



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

8701 S. Gessner, Suite 630  
Houston TX 77074

## NOTICE OF AMENDMENT

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO: [tom.long@energytransfer.com](mailto:tom.long@energytransfer.com)**

August 19, 2024

Thomas Long  
Chief Executive Officer  
Energy Transfer, LP  
Transwestern Pipeline Company, LLC  
8111 Westchester Drive  
Dallas, Texas 75225

**CPF 4-2024-038-NOA**

Dear Mr. Long:

From April 11 through September 29, 2023, of the onsite inspection, 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 Transwestern Pipeline Company, LLC's (Transwestern) procedures for Operations and Maintenance in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas.<sup>1</sup>

As a result of the inspection, PHMSA has identified the apparent inadequacies found within Transwestern's plans or procedures. The items inspected and the inadequacies are described below:

**1. § 192.615 Emergency plans.**

**(a) Each operator shall establish written procedures to minimize the hazard resulting from a gas pipeline emergency. At a minimum, the procedures must provide for the following:**

**(1) . . . .**

**(12) Each operator must develop written rupture identification procedures to evaluate and identify whether a notification of potential rupture, as defined in § 192.3, is an actual rupture event or a non-rupture event. These procedures must, at a minimum, specify the sources of information, operational factors, and other criteria that operator personnel use to evaluate a notification of potential rupture and identify**

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<sup>1</sup> Transwestern is a subsidiary of Energy Transfer, LP.

**an actual rupture. For operators installing valves in accordance with § 192.179(e), § 192.179(f), or that are subject to the requirements in § 192.634, those procedures must provide for rupture identification as soon as practicable.**

Transwestern's written procedures to minimize the hazard resulting from a gas pipeline emergency were inadequate to evaluate and identify whether a notification of potential rupture, as defined in § 192.3, is an actual rupture event or non-rupture event in accordance with § 192.615(a)(12). Specifically, Transwestern's *Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), Rupture Mitigation Valves, M.07* (Rev. July 11, 2023) failed to specify sources of information, operational factors, and other criteria that operator personnel use to evaluate a notification of potential rupture and identify an actual rupture.

Therefore, Transwestern must revise its procedure to require specifying sources of information, operational factors, and other criteria that operator personnel use to evaluate a notification of potential rupture and identify an actual rupture in accordance with § 192.615(a)(12).

#### Response to this Notice

This Notice is provided pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 60108(a) and 49 C.F.R. § 190.206. 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).

Following the receipt of this Notice, you have 30 days to submit written comments, revised procedures, or a request for a hearing under § 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 an Order Directing Amendment. If your plans or procedures are found inadequate as alleged in this Notice, you may be ordered to amend your plans or procedures to correct the inadequacies (49 C.F.R. § 190.206). If you are not contesting this Notice, we propose that you submit your amended procedures to my office within 30 days of receipt of this Notice. This period may be extended by written request for good cause. Once the inadequacies identified herein have been addressed in your amended procedures, this enforcement action will be closed.

It is requested (not mandated) that Transwestern Pipeline Company, LLC, maintain documentation of the safety improvement costs associated with fulfilling this Notice of Amendment (preparation/revision of plans, procedures) and submit the total to Bryan Lethcoe, Director,

Southwest Region, Office of Pipeline Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. In correspondence concerning this matter, please refer to **CPF 4-2024-038-NOA** 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*

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