



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 COMPLIANCE ORDER**

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO: tom.long@energytransfer.com

May 22, 2026

Thomas E. Long
Chief Executive Officer
Energy Transfer, LP
8111 Westchester Dr.
Dallas, Texas 75225

CPF 4-2026-037-NOPV

Dear Mr. Long:

From March 10, 2025 through June 27, 2025, 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 Permian Express Partners, LLC's¹ (Permian Express) pipeline system in Louisiana and Texas.

As a result of the inspection, it is alleged that Permian Express 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 Permian Express Partners, LLC is a subsidiary of Energy Transfer, LP.

1. **§ 195.262 Pumping equipment.**
 - (a)
 - (b) **The following must be provided in each pump station:**
 - (1)
 - (2) **A device for the emergency shutdown of each pumping station**

Permian Express failed to provide a device for the emergency shutdown ("ESD") of each pump station in accordance with § 195.262(b)(2). Specifically, Permian Express failed to provide ESD devices at its Midland Station and Garden City Station.

Permian Express' Engineering Standard *Pump Stations Design HL8.0104* (rev. 2/1/2020), Section 4.9 "Emergency Shutdown Systems" requires the installation of ESD systems at all treatment plants and pump stations, subject to certain exceptions. In addition, Permian Express' Engineering Standard *Pump Station ESD Systems HL8.0501* (rev. 1/18/2016), Section 4.2.3 "Manual and Automatic ESD Initiation" requires the installation of at least three manual ESD stands, and prescribes specific requirements for the location, marking, and painting of ESD stands.²

On April 29, 2025, during the on-site inspections of the Midland Pump Station and the Garden City Pump Station, PHMSA personnel observed the absence of ESD devices located at either pump station. ESD devices could not be located after the PHMSA inspector and Permian Express personnel searched the stations.

Therefore, Permian Express failed to provide an ESD device for each pump station in accordance with § 195.262(b)(2).

Proposed Civil Penalty

Under 49 U.S.C. § 60122 and 49 CFR § 190.223, you are subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$272,926 per violation per day the violation persists, up to a maximum of \$2,729,245 for a related series of violations. For violation occurring on or after December 28, 2023 and before December 30, 2024, the maximum penalty may not exceed \$266,015 per violation per day the violation persists, up to a maximum of \$2,660,135 for a related series of violations. For violation occurring on or after January 6, 2023 and before December 28, 2023, the maximum penalty may not 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

² Because the ESD requirements were also included in Permian Express' written specifications and procedures, failure to have the devices installed may also constitute a violation of §§ 195.401(a) and 195.402(e).

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.

We have reviewed the circumstances and supporting documents involved in this case, and have decided not to propose a civil penalty assessment at this time.

Proposed Compliance Order

With respect to Item 1, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 60118, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration proposes to issue a Compliance Order to Permian Express. Please refer to the *Proposed Compliance Order*, which is enclosed and made a part of this Notice.

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 your receipt of this Notice, you have 30 days to respond as described in the enclosed *Response Options*. 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 receipt of this Notice. The Region Director may extend the period for responding upon a written request timely submitted demonstrating good cause for an extension.

In your correspondence on this matter, please refer to **CPF 4-2026-037-NOPV** and, for each document you submit, please provide a copy in electronic format whenever possible.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures: *Proposed Compliance Order*
Response Options for Pipeline Operators in Enforcement Proceedings

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PROPOSED COMPLIANCE ORDER

Pursuant to 49 United States Code § 60118, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) proposes to issue to Permian Express Partners, LLC (Permian Express) a Compliance Order incorporating the following remedial requirements to ensure the compliance of Permian Express with the pipeline safety regulations:

- A. In regard to Item 1 of the Notice pertaining to Permian Express' failure to provide a device for the emergency shutdown ("ESD") of each pump station in accordance with § 195.262(b)(2), Permian Express must:
 - 1. Develop a plan for installation of ESD devices at the Midland Pump Station and the Garden City Pump Station within **90** days of receipt of the Final Order.
 - 2. Submit for approval to the Director, Office of Pipeline Safety, PHMSA Southwest Region (Director), within **90** days of receipt of the Final Order, the plan(s) developed in accordance with paragraph A.1.
 - 3. Within **90** days of receipt of approval of the plan(s) developed in accordance with paragraph A.1, commence and complete installation of the ESD devices at the Midland Pump Station and the Garden City Pump Station.
 - 4. Submit to the Director a written certification that the installation of the ESD devices at the Midland Pump Station and the Garden City Pump Station have been completed within **30** days of completion of installation.
- B. It is requested (not mandated) that Permian Express maintain documentation of the safety improvement costs associated with fulfilling this Compliance Order and submit the total to Bryan Lethcoe, Director, Southwest Region, Office of Pipeline Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. It is requested that these costs be reported in two categories: 1) total cost associated with preparation/revision of plans, procedures, studies and analyses, and 2) total cost associated with replacements, additions and other changes to pipeline infrastructure.