



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

October 31, 2023

Ms. Tina Faraca
President and Executive Vice President, US Natural Gas Pipelines
ANR Pipeline Company
700 Louisiana Street
Houston, Texas 77002

CPF 1-2023-046-NOA

Dear Ms. Faraca:

From March 14 to November 3, 2022, a representative of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code (U.S.C.) inspected ANR Pipeline Co's (ANR) procedures for maintenance and normal operations as part of an integrated inspection of ANR's pipeline system identified by PHMSA as inspection system #1168.

As a result of the inspection, PHMSA has identified the apparent inadequacy found within ANR's plans or procedures. The item inspected and the inadequacy is described below:

1. 49 C.F.R. § 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.

ANR's manual of written procedures for operating and maintaining its pipeline in accordance with requirements of Subpart M of 49 CFR Part 192 were inadequate to assure safe operation of a pipeline facility. Specifically, ANR's maintenance procedures for inspecting and testing relief devices pursuant to §§ 192.731, 192.739, and 192.743 failed to include provisions for inspecting and testing each pressure relieving device in a compressor station at the required intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least once each calendar year.

During the inspection, PHMSA requested ANR's procedures regarding testing and inspection of relief

devices. ANR provided the following documents as its Operations and Maintenance Manual (O&M) and supplements to its O&M:

- 192.739 Pressure Limiting and Reg Stations - Inspect and Test (O&M)
- 192.743 Pressure Limiting and Reg Sta - Capacity of Relief Devices (O&M)
- TEC-ME-OPP-G_Overpressure_Protection_Commentary_US (Presented by ANR as supporting document, but unreferenced in O&M)
- Safety_Relief_Valve_Inspection_USGO_US – TC Energy Work Task Package (Referenced in O&M)

Section 192.731(a) requires, in part, that “. . . each pressure relieving device in a compressor station must be inspected and tested in accordance with §§192.739 and 192.743 . . .” (emphasis added). In reviewing “Table 2-4: Test and Inspection Frequencies” in the ANR document titled *TEC-ME-OPP-G_Overpressure_Protection_Commentary_US*, ANR incorrectly lists safety relief valves at its compressor stations as being in “non-OPP service” and/or not being subject to the requirements of applicable sections of Part 192. The relief valves are installed to protect pressure vessels, pipe and fittings that are located between equipment isolating valves. These relief valves under consideration are over-pressure protection devices that are designed and installed to protect gas transportation equipment from a scenario of thermal expansion of natural gas and natural gas liquids that could over pressure pipeline transportation equipment and/or its connected pipe and fittings when subjected to heat due to exposure to sun or fire. ANR fails to subject these certain relief valves designed and installed to protect transportation pipeline equipment to the inspection and testing frequencies required by the applicable sections of Part 192 listed above.

As such, and by way of ANR declassifying relief valves that are subject to PHMSA jurisdiction under § 192.731(a)¹, ANR failed to follow the §§ 192.739² and 192.743³ inspection and testing frequencies listed in its O&M procedures titled *192.739 Pressure Limiting and Reg Stations - Inspect and Test*, and *192.743 Pressure Limiting and Reg Sta - Capacity of Relief Devices*.

Therefore, ANR’s procedures required by § 192.605(b)(1) were inadequate. ANR must revise its procedures to address the issues noted above and to properly classify its pipeline transportation equipment safety relief valves.

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 30 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 ANR Pipeline Co 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 1-2023-046-NOA** and, for each document you submit, please provide a copy in electronic format whenever possible.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure: Response Options for Pipeline Operators in Enforcement Proceedings

¹ §192.731 Compressor stations: Inspection and testing of relief devices.

(a) Except for rupture discs, each pressure relieving device in a compressor station must be inspected and tested in accordance with §§192.739 and 192.743, and must be operated periodically to determine that it opens at the correct set pressure.

² §192.739 Pressure limiting and regulating stations: Inspection and testing.

(a) Each pressure limiting station, relief device (except rupture discs), and Pressure regulating station and its equipment must be subjected at intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least once each calendar year, to inspections and tests to determine that it is-

- (1) In good mechanical condition;
- (2) Adequate from the standpoint of capacity and reliability of operation for the service in which it is employed;
- (3) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, set to control or relieve at the correct pressure consistent with the pressure limits of §192.201(a); and
- (4) Properly installed and protected from dirt, liquids, or other conditions that might prevent proper operation.

³ §192.743 Pressure limiting and regulating stations: Capacity of relief devices

(a) Pressure relief devices at pressure limiting stations and pressure regulating stations must have sufficient capacity to protect the facilities to which they are connected. Except as provided in §192.739(b), the capacity must be consistent with the pressure limits of §192.201(a). This capacity must be determined at intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least once each calendar year, by testing the devices in place or by review and calculations.