



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials Safety
Administration**

233 Peachtree Street Ste. 600
Atlanta, GA 30303

**NOTICE OF PROBABLE VIOLATION
PROPOSED CIVIL PENALTY
and
PROPOSED COMPLIANCE ORDER**

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

January 15, 2009

Mr. David Goodwin
Vice President Compliance & Operations
Gulf South Pipeline Company, LP
9 Greenway Plaza, Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77046

CPF No. 2-2009-1001

Dear Mr. Goodwin:

On August 4, 2008, a representative of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code, conducted an investigation of the incident (NRC#879372) at the Gulf South Pipeline (GSP) compressor station in Harrisville, Mississippi. The incident occurred on August 2, 2008 in which an employee received minor burns and was hospitalized overnight.

As a result of the investigation, it appears that you have committed probable violations as noted below of pipeline safety regulations, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 192. The item reviewed and the probable violation is:

§192.751 Prevention of accidental ignition.

Each operator shall take steps to minimize the danger of accidental ignition of gas in any structure or area where the presence of gas constitutes a hazard of fire or explosion.

The Gulf South Procedures, (OM, Section 3 Accidental Ignition Prevention, 3.2 Prevention Requirements), requires the following:

- All necessary precautions shall be taken to prevent electrical arcing and static electricity charges in structures and restricted areas where there is a potential presence of gas.

Gulf South Pipeline Company did not prevent the accidental ignition of gas by installing a non-insulated electrical component in the pull box. The company's root

cause investigation also determined that the vent line that exhaust gas from the fuel gas blow down on Engine #3 did not extend to a location where the gas could be discharged without hazard.

Proposed Civil Penalty

Under 49 United States Code, § 60122, you are subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$100,000 for each violation for each day the violation persists up to a maximum of \$1,000,000 for any related series of violations. The Compliance Officer has reviewed the circumstances and supporting documentation involved in the above probable violation and has recommended that you be preliminarily assessed a civil penalty of \$100,000.

Proposed Compliance Order

With respect to the above item pursuant to 49 United States Code § 60118, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration proposes to issue a Compliance Order to Gulf South Pipeline Company, LP. Please refer to the *Proposed Compliance Order*, which is enclosed and made a part of this Notice.

Response to this Notice

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). 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 a Final Order.

In your correspondence on this matter, please refer to **CPF 2-2009-1001** and for each document you submit, please provide a copy in electronic format whenever possible.

Sincerely,

for M. Shoair

Linda Daugherty
Director, Southern
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Enclosures: *Proposed Compliance Order*
Response Options for Pipeline Operators in Compliance Proceedings

PROPOSED COMPLIANCE ORDER

Pursuant to 49 United States Code § 60118, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) proposes to issue Gulf South Pipeline Company a Compliance Order incorporating the following remedial requirements to ensure the compliance of Gulf South Pipeline Company with the pipeline safety regulations:

1. In regard to the item in the Notice pertaining to prevention of accidental ignition required by §192.751, perform a system-wide review of pull boxes in operation, and identify any improperly insulated electrical component. For a vent line that exhaust gas from the fuel gas blow down, perform a system-wide review and identify locations where the discharge of gas may be a potential hazard. Develop a written plan and a schedule to remedy these deficiencies. Provide the plan to the PHMSA Southern Region office as indicated in Item 3 below.
2. Gulf South Pipeline Company has 60 days after the receipt of the Final Order to complete the above item.
3. Gulf South Pipeline Company shall maintain documentation of the safety improvement costs associated with fulfilling this Compliance Order and submit the total to Linda Daugherty, Director, Southern Region, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. Costs shall be reported in two categories: 1) total cost associated with preparation/revision of plans, procedures, studies and analyses, and 2) total cost associated with replacements, additions and other changes to pipeline infrastructure.