



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials Safety
Administration**

8701 South Gessner, Suite 1110
Houston, TX 77074

Dr. Nathaniel Smith
Interim Director and State Health Officer
Arkansas Department of Health
4815 West Markham St.
Little Rock, AR 72205

Dear Dr. Smith:

Thank you for your letter dated June 3, 2013, which requested the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) take certain short- and medium-term actions against Exxon Mobile Pipeline Company (EMPCO).

As you know, on March 28, 2013, EMPCO's Pegasus pipeline released crude oil near the town of Mayflower, Arkansas. Shortly after that, on April 2, 2013, PHMSA issued a Corrective Action Order to EMPCO.

According to the Corrective Action Order, there are several actions that EMPCO must successfully complete before the Pegasus pipeline will be able to enter service again. EMPCO must submit a restart plan that addresses and ensures the integrity and safe operation of the pipeline. To date, PHMSA has not received a restart plan from EMPCO. When EMPCO does submit a restart plan, PHMSA will comprehensively review the plan to ensure that all integrity issues are properly addressed. We will only accept their restart plan if we are confident that integrity and safety issues have been completely satisfied.

Additionally, EMPCO must submit a long-term remedial work plan (Work Plan) that must include specific actions that EMPCO will take to make sure the pipeline will operate safely in the future. The Work Plan must also address the specific issues that caused the failure near Mayflower, Arkansas. Because their Work Plan must contain specific measures, it cannot be developed until the root cause(s) of the failure are identified and understood. As with the restart plan, PHMSA will comprehensively review the Work Plan to ensure that it addresses the integrity issues that led to the March 28, 2013, failure.

I appreciate and thank you for your interest in pipeline safety. If you need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Ms. Patricia Klinger, Deputy Director for Governmental, International, and Public Affairs, at 202-366-4831 or by email at patricia.klinger@dot.gov.

Regards,

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