

WARNING LETTER

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

April 3, 2000

Mr. Robert S. Bahnick
Vice President of Operations
Williams Gas Pipeline Central, Inc.
P. O. Box 3288
Tulsa, OK 74101-9990

CPF No. 3-2000-1001W

Dear Mr. Bahnick:

On November 6, 1998, a representative of the Central Region, Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code, conducted an onsite accident investigation of the fire at Williams Gas Pipeline Company's facilities at Knob Noster, Missouri.

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

The item investigated and the probable violation is:

1. § 192.751 Prevention of accidental ignition.

Each operator shall take steps to minimize the danger of accidental ignition of gas in any structure or area where the presence of gas constitutes a hazard of fire or explosion.

The investigation of the accident at Knob Noster indicated

that steps taken by Williams to prevent accidental ignition of gas were not adequate. The investigation indicated that natural gas was accidentally ignited during construction on the gas piping.

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 persist 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 violation, we will take enforcement action when and if the continued violation comes to our attention.

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

Sincerely,

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