



U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration

8701 S. Gessner, Suite 630
Houston TX 77074

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

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

March 24, 2023

Eric Amundsen
Senior Vice President, Operations
Sea Robin Pipeline Company
1300 Main Street
Houston, TX 77002

CPF 4-2023-027-NOPV

Dear Mr. Amundsen:

From February 28 through June 23, 2022, a representative of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code (U.S.C.) inspected Sea Robin Pipeline Company's (Sea Robin) Offshore Pipeline System in the Gulf of Mexico and Louisiana.

As a result of the inspection, it is alleged that Sea Robin has committed a probable violation of the Pipeline Safety Regulations, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The item inspected and the probable violation is:

1. **§ 192.605 Procedural manual for operations, maintenance, and emergencies.**
 - (a) ***General.*** Each operator shall prepare and follow for each pipeline, a manual of written procedures for conducting operations and maintenance activities and for emergency response. For transmission lines, the manual must also include procedures for handling abnormal operations. This manual must be reviewed and updated by the operator at intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least once each calendar year. This manual must be prepared before operations of a pipeline system commence. Appropriate parts of the manual must be kept at locations where operations and maintenance activities are conducted.

§ 192.481 Atmospheric corrosion control: Monitoring.

(a)

(c) If atmospheric corrosion is found during an inspection, the operator must provide protection against the corrosion as required by § 192.479.

Sea Robin failed to provide protection against atmospheric corrosion found during an inspection in accordance with § 192.481(c) and its procedures. Specifically, Sea Robin failed to remediate atmospheric corrosion found during an inspection at the Vermillion 149 platform within one calendar year, not to exceed 15 months, in accordance with its procedures and § 192.605(a).

Sea Robin's procedures, *D.40 Corrosion Control Remedial Action* (D.40), requires remediation "of offshore atmospheric corrosion protection within one calendar year following discovery, not to exceed 15 months from the date deficiencies were discovered." During Sea Robin's inspection on April 15-16, 2019, it discovered several areas on the Vermillion 149 platform that required remediation of atmospheric corrosion control. Specifically, the "[g]as coolers ha[d] severe corrosion that need to be blasted and painted," and "[a]ll 3 [compressor] units and unit piping need to be blasted and painted."

On June 23, 2022, PHMSA inspected the Vermillion 149 platform and observed that the remediation had not been completed on compressors 1 and 2 or the gas coolers. Compressor 3 had been disconnected from service. Additionally, Sea Robin blocked gas flow to the compressor area in November 2021.

On August 8, 2022, after the inspection, Sea Robin completed the remediation and provided records and photographs of the completed remediations.

Therefore, Sea Robin failed to provide protection against atmospheric corrosion found during an inspection in accordance with § 192.481(c) and its procedures.

Proposed Civil Penalty

Under 49 U.S.C. § 60122 and 49 CFR § 190.223, you are subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$257,664 per violation per day the violation persists, up to a maximum of \$2,576,627 for a related series of violations. For violation occurring on or after March 21, 2022 and before January 6, 2023, the maximum penalty may not exceed \$239,142 per violation per day the violation persists, up to a maximum of \$2,391,412 for a related series of violations. For violation occurring on or after May 3, 2021 and before March 21, 2022, the maximum penalty may not exceed \$225,134 per violation per day the violation persists, up to a maximum of \$2,251,334 for a related series of violations. For violation occurring on or after January 11, 2021 and before May 3, 2021, the maximum penalty may not exceed \$222,504 per violation per day the violation persists, up to a maximum of \$2,225,034 for a related series of violations. For violation occurring on or after July 31, 2019 and before January 11, 2021, the maximum penalty may not exceed \$218,647 per violation per day the violation persists, up to a maximum of \$2,186,465 for a related series of violations. For violation occurring on or after November 27, 2018 and before July 31, 2019, the maximum penalty may not exceed \$213,268 per violation per day, with a maximum penalty not to

exceed \$2,132,679. For violation occurring on or after November 2, 2015 and before November 27, 2018, the maximum penalty may not exceed \$209,002 per violation per day, with a maximum penalty not to exceed \$2,090,022.

We have reviewed the circumstances and supporting documentation involved for the above probable violation and recommend that you be preliminarily assessed a civil penalty of \$ 39,400 as follows:

<u>Item number</u>	<u>PENALTY</u>
1	\$ 39,400

Response to this Notice

Enclosed as part of this Notice is a document entitled *Response Options for Pipeline Operators in Enforcement Proceedings*. Please refer to this document and note the response options. All material you submit in response to this enforcement action may be 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, or request a hearing under 49 CFR § 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 a Final Order. If you are responding to this Notice, we propose that you submit your correspondence to my office within 30 days from the receipt of this Notice. This period may be extended by written request for good cause.

In your correspondence on this matter, please refer to **CPF 4-2023-027-NOPV**, and for each document you submit, please provide a copy in electronic format whenever possible.

Sincerely,

Bryan Lethcoe
 Director, Southwest Region, Office of Pipeline Safety
 Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Enclosure: *Response Options for Pipeline Operators in Enforcement Proceedings*