

further information is needed to determine appropriate action, the Associate Administrator, OPS may send the owner or operator a "Request for Specific Information" to be answered within 45 days after receipt of the letter.

(d) To the extent necessary to carry out the responsibilities under 49 U.S.C. 60101 *et seq.*, the Administrator, PHMSA or the Associate Administrator, OPS may require testing of portions of pipeline facilities that have been involved in, or affected by, an accident. However, before exercising this authority, the Administrator, PHMSA or the Associate Administrator, OPS shall make every effort to negotiate a mutually acceptable plan with the owner of those facilities and, where appropriate, the National Transportation Safety Board for performing the testing.

(e) If a representative of the DOT investigates an incident involving a pipeline facility, OPS may request that the operator make available to the representative all records and information that pertain to the incident in any way, including integrity management plans and test results, and that the operator afford all reasonable assistance in the investigation.

(f) When the information obtained from an inspection or from other appropriate sources indicates that further OPS action is warranted, the OPS may issue a warning letter under § 190.205 or initiate one or more of the enforcement proceedings prescribed in §§ 190.207 through 190.235.

[45 FR 20413, Mar. 27, 1980, as amended by Amdt. 190-3, 56 FR 31090, July 9, 1991; Amdt. 190-6, 61 FR 18513, Apr. 26, 1996; Amdt. 190-7, 61 FR 27792, June 3, 1996; Amdt. 190-7, 63 FR 7722, Feb. 17, 1998; 70 FR 11137, Mar. 8, 2005]

#### § 190.205 Warning letters.

Upon determining that a probable violation of 49 U.S.C. 60101 *et seq.* or any regulation or order issued thereunder has occurred, the Associate Administrator, OPS, may issue a Warning Letter notifying the owner or operator of the probable violation and advising the owner or operator to correct it or be subject to enforcement action under §§ 190.207 through 190.235.

[Amdt. 190-6, 61 FR 38403, July 24, 1996]

#### § 190.207 Notice of probable violation.

(a) Except as otherwise provided by this subpart, a Regional Director begins an enforcement proceeding by serving a notice of probable violation on a person charging that person with a probable violation of 49 U.S.C. 60101 *et seq.* or any regulation or order issued thereunder.

(b) A notice of probable violation issued under this section shall include:

(1) Statement of the provisions of the laws, regulations or orders which the respondent is alleged to have violated and a statement of the evidence upon which the allegations are based;

(2) Notice of response options available to the respondent under § 190.209;

(3) If a civil penalty is proposed under § 190.221, the amount of the proposed civil penalty and the maximum civil penalty for which respondent is liable under law; and

(4) If a compliance order is proposed under § 190.217, a statement of the remedial action being sought in the form of a proposed compliance order.

(c) The Associate Administrator, OPS may amend a notice of probable violation at any time prior to issuance of a final order under § 190.213. If an amendment includes any new material allegations of fact or proposes an increased civil penalty amount or new or additional remedial action under § 190.217, the respondent shall have the opportunity to respond under § 190.209.

[45 FR 20413, Mar. 27, 1980, as amended by Amdt. 190-6, 61 FR 18513, Apr. 26, 1996]

#### § 190.209 Response options.

Within 30 days of receipt of a notice of probable violation, the respondent shall respond to the Regional Director who issued the notice in the following way:

(a) When the notice contains a proposed civil penalty—

(1) Pay the proposed civil penalty as provided in § 190.227 and close the case with prejudice to the respondent;

(2) Submit written explanations, information or other materials in answer to the allegations or in mitigation of the proposed civil penalty; or

(3) Request a hearing under § 190.211.

(b) When the notice contains a proposed compliance order—