



Southwest Region,  
Office of Pipeline Safety

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U.S. Department  
of Transportation

Research and  
Special Programs  
Administration

## **LETTER OF CONCERN**

January 15, 1997

### **CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. Gary Lauderdale  
Senior Vice President General Manager  
Texas Gas Transmission Corp.  
3800 Frederica Street  
Owensboro, Kentucky 42304

**CPF No. 47101-C**

Dear Mr. Lauderdale:

During the months of June and July 1996, a representative of the Southwest Region, Office of Pipeline Safety, pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code conducted a pipeline safety inspection of Texas Gas Transmission Corporation onshore facilities and records in Woodlawn and Columbia, Louisiana.

As a result of the inspection and in keeping with pipeline safety regulations we have noted some areas of concern.

At the time of the inspection of your records at the Welch and Columbia district offices, it was noted that documentation of face-to-face meetings with fire, police and other emergency officials were not available. Sometime after the inspection, we received records of such meetings from the Welch district, however, the Columbia district failed to produce such documentation. Texas Gas has a procedure and form that should be used for this type of documentation. Section 192.13(c) states that each operator shall maintain, modify as appropriate, and follow the plans, procedures, and programs that it is required to establish under this part.

Additionally, during the field observation of the Welch district facilities a number of concerns were noted as follows:

At the Woodlawn compressor station, at the time of the inspection, district personnel were unable to locate the 1994 annual inspection report for a 16-inch diameter Rockwell ball valve.

At Roanoke Junction, valve No. 2+5.7-2 showed indications of a slow gas leak and Texas Gas personnel assisting with the inspection were unable to operate the valve.

At Grand Cheniere Junction, the receiving 12 inch diameter pig trap was leaking due to a damaged o-ring. Also, valve hand wheels were not secured in an area that is accessible by workers of an adjacent business.

At the Jennings Sales Valve #2 area, safety/security signs such as company identification, no smoking or no trespassing were not posted on the gates or the fence surrounding the valve site.

Soon after the inspection, Texas Gas Safety staff assured us that the above-mentioned field concerns had been corrected and missing reports found. Also, Texas Gas procedures will have references to the required reporting form so that, in the future, all districts will document visits with public officials in a consistent manner.

We acknowledge your swift response to the areas of concern that were brought to your attention during our inspection and hope that Texas Gas Transmission personnel will continue to improve on the safe operation and maintenance of the pipeline system.

Sincerely,

James C. Thomas  
Regional Director