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Via Electronic Mail to dustin.hubbard@dot.gov

January 24, 2024

Mr. Dustin Hubbard
Director, Western Region
U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
12300 W. Dakota Avenue, Suite 110
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

**RE: Response to PHMSA CPF 5-2023-058-NOPV
Notice of Probable Violation**

Dear Mr. Hubbard,

Harvest Alaska, LLC (Harvest) has received the above referenced Notice of Probable Violation (NOPV) and Proposed Civil Penalty by which PHMSA alleges that Harvest committed probable violations of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations. The NOPV was generated part of an integrated inspection of the Cook Inlet Pipeline (CIPL).

PHMSA asserts that there are four proposed NOPVs associated with the inspection, three of which are warnings, and the other carrying a proposed civil penalty. Harvest has taken action to address the warnings and the proposed civil penalty as detailed below.

Item 1. § 195.262 Pumping Equipment

The NOPV states that Harvest failed to provide an overpressure prevention safety device for an auxiliary pump within a pump station.

Harvest locked the pump out of service and a PSV was installed as soon as one could be sourced.

Item 2. § 195.428 Overpressure safety devices and overflow protection systems

The NOPV states that Harvest failed to conduct testing and inspection of the overpressure control device PIT-16 at least once each calendar year and at an interval not to exceed 15 months as is required by § 195.428. Specifically, the Operator provided record of inspection and testing of PIT-16 for calendar years 2021 and 2023 but did not provide record of inspection and testing of PIT-16 for the year 2022.

Harvest does not contest the finding that a record of inspection did not occur in 2022 for PIT-16, however, would like to provide the following actions that were taken to make improvements.

Harvest has identified a different device as the primary overpressure protection from the upstream shipping pumps. This device is located on Harvest assets and therefore makes maintenance and inspection much easier moving forward. Although not known or discussed at the time of inspection, this device has been functioning as overpressure protection from the upstream shipping pumps for a number of years but Harvest has now made it the primary safety-related device.

Harvest has also recently improved our workorder system to be easier for end users along with improved visibility for tracking. Additionally, Harvest has made improvements to our facility and pipeline drawings to reflect the system more accurately.

Item 3. § 195.452 Pipeline integrity management in high consequence areas

The NOPV states that Harvest failed to provide evidence of consideration of mandatory risk factors when extending the continual integrity assessment schedule for the CIPL as is required by § 195.452.

All changes to ILI intervals are now handled through Integrity Change Forms. All of the risk factors (defect growth rate, pipe coating type and condition, leak history, repair history, cathodic protection history, and geotechnical hazards) are considered as part of the change process and form.

Item 4. § 195.452 Pipeline integrity management in high consequence areas

The NOPV states that Harvest failed to consider measures to prevent consequences of a pipeline failure in a high consequence area as is required by § 195.452.

Harvest has taken the following additional measures to address bluff erosion:

1. The bluff areas will be further discussed in the next scheduled CRA (this includes all Harvest pipelines that cross Cook Inlet).
2. A recurring P&MM for pipelines that cross Cook Inlet will be made to evaluate the bluff in-person to determine if additional actions are required. The frequency should be at least 2 times per year.

3. Harvest is amending routine patrol criteria to specifically monitor the bluff condition. This will require modifications to the ROW patrol procedures (P-195.412 & P-192.705) to specifically monitor the bluff conditions and note any changes or if any additional actions are taken.

If any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at (907) 777-8310, Andrew.Limmer@harvestmidstream.com.

Sincerely,



Andrew Limmer,
Vice President, Harvest Alaska

cc (by-email):

Hugh Keogh, (PHMSA)
Gabrielle St. Pierre, (PHMSA)
Nancy Turner, (PHMSA)
Harold Colgrove, Integrity & Regulatory Compliance Manager (Harvest Alaska)
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