



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials Safety
Administration**

233 Peachtree Street Ste. 600
Atlanta, GA 30303

WARNING LETTER

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

May 2, 2013

Ms. Debbie Martin
Assistant Director
Pinellas County Housing Authority
11479 Palmerton Road
Largo, FL 33774

CPF 2-2013-0019W

Dear Ms. Martin:

On March 19, 2013, representatives of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Southern Region, Office of Pipeline Safety, pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code, inspected the Rainbow Village master meter and downstream piping and facilities at 12301 134th Avenue N, Largo, Florida.

As a result of the inspection, it appears that Rainbow Village has committed probable violations of the Pipeline Safety Regulations, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations. The items inspected and the probable violations are as follows:

1. **§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. However, if tests at those intervals are impractical for separately protected short sections of mains or transmission line, not in excess of 100 feet (30 meters), or separately protected service line, these pipelines may be surveyed on a sampling basis. At least 10 percent of these protected structures, distributed over the entire system must be surveyed each calendar year, with a different 10 percent checked each subsequent year, so that the entire system is tested in each 10-year period.**

Rainbow Village did not present to the PHMSA inspector any records to demonstrate that it had monitored its approximately 2.5 miles of cathodically protected BIW coated pipe in calendar year 2012.

2. **§192.625 Odorization of gas.**

... (f) **To assure the proper concentration of odorant in accordance with this section, each operator must conduct periodic sampling of combustible gases using an instrument capable of determining the percentage of gas in air at which the odor becomes readily detectable. Operators of master meter systems may comply with this requirement by-**

- (1) Receiving written verification from their gas source that the gas has the proper concentration of odorant; and**
- (2) Conducting periodic "sniff" tests at the extremities of the system to confirm that the gas contains odorant.**

Rainbow Village did not present to the PHMSA inspector any records to demonstrate that it had assured the proper concentration of odorant in its pipeline system by receiving written verification from its gas source that the gas has the proper concentration of odorant or by conducting periodic "sniff" tests at the extremities of the system to confirm that the gas contains odorant.

3. **§192.721 Distribution systems: Patrolling.**

(a) The frequency of patrolling mains must be determined by the severity of the conditions which could cause failure or leakage, and the consequent hazards to public safety.

(b) Mains in places or on structures where anticipated physical movement or external loading could cause failure or leakage must be patrolled -

- (1) In business districts, at intervals not exceeding 4 1/2 months, but at least four times each calendar year; and**
- (2) Outside business districts, at intervals not exceeding 7 1/2 months, but at least twice each calendar year.**

Rainbow Village did not present to the PHMSA inspector any records to show it patrolled its distribution system in the residential area at intervals not exceeding 7½ months, but at least twice each calendar year in 2001 and 2012.

4. **§192.747 Valve maintenance: Distribution systems.**

(a) Each valve, the use of which may be necessary for the safe operation of a distribution system, must be checked and serviced at intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least once each calendar year.

(b) Each operator must take prompt remedial action to correct any valve found inoperable, unless the operator designates an alternative valve.

Rainbow Village did not present to the PHMSA inspector any records to demonstrate that it had checked and serviced its shut off (or key valve) which may be necessary for the safe operation of its distribution system at intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least once each calendar year.

Under 49 United States Code, §60122, Rainbow Village is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$200,000 per violation per day the violation persists up to a maximum of \$2,000,000

for a related series of violations. For violations occurring prior to January 4, 2012, the maximum penalty may not exceed \$100,000 per violation per day, with a maximum penalty not to exceed \$1,000,000 for a related series of violations. We have reviewed the circumstances and supporting documents involved in this case and have decided not to conduct additional enforcement action or penalty assessment proceedings at this time. We advise you to correct the items identified in this letter. Failure to do so will result in the Rainbow Village being subject to additional enforcement action.

No reply to this letter is required. If you choose to reply, in your correspondence please refer to **CPF 2-2013-0019W**. Be advised that all material you submit in response to this enforcement action is subject to being made publicly available. If you believe that any portion of your responsive material qualifies for confidential treatment under 5 U.S.C. 552(b), along with the complete original document you must provide a second copy of the document with the portions you believe qualify for confidential treatment redacted and an explanation of why you believe the redacted information qualifies for confidential treatment under 5 U.S.C. 552(b).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wayne T. Lemo".

Wayne T. Lemo
Director, Office of Pipeline Safety
PHMSA Southern Region