

Southwest Region, Pipeline Safety

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U.S. Department of Transportation

Research and Special Programs Administration

## **WARNING LETTER**

## <u>CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED</u>

August 19, 1999

Mr. Tom Linton President Warren Petroleum Company, L.P. 13430 Northwest Freeway, Suite 1200 Houston, Texas 77079

Dear Mr. Linton:

CPF No. 47002-W

On February 25, 1997, Warren Petroleum Company, L.P. notified the Department of Transportation (DOT), Research and Special Programs Administration, Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), of a Safety Related Condition Report (SRCR). The SRCR location was at the Sand Hills Gas Processing Plant in Crane, Texas.

As a result of our review of this SRCR, pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code, it appears that a probable violation was committed of the pipeline safety regulations (Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 191). The probable violation is:

Section 191.25 requires each report of a safety-related condition under §191.23(a) must be filed (received by the Secretary) in writing within five working days (not including Saturdays, Sundays, or Federal holidays) after the day a representative of the operator first determines that the condition exists, but not later than 10 working days after the day a representative of the operator discovers the condition.

Warren Petroleum failed to report the safety-related condition report within five working days after the day a representative of the operator first determined that the condition existed, December 23, 1996. The DOT/OPS received the SRCR from Warren Petroleum on March 4, 1997. After reviewing the SRCR, this office has determined that the SRCR should have been filed by December 31, 1996, five days after determining a safety-related condition existed.

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 violation persists up to a maximum of \$500,000 for any related series of violations. We have reviewed the circumstances and supporting documentation 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 violation comes to our attention.

Sincerely,

James C. Thomas Regional Director