



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and  
Hazardous Materials Safety  
Administration**

8701 South Gessner, Suite 1110  
Houston, TX 77074

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

April 9, 2013

Mr. Gary W. Pruessing  
President  
ExxonMobil Pipeline Company  
800 Bell Street  
Room 3180H  
Houston, TX 77002

**Re: CPF 4-2013-5006H Request for Approval Pursuant to CAO Item 3**

Dear Mr. Pruessing:

We have received your letters of April 5 and 8, 2013, regarding the actions proposed by ExxonMobil Pipeline Company (EMPCo) in reference to Items 1 and 3 of the Corrective Action Order. The information related to Item 1, regarding the actions proposed to excavate the line, are considered limited in scope and include the plans and procedures for pipe removal and temporary repairs to the line only. Further discussions and information will be required and discussed as the testing and Integrity Verification Plan are drafted, approved, and implemented.

Specifically to Item 3, EMPCo requests approval to use Hurst Metallurgical Research Lab, Euless, Texas to conduct the required metallurgical testing on the failed section of pipe. We have reviewed the request and proposed protocols and have no objection to EMPCo's request.

Please continue to communicate the plans and scheduling for testing with my office. While it is not our intent to delay the testing, we do intend to attend and witness some of the testing. To that end and as required by the order, please forward the schedule for testing as it is developed. Should you have further questions, please feel free to directly contact Mary McDaniel at (713) 272-2847.

Sincerely,

R. M. Seeley  
Director, Southwest Region  
Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety Administration