2023-004-NOA (the "Notice of Amendment"). On September 14, 2022, a PHMSA representative inspected National Fuel's mainline valves and other above ground natural gas pipeline appurtenances within the FM120 pipeline segment subject to Special Permit PHMSA-2017-0090 and located in Elk and McKean Counties, Pennsylvania. The resulting Notice of Amendment identifies an apparent inadequacy found within National Fuel's plans or procedures, citing 49 CFR § 192.605(b)(1). Below please find National Fuel's response to the finding and its ongoing commitment to safety.

PHMSA Finding

1. **§ 192.605 Procedural manual for operations, maintenance, and emergencies**
 - (a) ...
 - (b) ***Maintenance and normal operations.*** The manual required by paragraph (a) of this section must include procedures for the following, if applicable, to provide safety during maintenance and operations.
 - (1) **Operating, maintaining, and repairing the pipeline in accordance with each of the requirements of this subpart and Subpart M of this part.**

PHMSA found that National Fuel's manual of written procedures were inadequate to ensure safe operation of a pipeline facility. Specifically, PHMSA noted that NFG's procedures failed to provide meaningful guidance as to where warning signs to prevent accidental ignition, as required by § 192.751(c), are to be posted.

Operator Response

The attached revised procedures, including National Fuel's Operations and Maintenance Manual(O&M), Section 2.12 Prevention of Accidental Ignition and Engineering Design Manual

(EDM), Section 4.27, address the PHMSA-identified inadequacies in the Notice of Amendment. National Fuel will need approximately one year to implement the revised procedures set forth herein, upon PHMSA approval.

In order to highlight the proposed revisions, National Fuel is submitting redlines of Section 2.12 of its O&M and Section 4.27 of its EDM. Due to the internal nature of both manuals from which this language is excerpted, National Fuel has also marked these attachments confidential and has asserted FOIA Exemption 4. The language for both should be protected from release in their entirety, so National Fuel is also submitting redacted copies of both. Neither manual is a public document; they are both internal and govern company operations. Therefore, the draft language provided is confidential and provided under assurances of privacy. It contains business practices and procedures; release of this language would undermine the private treatment National Fuel has assigned to its manuals.

National Fuel thanks PHMSA for the opportunity to respond to this Notice of Amendment and highlight its ongoing commitment to pipeline safety, including enhancing its procedures to ensure safe operation of its pipeline facilities.

Please direct any questions regarding this submission to me at 716-857-6884.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ramon P. Harris, Jr.", is positioned above the printed name.

Ramon P. Harris, Jr., Vice President

Enclosures

cc: (Via email only)
Ms. Laura P. Berloth, Senior Attorney, National Fuel Gas Supply Corp.