



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials Safety
Administration**

8701 South Gessner, Suite 1110
Houston, TX 77074

WARNING LETTER

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

June 10, 2014

Mr. Jerry Morris
President & CEO
Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc.
4700 Highway 56
Box 20010
Owensboro, KY 42301

CPF 4-2014-1007W

Dear Mr. Morris:

Between October 17, 2013 and April 30, 2014, a representative of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code reviewed Safety Related Condition Report 2013-0111 submitted on October 2, 2013, by Southern Star Central Pipeline, Inc. for a safety related incident that occurred in Kay County, Oklahoma.

As a result of the review, it appears that you have committed a probable violation of the Pipeline Safety Regulations, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations. The item reviewed and the probable violation is:

1. **§ 192.619 Maximum allowable operating pressure: Steel or plastic pipelines.**
 - (a) No person may operate a segment of steel or plastic pipeline at a pressure that exceeds a maximum allowable operating pressure determined under paragraph (c) or (d) of this section ...

As indicated in your Safety Related Condition Report, Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc. experienced an overpressure condition that met the reporting criteria for a safety related condition.

On October 2, 2013, a portion of the Blackwell Station (Line VN) was operated at a pressure that exceeded the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) for the line. The MAOP for the line at the time of the event was reported as 719 psig. The MAOP, plus the allowable 10%, was exceeded for approximately 18 minutes with maximum pressures recorded at 798 psig.

This event is reflected in the Safety Related Condition Report filed with PHMSA, as well as other documentation provided in response to PHMSA requests during the course of our investigation.

We have reviewed the circumstances and supporting documents involved in this case, and have decided not to conduct additional enforcement action or penalty assessment proceedings at this time.

No reply to this letter is required. If you choose to reply, in your correspondence please refer to **CPF 4-2014-1007W**. 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).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. M. Seeley".

R. M. Seeley
Director, Southwest Region
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration