



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials Safety
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

SEP - 1 2005

Mr. Patrick Carey
Director of Compliance
El Paso Natural Gas Company
1001 Louisiana Street
Houston, Texas 77002

Re: CPF No. 4-2005-1005

Dear Mr. Carey:

Enclosed is the Final Order issued by the Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety in the above-referenced case. It makes findings of violation and assesses a civil penalty. I acknowledge receipt of and accept your wire transfer for \$22,000 as payment in full of the civil penalty assessed in the Final Order. This case is now closed. Your receipt of the Final Order constitutes service of that document under 49 C.F.R. § 190.5.

Sincerely,

James Reynolds
Pipeline Compliance Registry
Office of Pipeline Safety

Enclosure

cc: R.M. Seeley
Director, Southwest Region, OPS

Paul A. Lopez
Supervisor, D.O.T. Compliance Services, El Paso Natural Gas Company

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF PIPELINE SAFETY
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

In the Matter of)
)

El Paso Natural Gas Company,)
)

Respondent)
_____)

CPF No. 4-2005-1005

FINAL ORDER

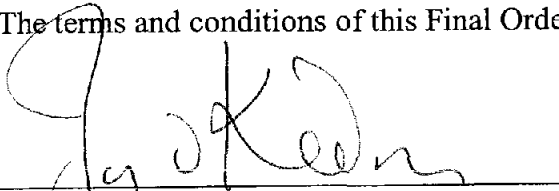
On February 14, 2005, in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 190.207, the Director, Southwest Region, Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), issued to Respondent a Notice of Probable Violation and Proposed Civil Penalty (Notice). The Notice proposed finding that Respondent had violated 49 C.F.R. § 192.739 and proposed assessing a civil penalty of \$22,000 for the alleged violation. Respondent responded to the Notice by letter dated March 11, 2005 and did not contest the allegations nor the amount of the proposed civil penalty. Respondent also provided information concerning its payment of the proposed civil penalty. Respondent submitted a wire transfer in the amount of the proposed civil penalty (\$22,000), waiving further right to respond and authorizing the entry of this Final Order.

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 190.213 and 49 U.S.C. § 60122, I find that Respondent violated the following section of 49 C.F.R. Part 192.739, as more fully described in the Notice:

49 C.F.R. § 192.739(a)(3) – failing to ensure that each pressure relief valve is set to control or relieve at the correct pressure consistent with the pressure limits of §192.201(a). Eleven of Respondent's relief valves in the Stafford area were above the pressure limits required by § 192.201(a) from 1998 to 2004.

This finding of violation will be considered a prior offense in any subsequent enforcement action taken against Respondent. Having reviewed the record and considered the assessment criteria, I assess Respondent a civil penalty of \$22,000, already paid by Respondent.

The terms and conditions of this Final Order are effective on receipt. This case is now closed.



Stacey Gerard
Associate Administrator
for Pipeline Safety

SEP - 1 2005

Date Issued