



US Department
of Transportation

**Research and
Special Programs
Administration**

400 Seventh St. S.W.
Washington D.C. 20590

NOV 19 2003

Mr. Reed D. Robinson
Vice President, Field Services
Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation
P. O. Box 1273
1700 MacCorkle Avenue, SE
Charleston, WV 25325-1273

Re: CPF No. 1-2002-1004H

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Enclosed is the Amendment to the Corrective Action Order in the above-referenced case. The Amendment allows an alternative method to the cluster rule requirements for pipe replacement. Service is being made by registered mail and facsimile. Your receipt of the enclosed document constitutes service of that document under 49 C.F.R. § 190.5. The terms and conditions of this Amendment are effective upon receipt.

Sincerely,

Gwendolyn M. Hill
Pipeline Compliance Registry
Office of Pipeline Safety

Enclosure

cc: David Kirkland, Manager, Engineering Services
Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation

VIA REGISTERED MAIL (RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED) AND TELECOPY

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
RESEARCH AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF PIPELINE SAFETY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590**

In the Matter of)
)
Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation,)
)
Respondent.)

CPF No. 1-2002-1004-H

AMENDMENT TO CORRECTIVE ACTION ORDER

The Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety issued a Corrective Action Order on June 20, 2002 and a Post Hearing Decision Confirming the CAO on February 5, 2003 (collectively "the Order") in the above-referenced case. The Order required that corrective measures be taken to resolve the circumstances surrounding the 800 anomalies found by internal inspection. The corrective measures included pipe replacement as determined by a "cluster rule." This Amendment approves an alternative method to the cluster rule requirements for pipe replacement, an extension of time to complete the required actions on Line 1278 and a temporary increase in operating pressure to meet winter heating demands. This Amendment provides for the replacement of significantly more pipe than required by the cluster rule.

As allowed by the Order, Respondent has proposed an alternative method to the cluster rule requirements to permit complete pipeline replacement in Pennsylvania on Line 1278 on the south end from Quakertown to Hellertown and on the north end from the Easton Compressor Station to Weber Road. The extended schedule applies to the small section of Class 3 location pipe, from the Easton Compressor Station to Weber Road, which is to be completed by year end 2005. As part of the alternative, Respondent has offered to perform additional safety activities on the Line 1278 segments during the pipe replacement period.

Required Corrective Action

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 60112, I hereby amend the corrective action order issued in this case to add the following items:

With respect to the "cluster rule" pipeline replacement required by items C5-C7, from the Quakertown M&R Station to the Hellertown M&R Station, Respondent may as an alternative, elect to do the following:

1. Replace approximately 3000 feet of Class 3 uncoated pipe with coated pipe by the end of year 2004.

2. Replace 9 miles of Class 1 and Class 2 area 14-inch uncoated pipe with coated pipe between 2004 and the end of year 2007.

With respect to the “cluster rule” pipeline replacement of approximately 43 miles of 14-inch pipeline required by items C4, C6, and C7, from the Easton Compressor Station to Weber Road, Respondent may as an alternative, elect to do the following:

3. Replace approximately 8.5 miles of Class 3 and approximately 2.5 miles of Class 2 14-inch bare pipe with 20-inch coated pipe between Weber Road and Bushkill valve in 2004.
4. Replace the remaining 14-inch bare pipe with 20-inch coated between Bushkill valve and Easton by the end of year 2005.

Notwithstanding the pressure restrictions of items B1, B2 and B8 on the line segment between the Easton Compressor Station and the Milford Compressor Station, Respondent may--

Temporarily raise the operating pressure on Line 1278 between the Easton Compressor Station and the Milford Compressor Station from 600 psig to 800 psig for short periods, not to exceed 800 psig, during the winter heating season to meet critical consumer needs.

Notify the Regional Director in advance of any temporary increases in operating pressure under this item.

If Respondent elects the alternative to the “cluster rule” pipeline replacement, then supplemental safety activities must be performed to enhance public safety. Respondent must-


During 2004-2005, read the rectifiers on the uncoated pipe in the affected segments of Line 1278 on a monthly basis.

Increase its annual instrumented pipeline leak patrol on all uncoated pipe in Class 3 locations between Easton and Milford to quarterly.

In 2005, internally inspect the eleven mile section between Weber Road and the Millrift receiver to verify the integrity of the pipe and the effectiveness of the cathodic protection system.

All other terms of the June 20, 2002 Order and the February 5, 2003 Post Hearing Decision, remain in effect.

Respondent may appeal any decision of the Director, Eastern Region to the Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety. Decisions of the Associate Administrator shall be final. This Corrective Action Order will remain in effect until all required corrective action items are satisfactorily completed. Failure to comply with this Order may result in the assessment of civil penalties of not more than \$100,000 per day and in referral to the Attorney General for appropriate relief in United States District Court.


Stacey Gerard
for Associate Administrator
for Pipeline Safety

NOV 19 2003

Date Issued