



Tricia G. Dietrich Petty
Executive Director – Health & Safety

August 17, 2023

By Electronic Mail

Mr. Bryan Jeffery Lethcoe
Director, Southwest Region
U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
8701 S. Gessner, Suite 630
Houston, Texas 77074

Re: NuStar Pipeline Operating Partnership L.P.
Notice of Amendment
CPF No. 4-2023-020-NOA

Dear Mr. Lethcoe:

On July 18, 2023, NuStar Pipeline Operating Partnership L.P. (NuStar or the Company), responded to the above-referenced Notice of Amendment issued by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA or the Agency) on April 3, 2023 and requested an extension of its response time to August 16, 2023. The Notice of Amendment includes three (3) alleged inadequacies in NuStar's Operations and Maintenance Manual and the Control Room Management Program (CRMP) resulting from an inspection completed in December of 2020. This letter serves as NuStar's response.

While NuStar asserts that its Operations and Maintenance Manual and the CRMP comply with the cited requirements, the Company, in the spirit of cooperation, made the requested amendments to its 2022 CRMP and 2022 Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Manual as further described below. The pertinent sections of these updated documents are attached hereto as Attachment A.

Finding No. 1. With respect to Finding No. 1, PHMSA notes that "NuStar'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)."

As a result of the December 2020 inspection, NuStar's Alarm Management Plan (AMP), Training Manual, General Systems Manual and Computational Pipeline Monitoring (CPM) leak detection procedures were revised and are now integrated into the 2022 CRMP. Specifically, CRMP Sections 8.3, 8.9.1, 8.9.2, 8.9.3 and 8.10 now include the required initial and refresher leak detection and CPM training for controllers and dispatchers in accordance with §195.444(c) and

API RP 1130. Furthermore, CRMP Section 5.26 addresses the implementation of the alarm management software nomenclature for our third-party system and § 195.444(c) training requirements pertaining to controller operation, documentation, and response to the leak detection system and alarms.

Finding No. 2. With respect to Finding No. 2, PHMSA notes that NuStar's CRMP failed to include "adequate procedures to test and verify an internal communication plan to provide adequate means for manual operation of the pipeline safely, at least once each calendar year, but at intervals not to exceed 15 months in accordance with §195.446(c)(3)."

Prior to the inspection, NuStar tested one console per year in accordance with this requirement. After the inspection, NuStar has expanded this testing to all consoles at the frequencies prescribed by §195.446(c)(3). Furthermore, as requested, NuStar has integrated the details of the internal communication plan testing in 2022 CRMP Sections 17.10.4, 17.10.4.1, and 17.10.4.2, which are provided in the attachment. Importantly, these changes reflect the fact that certain pipeline systems that will never be operated manually will be shut down in a controlled manner and monitored by operations in accordance with pipeline-system specific procedures.

Finding No. 3. With respect to Finding No. 3, PHMSA notes NuStar's CRMP failed to include "procedures implementing Section 5.3 of API RP 1165 which requires periodic reviews of display response times in accordance with §195.446(b)(1)."

NuStar has updated the SCADA Manual, Section 4 titled "Point-to-Point Verification Procedures" outlined the methodology for periodic reviews and the related documentation on Form 6617. After the inspection, NuStar revised Section 4 to include details of the current procedures for periodic display review. These procedures are now a part of the quarterly Backup Control Room tests.

NuStar appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Notice of Amendment and provide additional clarification. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or further clarifications needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tricia G. Dietrich Petty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tricia" being the most prominent.

Tricia G. Dietrich Petty