

LETTER OF CONCERN

February 1, 2000

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Don Bozell
Vice President, Operations
Marathon-Ashland Pipe Line, LLC.
539 S. Main Street
Findlay, OH 45840-3295

CPF No. 3-2000-5005C

Dear Mr. Bozell:

On May 17 - May 21 and August 30 - September 3 a representative of the Central Region, Office of Pipeline Safety, pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code, conducted an onsite pipeline safety inspection of your records at the Casper, WY location and field facilities located within the states of Nebraska and Kansas.

The inspection disclosed the following items of concern. Please give these items your attention.

1. Marathon-Ashland had marginal pipe-to-soil readings in the area of the Little Blue (NE) Block Valve setting.
2. At the Dickens (NE) Block Valve the aboveground piping was not adequately protected from atmospheric corrosion and needs painting.
3. At the Platte Eustis (NE) Block Valve all the piping needs re-painting. There were large flakes of paint that had fallen from the piping and a significant amount of rust had formed on exposed surfaces.
4. At the Deshler, NE Station the aboveground piping was not adequately protected from atmospheric corrosion and needs painting.

These items were discussed with your representatives during the inspection. They indicated that the items would receive attention.

The Office of Pipeline Safety has received photos and documents from Marathon-Ashland showing evidence that corrective action has already been completed for item 4 mentioned above. The submittals are satisfactory and additional action by Marathon-Ashland on this specific item is not required.

The Office of Pipeline Safety appreciates your attention in this matter and good faith efforts to promote continued safety in your organization.

If we can answer any questions or be of any assistance, please contact us at (816) 329-3800. Thank you for your staff's cooperation during this scheduled inspection.

Sincerely,

Ivan A. Huntoon
Director, Central Region
Office of Pipeline Safety