

WARNING LETTER

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

August 18, 1999

Mr. Robert Rose
President
Tampa Pipeline Corporation
P.O. Box 35236
Sarasota, FL 34242

CPF No. 29602W

Dear Mr. Rose:

On May 12-13, 1999, Derick Turner, 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 Tampa Bay Pipeline Company facilities and records at Tampa, 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 195 .

The items inspected and the probable violations are:

- 1. §195.416(e) requires that whenever any buried pipe is exposed for any reason, the operator shall examine the pipe for evidence of external corrosion.**

The operator could not adequately verify that whenever the buried pipe was exposed for any reason, it was being examined for evidence of external corrosion.

- 2. §195.416(i) requires the operator to clean, coat with material suitable for the prevention of atmospheric corrosion, and, maintain this protection for, each component in its pipeline system that is exposed to the atmosphere.**

The field inspection of the Farmland receiving station indicated sign of atmospheric corrosion and the need for remedial action. The operator has developed a plan of action to relocate the station due to the corrosive environment and is in the process of settling the agreement with Farmland representatives.

3. **§195.418(c) requires that the operator at intervals not exceeding 7 1/2 months, but at least twice each calendar year, examine coupons or other types of monitoring equipment to determine the effectiveness of the inhibitors or the extent of any corrosion.**

The coupon records indicated that coupons were being examined in the proper time interval as required by the code. However, documentation did not show the indicated level of corrosion based on the metal loss from the coupons.

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