page at: http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara.

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 315; 44 U.S.C. 3506 and 49 CFR 1.73.

Issued on: August 29, 2000.

Clyde J. Hart, Jr.,

Acting Deputy Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

[FR Doc. 00–22626 Filed 9–1–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–22–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Research and Special Programs Administration

Pipeline Safety: Internal Corrosion in Gas Transmission Pipelines

AGENCY: Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice; issuance of advisory bulletin.

SUMMARY: The Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) is issuing this bulletin to owners and operators of natural gas transmission pipeline systems to advise them to review their internal corrosion monitoring programs and operations. Operators should consider factors that influence the formation of internal corrosion, including gas quality and operating parameters. Operators should give special attention to pipeline alignment features that may contribute to internal corrosion by allowing condensates to settle out of the gas stream.

This action follows a review of incidents involving internal corrosion, some of which resulted in loss of life, injuries, and significant property damage. OPS' preliminary investigation of a recent gas transmission pipeline incident found wall thinning on damaged pipe associated with the incident. The wall thinning is consistent with that caused by internal corrosion.

ADDRESSES: This document can be viewed at the OPS home page at: http://ops.dot.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Huriaux, (202) 366–4565, or by e-mail, richard.huriaux@rspa.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Internal corrosion control in gas transmission pipelines is addressed in the federal pipeline safety regulations at 49 CFR 192.475 and 192.477. Internal corrosion is most often found in gas transmission pipelines and appurtenances in the vicinity of production and gathering facilities or storage fields.

An OPS review of incident reports and inspections indicated that better industry guidance is needed to determine the best practices for monitoring the potential for internal corrosion in gas transmission pipelines. Some methods for monitoring internal corrosion are weight loss coupons, radiography, water chemistry tests, in-line inspection tools, and electrical, galvanic, resistance and hydrogen probes. Operators should refer to available recommended practices provided by national consensus standards organizations, such as the American Petroleum Institute, National Association of Corrosion Engineers, and Gas Piping Technology Committee (GPTC) for guidance in addressing internal corrosion issues.

OPS has worked with GPTC to revise the Guide for Gas Transmission and Distribution Piping Systems (Guide) to better address the control of internal corrosion. GPTC is considering modifying the Guide to address design considerations, corrective measures, and detection techniques for internal corrosion.

II. Advisory Bulletin (ADB–00–02)

To: Owners and Operators of Gas Transmission Pipelines.

Subject: Internal Corrosion in Gas Transmission Pipelines.

Purpose: To advise owners and operators of natural gas transmission pipelines of the need to review their internal corrosion monitoring programs and operations.

Advisory: Owners and operators of natural gas transmission pipelines should review their internal corrosion monitoring programs and consider factors that influence the formation of internal corrosion, including gas quality and operating parameters. Operators should give special attention to pipeline alignment features that may contribute to internal corrosion by allowing condensates to settle out of the gas stream.

This action follows a review of incidents involving internal corrosion, some of which resulted in loss of life, injuries, and significant property damage. OPS' preliminary investigation of a recent gas transmission pipeline incident found internal wall thinning on damaged pipe associated with the incident. The wall thinning is consistent with that caused by internal corrosion.

Gas transmission owners and operators should thoroughly review their internal corrosion management programs and operations:

- Review procedures for testing to determine the existence or severity of internal corrosion associated with their pipelines. Some methods for monitoring internal corrosion are weight loss coupons, radiography, water chemistry tests, in-line inspection tools, and electrical, galvanic, resistance and hydrogen probes.
- Special attention should be given to specific conditions, including flow characteristics, pipeline location (especially drips, deadlegs, and sags, which are on-line segments that are not cleaned by pigging or other methods, fittings and/or ''stabbed'' connections which could affect gas flow, operating temperature and pressure, water content, carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulfide content, carbon dioxide partial pressure, presence of oxygen and/or bacteria, and sediment deposits.
- Review conditions in pipeline segments downstream of gas production and storage fields.
- Review conditions in pipeline segments with low spots, sharp bends, sudden diameter changes, and fittings that restrict flow or velocity. These features can contribute to the formation of internal corrosion by allowing condensates to settle out of the gas stream.

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 29, 2000.

Stacey L. Gerard,

Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety.

[FR Doc. 00–22568 Filed 9–1–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910–60–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Senior Executive Service; Combined Performance Review Board (PRB)

AGENCY: Treasury Department.

ACTION: Notice of members of Combined Performance Review Board (PRB).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)(4), this notice announces the appointment of members of the Combined PRB for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the Financial Management Service, the U.S. Mint and the Bureau of the Public Debt. The Board reviews the performance appraisals of career senior executives below the level of bureau head and principal deputy in the four bureaus, except for executives below the Assistant Commissioner level in the Financial Management Service. The Board makes recommendations regarding proposed performance appraisals, ratings, bonuses and other appropriate personnel actions.

Composition of Combined PRB: The Board shall consist of at least three voting members. In case of an appraisal of a career appointee, more than half of

the members shall consist of career appointees. The names and titles of the Combined PRB members are as follows:

Primary Members

Bradford E. Cooper, Associate Director for Circulating, Mint—Chairperson; Theodore P. Langlois, Deputy Executive Director (Marketing and Sales), PD; Joel C. Taub, Associate Director (Management), E&P; and Larry D. Stout, Assistant Commissioner, Federal Finance, FMS.

Alternate Members

Jay M. Weinstein, Associate Director for Policy and Management & CFO, Mint; Debra Hines, Assistant Commissioner (Public Debt Accounting), PD; Gregory D. Carper, Associate Director (Chief Financial Officer), E&P; and Scott Johnson, Assistant Commissioner, Management & CFO, FMS.

DATES: Membership is effective on the date of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bradford E. Cooper, U.S. Mint, Associate Director for Circulating, 801 9th St., NW., 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20220, (202) 354–7400.

This notice does not meet the Department's criteria for significant regulations.

Bradford E. Cooper,

Associate Director for Circulating, U.S. Mint.

[FR Doc. 00–22465 Filed 9–1–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4840–01–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

[T.D. 00–58]

Delegations of Authority To Decide Petitions for Relief

AGENCY: Customs Service, Treasury.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public of the delegations of authority to decide petitions and supplemental petitions submitted pursuant to Parts 171 or 172 of the Customs Regulations granted to Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures Officers; Headquarters officials in field locations; the Chief, Penalties Branch, Office of Regulations and Rulings, Customs Headquarters; the Director, International Trade Compliance Division, Customs Headquarters; and the Assistant Commissioner, Office of Regulations and Rulings, Customs Headquarters, with regard to petitions and supplemental petitions for relief submitted concerning claims for liquidated damages, seizures and penalties incurred under laws administered by Customs. The document also identifies those cases where the Secretary of the Treasury has retained all administrative authority to decide petitions and supplemental petitions for relief.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 5, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeremy Baskin, Penalties Branch, Office of Regulations and Rulings (202) 927–2344.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notwithstanding any other delegations of authority that have been previously published, the following are delegations of authority granted to the enumerated Customs officers to decide petitions and supplemental petitions for relief under authority granted to the Secretary of the Treasury by sections 618 and 623 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1618 and 1623), and section 320 of title 46, United States Code App. (46 U.S.C. App. 320), and section 5321 of title 31, United States Code (31 U.S.C. 5321).

I. Original Petitions for Relief

A. *Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures Officers.* Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures Officers are hereby delegated authority to decide original petitions as follows:

(1) *Liquidated damages.* All claims for liquidated damages arising from breach of the basic importation bond for failing to file or late filing of entry summaries or failing to pay or late payment of estimated duties. Any other claim for liquidated damages for breach of any Customs bond when the amount of the claim does not exceed $200,000.

(2) *19 U.S.C. 1592, 19 U.S.C. 1593a.* Any fines, penalties, or forfeitures incurred under the provisions of section 592 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1592), or section 593A of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1593a), when the total amount of those fines, penalties, or forfeitures does not exceed $50,000.

(3) *19 U.S.C. 1436, 1453, 1595a(b) and 1641.* All fines, penalties, or forfeitures incurred under the provisions of sections 436, 453 or 641 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1436, 19 U.S.C. 1453 and 19 U.S.C. 1641, respectively) and any penalties incurred under the provisions of section 596 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1595a(b)) for delivering merchandise from the place of unlading without Customs authorization or without appropriate examination in violation of the provisions of section 448 or 499 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1448 or 19 U.S.C. 1499, respectively) when the amount of the claim does not exceed $200,000.

(4) *Other laws administered by Customs.* Except as noted in subparagraphs (A)(1), (A)(2) or (A)(3), and except where the Secretary of the Treasury retains jurisdiction: any fines, penalties, or forfeitures or claims for liquidated damages incurred under any other law administered by Customs when the total amount of the fines, penalties, and forfeitures incurred with respect to any one offense does not exceed $100,000.

B. *Chief, Penalties Branch, Office of Regulations and Rulings.* The Chief, Penalties Branch, Office of Regulations and Rulings, Customs Headquarters, is delegated authority to decide all petitions for relief submitted with regard to cases which are neither enumerated as remaining under the original jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Treasury nor have been delegated to the Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures Officers.

C. *Assistant Commissioner, Office of Regulations and Rulings.* Notwithstanding any other delegation of authority, the Assistant Commissioner, Office of Regulations and Rulings, Customs Headquarters, or his delegate, has authority to remit or mitigate any penalties assessed against super carriers for failure to manifest narcotic drugs pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1584(a)(2).

D. *Secretary of the Treasury.* The Secretary of the Treasury, or his delegate retains jurisdiction over original petitions for relief filed with regard to the following cases:

(1) *Certain civil monetary penalties.* All jurisdiction over the remission or mitigation of monetary penalties imposed for violation of the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 5321.

(2) *Certain monetary instrument seizures.* Seizures, subject to forfeiture under the provisions of title 31, United States Code, section 5317, of monetary instruments for violation of the provisions of title 31, United States Code, section 5316, when the value of the monetary instruments exceeds $500,000.

(3) *Export control.* Seizures of merchandise subject to forfeiture under the provisions of title 22, United States Code, section 401, when the value of the merchandise exceeds $500,000.

(4) *Failure to declare merchandise.* All fines, penalties, and forfeitures arising from failure to declare merchandise in violation of the provisions of title 19, United States Code, section 1497, when total liability exceeds $250,000.