

## LETTER OF CONCERN

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

March 2, 1998

Mr. Steve Bell, Vice President, Operations  
Williams Pipeline Company  
P.O. Box 3448  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74105

Dear Mr. Bell:

**CPF No: 48507C**

On February 10 and 11, 1998, a representative from the Southwest Region, Office of Pipeline Safety, pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code, conducted an onsite pipeline safety inspection of the pipeline records maintained in Tulsa, Oklahoma and Overland Park, Kansas. During the inspection an item was noted that causes concern about the safe operation and maintenance of the pipelines.

Maintenance and inspections were performed on the mainline block valve located at Milepost 20+35 on the Barnsdall to Kansas City line on September 17, 1996, March 14, 1997 and September 25, 1997. The maintenance technician stated on the inspection records for the September 1996 and March 1997 inspections that the valve was hard to operate.

There was no mention of difficulty operating the valve in the record for the September 1997 inspection. This leads one to wonder if:

- a) The technician failed to make note that the valve was difficult to operate, or
- b) Maintenance had been performed to correct the problem during the March 1997 or September 1997 inspections but the technician failed to indicate on the inspection form that the work had been completed.

This office believes that a record of maintenance performed must be referred to in the inspection records or attached to these records. This will verify closure on the maintenance item.

You will not hear from us again with regard to this concern. Because of the good faith that you have exhibited up to this time, we expect that you will act to ensure that field technicians properly maintain valves needed for the safe operation of the pipeline and that proper records are maintained. Please refer to CPF No. 48507C in any correspondence/communication on this manner.

Sincerely,

R. M. Seeley  
Regional Director, Southwest Region