



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Research and
Special Programs
Administration**

Southern Region, Pipeline Safety

Atlanta Federal Center
Suite 16 T 15
100 Alabama St., SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-3104

WARNING LETTER

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

January 30, 1997

Mr. William Rome
Vice President of Operations
Florida Gas Transmission Company
P. O. Box 1188
Houston, TX 77251-1188

CPF No. 27101-W

Dear Mr. Rome:

On May 22-24, June 24-28, August 5-8, and October 28-November 1, 1996, a representative of the Southern Region, Office of Pipeline Safety, pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code, conducted an onsite pipeline safety inspection of your pipeline facilities and records at the Orlando and Tallahassee Regions in Florida.

As a result of the inspection, it appears that you have committed probable violations as noted below of pipeline safety regulations Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 192.

The item inspected and the probable violation is:

§192.465 External corrosion control: Monitoring.

(a) Each pipeline that is under cathodic protection must be tested at least once each calendar year, but with intervals not exceeding 15 months, to determine whether the cathodic protection meets the requirements of §192.463.

Cathodic protection readings for the following locations exceeded the 15 month interval between 1994 and 1995:

Lakeland

Auburndale CFG (2/94, 11/95)

Bartow CFG "A" (2/94, 8/95)

St. Pete/Sarasota Connector (2/94, 11/95)

Safety Harbor

Sara-St. Pete Connector (2/94,11/95)

Under 49 United States Code, § 60122, you are subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$25,000 for each violation for each day the violations persists up to a maximum of \$500,000 for any related series of violations.

We have reviewed the circumstances and supporting documents involved in this case, and have decided not to assess you a civil penalty. We advise you, however, that should you not correct the circumstances leading to the violations, we will take enforcement action when and if the continued violations comes to our attention.

You will not hear from us again with regard to the noted inspection and our subsequent action. Because of the good faith that you have exhibited up to this time, we expect that you will act to bring your pipeline (and/or your operations) into compliance with pipeline safety regulations.

Sincerely,

Frederick A. Joyner
Director, Southern Region
Office of Pipeline Safety