



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and Hazardous  
Materials Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

JUN 03 2015

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND FAX TO: 713-646-4378**

Mr. Troy Valenzuela  
Vice President EHS  
Plains Pipeline, LP  
333 Clay Street, Suite 1600  
Houston, TX 77002

**Re: CPF No. 5-2015-5011H**

Dear Mr. Valenzuela:

Enclosed is Amendment No. 1 to the Corrective Action Order issued in the above-referenced case on May 21, 2015. It requires Plains Pipeline, LP to take additional corrective actions with respect to Line 901 and Line 903 of its pipeline system. Service is being made by certified mail and facsimile. Service of the Amendment to the Corrective Action Order by electronic transmission is deemed complete upon transmission and acknowledgement of receipt, or as otherwise provided under 49 C.F.R. § 190.5. The terms and conditions of this Order are effective upon completion of service.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Wiese  
Associate Administrator  
for Pipeline Safety

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Linda Daugherty, Deputy Associate Administrator for Field Operations, OPS  
Mr. Chris Hoidal, Director, Western Region, OPS

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE OF PIPELINE SAFETY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Plains Pipeline, LP,	)	CPF No. 5-2015-5011H
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

**AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE CORRECTIVE ACTION ORDER**

**Purpose and Background:**

On May 21, 2015, the Associate Administrator issued a Corrective Action Order (CAO) under the authority of 49 U.S.C. § 60112, to require Plains Pipeline, LP (Plains or Respondent), to take certain corrective actions to protect the public, property, and the environment from potential hazards associated with Line 901 (Affected Pipeline) in Santa Barbara County, California. The CAO was issued in response to a May 19, 2015, failure on the Affected Pipeline that caused the release of approximately 1700 to 2500 barrels of heavy crude oil (Failure). The cause of the Failure has not yet been determined. Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 60117, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), initiated an investigation of the accident.

**Additional Preliminary Findings:**

- The results of Plains' May 5, 2015 In-Line Inspection (ILI) survey revealed four areas on the Affected Pipeline with pipe anomalies requiring immediate investigation and remediation in accordance with 49 CFR § 195.452(h) or Plains' own criteria for investigation under its integrity management plan. Examination and measurements of three of these areas indicated extensive external corrosion, primarily on the bottom quadrant of the pipe. The deepest metal loss at each area, as measured by Plains non-destructive testing contractors, ranged between 54 and 74% of the original pipe wall thickness. The anomalies were not limited to being near the girth welds, but also occurred at other locations along the length of the pipe. The fourth area to be investigated has not yet been completed.
  
- The Affected Pipeline is experiencing active external corrosion, as follows:

- Plains has reported to PHMSA that the May 5<sup>th</sup> ILI survey revealed metal loss of approximately 45% of the original wall thickness in the area of the pipe that failed on May 19.
  - PHMSA inspectors noted general external corrosion of the pipe body during field examination of the failed pipe segment.
  - The rupture characteristics at the Failure site indicate a longitudinally oriented opening approximately 6 inches in length and located in the bottom quadrant of the pipe. Third-party metallurgists in the field estimated that corrosion at the Failure site had degraded the wall thickness to an estimated 1/16 of an inch (.0625"). This thinning of the pipe wall is greater than the 45% metal loss which was indicated by the recent ILI survey.
  - PHMSA inspectors observed three repairs to the Affected Pipeline in the area near the Failure site that had been made due to external corrosion. These repairs were made after the 2012 ILI survey.
- Plains uses an impressed current cathodic protection (CP) system to protect the Affected Pipeline from external corrosion. After the Failure, PHMSA inspectors witnessed Plains measuring CP levels near the Failure site and at the three anomaly digs that were completed after May 22. The CP levels appeared to be adequate according to 49 CFR § 195.571. External corrosion with CP at this level would not be expected.
  - Plains' Line 903 is a 30-inch diameter pipeline which transports crude oil 128 miles from the Gaviota Pump Station in Santa Barbara County to the Emidio Pump Station in Kern County, California.
  - Plains has informed PHMSA that Line 903 has insulation and shrink wrap sleeves on the girth welds, similar to the Affected Pipeline.
  - Line 903 was completely surveyed by ILI during 2013 and 2014. These ILI results revealed:
    - The 38-mile segment of Line 903 between Gaviota Station and Sisquoc Station was inspected on April 29, 2013, and the report was provided to Plains in June 2013. The ILI vendor reported that this segment had 99 metal loss anomalies requiring investigation.
    - The 75-mile segment of Line 903 between Sisquoc Station and Pentland Station was inspected on June 12, 2013. The report was provided to Plains in August 2013, and a corrected report was provided in September 2013. This segment had no anomalies requiring investigation. However, the ILI vendor reported there were a number of metal loss anomalies that may indicate general corrosion.
    - The 15-mile segment of Line 903 between Pentland Station and Emidio Station was inspected on February 19, 2014, and the report was provided to Plains in May 2014. This segment had no anomalies requiring immediate investigation. However, based on the ILI vendor report, this segment had two girth weld anomalies requiring investigation.
    - The data collected by the ILI surveys for the different segments of Line 903 appear to be inconsistent, requiring immediate review and analysis.

- Plains voluntarily shut down Line 903 on May 19, restarted the line on May 29, and shut the line back down on May 30. Line 903 is currently shut down.

**Determination of Necessity for Amendment to the Corrective Action Order and Right to Hearing:**

Section 60112 of Title 49, United States Code, provides for the issuance of a Corrective Action Order, after reasonable notice and the opportunity for a hearing, requiring corrective action, which may include the suspended or restricted use of a pipeline facility, physical inspection, testing, repair, replacement, or other action, as appropriate. The basis for making the determination that a pipeline facility is or would be hazardous, requiring corrective action, is set forth both in the above-referenced statute and 49 C.F.R. § 190.233, a copy of which is enclosed.

Section 60112 and the regulations promulgated thereunder provide for the issuance of a Corrective Action Order, without prior notice and opportunity for hearing, upon a finding that failure to issue the Order expeditiously would result in the likelihood of serious harm to life, property, or the environment. In such cases, an opportunity for a hearing and expedited review will be provided as soon as practicable after the issuance of the Order.

After evaluating the preliminary findings in the CAO and the foregoing additional preliminary findings of fact, I find that continued operation of Line 901 and Line 903 without corrective measures is or would be hazardous to life, property, or the environment. Additionally, having considered the uncertainties as to the cause of the Failure, the location of the Failure, the similarities between the characteristics of the Affected Pipeline and Line 903, the material being transported, and the proximity of the pipelines to the Pacific Ocean and environmentally sensitive areas, I find that a failure to issue this Order expeditiously to require immediate corrective action would result in the likelihood of serious harm to life, property, or the environment.

Accordingly, this Amendment to the Corrective Action Order mandating immediate corrective action is issued without prior notice and opportunity for a hearing. The terms and conditions of this Order are effective upon receipt.

**The actions required by this Amendment No. 1 to the Corrective Action Order are in addition to the requirements that apply to Respondent's Affected Pipeline under the CAO issued on May 21, 2015.**

Within 10 days of receipt of this Amendment, Respondent may contest its issuance and obtain expedited review either by answering in writing or requesting a hearing under 49 C.F.R. § 190.211, to be held as soon as practicable under the terms of such regulation, by notifying the Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety in writing, with a copy to the Director, Western Region, OPS (Director). If Respondent requests a hearing, it will be held telephonically or in-person in Lakewood, Colorado, or Washington, D.C.

After receiving and analyzing additional data in the course of this investigation, PHMSA may identify other corrective measures that need to be taken on the Affected Pipeline or Plains' Line 903. In that event, PHMSA will notify Respondent of any additional measures that are required

and another Amendment Order will be issued, if necessary. To the extent consistent with safety, Respondent will be afforded notice and an opportunity for a hearing prior to the imposition of any additional corrective measures.

**Required Corrective Actions:**

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 60112, I hereby order Plains to immediately take the following corrective actions:

***With respect to the Affected Pipeline (Line 901):***

1. *Paragraph 3(c)(vi) of the Required Corrective Actions of the CAO is amended, in its entirety, as follows:* List and describe (type, size, wall loss, etc.) the specific location of all ILI features identified by the May 5, 2015 ILI survey elsewhere on the Affected Pipeline that require investigation according to 49 CFR § 195.452(h) or the criteria for investigation under Plains' own integrity management plan, whichever is more stringent. All ILI features and anomalies that satisfy the criteria in either 49 CFR § 195.452(h) or the criteria for investigation under Plains' integrity management plan must be investigated and remediated. Provide the Director with a report detailing the results of the investigations and remediations that have been completed, and a proposed schedule for the remaining investigations.
2. ***Non-destructive testing.*** Plains must use a third-party, American Society of Non-Destructive Testing (ASNT) Level III certified, non-destructive testing field contractor to complete a non-destructive testing analysis at the specific location of each ILI feature or anomaly that requires investigation according to 49 CFR § 195.452(h) or the criteria for investigation under Plains' own integrity management plan, whichever is more stringent. If the ILI feature or anomaly is identified as being located at a girth weld with shrink sleeves, the contractor must perform a magnetic particle inspection, or other appropriate technology, of the weld area to check for stress corrosion cracking (SCC). Provide the Director with five business days' notice of the excavation of each pipe section requiring investigation. A summary of the investigations, test results, and remediations must be included in the monthly report required by Item 12 of the CAO, and the test records must be made available for inspection by PHMSA.

***With respect to Line 903:***

3. ***Pressure Restriction.*** The operating pressure of Line 903 must not exceed eighty percent (80%) of the highest pressure sustained for a continuous 8 hour period between April 19, 2015, and May 19, 2015. This pressure restriction must remain in effect until the Director provides written approval to resume normal operation of Line 903.
4. ***Review of Line 903.*** Within 60 days of receipt of this Amendment, Plains must review Line 903 and address any findings that require remedial measures. This review must include:
  - a. All construction, operating and maintenance (O&M) and integrity management records, such as hydrostatic tests, root cause failure analysis of prior failures, aerial and ground patrols, corrosion protection, One Call tickets, excavations and exposed pipe records, and pipe replacements;

- b. Identification of all areas of Line 903 that have insulated pipe and girth welds with shrink wrap sleeves;
  - c. List and describe (type, size, wall loss, etc.) the specific location of all ILI features identified by the most recent ILI survey that require investigation according to 49 CFR § 195.452(h) or the criteria for investigation under Plains' own integrity management plan, whichever is more stringent. All ILI features and anomalies that satisfy the criteria in either § 195.452(h) or the criteria for investigation under Plains' integrity management plan must be investigated and remediated. Provide the Director with a report detailing the results of the investigations and remediations that have been completed, and a proposed schedule for the remaining anomalies.
5. ***ILI Data for Line 903.*** Plains must provide the following documentation of previous ILI surveys on Line 903 to the Director within 15 days of receipt of this Amendment:
- i. List all ILI tool runs, tool types, and the calendar years of the tool runs conducted on Line 903 over the past 10 calendar years.
  - ii. Provide all ILI data from surveys of Line 903 over the past 10 calendar years to the Director for review by PHMSA's 3<sup>rd</sup> party ILI data analyst.
6. ***Non-destructive testing.*** Plains must use a third-party, American Society of Non-Destructive Testing (ASNT) Level III certified, non-destructive testing field contractor to complete a non-destructive testing analysis at the specific location of each ILI feature or anomaly on Line 903 identified in Item 4(c) above. If the ILI feature or anomaly is identified to be at a girth weld with shrink sleeves, the contractor must perform a magnetic particle inspection, or other appropriate technology, of the weld area to check for stress corrosion cracking (SCC). Provide the Director with five business days' notice of the excavation of each pipe section requiring investigation. A summary of the investigations, test results, and remediations must be included in the monthly report required by Item 12 of the CAO, and the test records must be made available for inspection by PHMSA.

***With respect to both the Affected Pipeline and Line 903:***

7. ***Enhanced preventive and mitigative measures.*** Plains must take additional preventive and mitigative measures on the Affected Pipeline and Line 903 while each pipeline is subject to a pressure restriction under the CAO or this Amendment. These measures must include, but are not limited to:
- a. Patrol inspections of surface conditions of the pipeline right-of-way at intervals not exceeding one week;
  - b. Daily inspections of pump stations to identify leaks and abnormal conditions;
  - c. Establishment of pump pressure set points and use of pressure limiting devices to match the required pressure reduction;
  - d. Training of Plains field personnel regarding awareness of abnormal operating conditions that may result from the pressure reduction on the pipeline.
  - e. Plains must maintain all documentation related to the pressure restriction and preventive and mitigative measures, including all inspections, training documents, and management of change (MOC) records.

8. **CAO Documentation Report:** The Corrective Action Order Documentation Report required under Item 12 of the CAO must include a summary of all inspections, assessments, evaluations, and analysis required by this Amendment No. 1 to the CAO.

The actions required by this Amendment No. 1 to the Corrective Action Order are in addition to and do not waive any requirements that apply to Respondent's pipeline system under the CAO, 49 C.F.R. Part 195, under any other order issued to Respondent under authority of 49 U.S.C. § 60101, *et seq.*, or under any other provision of Federal or State law.

Respondent may appeal any decision of the Director to the Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety. Decisions of the Associate Administrator shall be final.

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).

Failure to comply with this Order may result in the assessment of civil penalties and in referral to the Attorney General for appropriate relief in United States District Court pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 60120.

In your correspondence on this matter, please refer to CPF No. 5-2015-5011H and for each document you submit, please provide a copy in electronic format whenever possible.

The terms and conditions of this Amendment No. 1 to the Corrective Action Order are effective upon receipt.



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Jeffrey D. Wiese  
Associate Administrator  
for Pipeline Safety

June 3, 2015

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Date Issued