



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

12300 W. Dakota Ave., Suite 110
Lakewood, CO 80228

**NOTICE OF PROBABLE VIOLATION
and
PROPOSED COMPLIANCE ORDER**

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO MR. LOUIS ZYLSTRA

July 26, 2023

Mr. Louis Zylstra
Sr. Vice President
E&B Natural Resources Management Corp
249 E. Ocean Blvd., Suite 900
Long Beach, CA 90802

CPF 5-2023-040-NOPV

Dear Mr. Zylstra:

From March 21, 2023, to March 23, 2023, 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 E&B Natural Resources Management Corp's (E&B) PXP Gathering System in Los Angeles, California.

As a result of the inspection, it is alleged that you have committed probable violations of the Pipeline Safety Regulations, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The items inspected and the probable violations are:

- 1. §192.481 Atmospheric corrosion control: Monitoring.**
 - (a) Each operator must inspect and evaluate each pipeline or portion of the pipeline that is exposed to the atmosphere for evidence of atmospheric corrosion, as follows:**

Pipeline type:	Then the frequency of inspection is:
(1) Onshore other than a Service Line	At least once every 3 calendar years, but with intervals not exceeding 39 months.
(2) Onshore Service Line	At least once every 5 calendar years, but with intervals not exceeding 63 months, except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section.
(3) Offshore	At least once each calendar year, but with intervals not exceeding 15 months.

E&B failed to inspect and evaluate the pipeline for evidence of atmospheric corrosion at least every 3 calendar years, with intervals not exceeding 39 months, as required. Specifically, during the March 2023 inspection, PHMSA reviewed E&B records which demonstrated it had not conducted an atmospheric corrosion inspection on the PXP Gathering System since it assumed operation of the pipeline on March 30, 2018.

Therefore, E&B failed to comply with § 192.481(a) by not conducting atmospheric corrosion control monitoring on the pipeline at least every three years, with intervals not exceeding 39 months.

2. § 192.479 - Atmospheric corrosion control; General.

(a) Each operator must clean and coat each pipeline or portion of pipeline that is exposed to the atmosphere, except pipelines under paragraph (c) of this section.

E&B failed to clean and coat each portion of the pipeline exposed to the atmosphere, as required. During the inspection, the inspector observed multiple portions of the pipeline within the Inglewood Oil Field which had little or no remaining paint, and had significant visible rust on the pipe.

Therefore, E&B failed to comply with § 192.479(a) by failing to clean and coat each portion of the pipeline that is exposed to the atmosphere.

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 documents involved in this case, and have decided not to propose a civil penalty assessment at this time.

Proposed Compliance Order

With respect to items 1 and 2, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 60118, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration proposes to issue a Compliance Order to E&B. 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 5-2023-040-NOPV** and, for each document you submit, please provide a copy in electronic format whenever possible.

Sincerely,

Dustin Hubbard
Director, Western Region, Office of Pipeline Safety
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

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

cc: PHP-60 Compliance Registry
PHP-500 Z. Wynkoop (#23-264043)

PROPOSED COMPLIANCE ORDER

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

- A. In regard to Item Number 1 of the Notice pertaining to atmospheric corrosion inspections, E&B must conduct atmospheric corrosion inspection on all segments of its pipeline within **30** days of receipt of the Final Order.
- B. In regard to Item Number 2 of the Notice pertaining to pipeline coating, E&B must clean and coat its pipeline exposed to the atmosphere within the Inglewood Oil Field within **90** days of receipt of the Final Order.
- C. It is requested (not mandated) that E&B maintain documentation of the safety improvement costs associated with fulfilling this Compliance Order and submit the total to Dustin Hubbard, Director, Western Region, 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.