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January 30, 2023

Delivered via Email to: InformationResourcesManager@dot.gov

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
ATTN: Bryan Jeffery Lethcoe
Director, Southwest Region
c/o Information Resource Manager
East Building, 2nd Floor, E22-321
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: CPF 4-2022-060-NOA

Dear Bryan Jeffery Lethcoe:

Breitburn Operating L.P. (Breitburn) is an independent energy producer. Breitburn's oil and gas properties are characterized by mature, stable production with proved reserve life indices averaging more than ten years. Many of Breitburn's fields have exceptionally long production histories, and some fields date back to the 1800s.

Breitburn operates its properties and produces hydrocarbons from onshore basins throughout the United States.

Pursuant to:
Notice of Amendment *CPF 4-2022-060-NOA*

Breitburn Operating L.P. is contacting the Pipeline Materials and Safety Administration. This notification shall serve as Breitburn's official written response and will provide amended procedures as requested.

1. PHMSA NOA

“Breitburn’s written procedures for conducting operations, maintenance, and emergency preparedness and response activities were inadequate to assure safe operation of a pipeline facility in accordance with § 195.402(c)(3). Specifically, Breitburn’s written Maverick Natural Resources CO2 Pipeline Liquid Operations and Maintenance Manual (Dec. 2020) (O&M), P-195.402(e): Handling Emergencies fails to include the information required by § 195.414(a)-(c). Breitburn’s O&M, P-195.402(e): Handling Emergencies fails to include guidance for determining the appropriate method for performing the initial inspections to determine the extent of any damage after landslides and earthquakes, and the need for the additional assessments in accordance with § 195.414(b).

Breitburn’s O&M, P-195.402(e): Handling Emergencies includes a provision for the inspection of the pipeline during and following floods, high winds, and tornadoes; however, it fails to state that each inspection must be commenced within 72 hours after cessation of the emergency event and fails to mention each type of extreme weather event, such as landslides, scouring, soil movement, and earthquakes in accordance with § 195.414(a) and (c).

Therefore, Breitburn’s written procedures for conducting operations, maintenance, and emergency preparedness and response activities were inadequate to assure safe operation of a pipeline facility in accordance with § 195.402(c)(3). Breitburn must revise its procedures to address the requirements in § 195.414.”

Response:

Breitburn Operating L.P. has amended the Liquid Operations and Maintenance Manual accordingly. Please see Attachment “NOA_I_CPF42022060NOA”.

2. PHMSA NOA

“Breitburn’s written procedures for conducting operations, maintenance, and emergency preparedness and response activities were inadequate to assure safe operation of a pipeline facility in accordance with § 195.402(c)(3). Specifically, Breitburn’s O&M fails to specify a reasonable time frame by which it must correct any discovered condition that could adversely affect the safe operation of its pipeline system as required by §§ 195.401(b) and 195.422. Breitburn’s O&M fails to specify when temporary repairs must be replaced with permanent repairs. In accordance with §§ 195.401(b) and 195.422, permanent repairs must be made within a reasonable time and in a safe manner so as to prevent damage to persons or property. Therefore, Breitburn’s written procedures for conducting operations, maintenance, and emergency preparedness and response activities were inadequate to assure safe operation of a pipeline facility in accordance with § 195.402(c)(3). Breitburn must revise its procedures to address this requirement.”

Response:

Breitburn Operating L.P. has amended the Liquid Operations and Maintenance Manual accordingly. Please see Attachment “NOA_2_CPF42022060NOA”.

3. PHMSA NOA

“Breitburn’s written procedures for conducting operations, maintenance, and emergency preparedness and response activities were inadequate to assure safe operation of a pipeline facility in accordance with § 195.402(c)(3). Specifically, Breitburn’s O&M, P-195.404 – Maps & Records fails to state that a record of each inspection and test must be kept for at least two years or until the next inspection or test is performed, whichever is longer as required by § 195.404(c)(3). Therefore, Breitburn’s written procedures for conducting operations, maintenance, and emergency preparedness and response activities were inadequate to assure safe operation of a pipeline facility in accordance with § 195.402(c)(3). Breitburn must revise its procedures to address the requirement in § 195.404(c)(3).”

Response:

Breitburn Operating L.P. has amended the Liquid Operations and Maintenance Manual accordingly. Please see Attachment “NOA_3_CPF42022060NOA”.

4. PHMSA NOA

“Breitburn’s written procedures for conducting operations, maintenance, and emergency preparedness and response activities were inadequate to assure safe operation of a pipeline facility in accordance with § 195.402(c)(3). Specifically, Breitburn’s O&M, P-195.573(a): Monitor External Corrosion Control: Protected Pipelines; Determination of Need fails to include details on correcting identified corrosion control deficiencies.

Breitburn’s O&M, P-195.573(a): Monitor External Corrosion Control: Protected Pipelines; Determination of Need states that “Sound Engineering judgment shall be applied in considering potential deficiencies identified in field data.” However, the procedure fails to include a process for evaluating and remediating cathodic protection (CP) deficiencies for external and atmospheric corrosion (e.g., test lead repairs, rectifier replacement, ground bed replacements, low CP readings, low CIS readings, exposed pipe report, etc.). The procedure also fails to include a process to follow up on low CP readings and fails to include a process to verify the completion of remediations.

Therefore, Breitburn’s written procedures for conducting operations, maintenance, and emergency preparedness and response activities were inadequate to assure safe operation of a pipeline facility in accordance with § 195.402(c)(3). Breitburn must revise its procedures to address this requirement.”

Response:

Breitburn Operating L.P. has amended the Liquid Operations and Maintenance Manual accordingly. Please see Attachment “NOA_4_CPF42022060NOA”.

Sincerely,

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