



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Investigations

December 16, 2021

Gery Bauman
Accident Investigator - Engineer
US Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
3700 S. MacArthur Blvd., Suite B
Oklahoma City, OK 73179

Thomas Wooden
Vice President, GTM Engineering & Asset Management
Enbridge, Inc.
5400 Westheimer Court
Houston, TX 77056

Re: Natural Gas Pipeline Rupture and Fire
Hillsboro, KY
May 4, 2020
NTSB #PLD20LR002

Dear NTSB Hillsboro, Kentucky Investigative Party Coordinators:

The technical review meeting for the subject investigation was held on December 15, 2021 by teleconference. At that time, we reviewed all factual party comments on the draft Pipeline Operations and Integrity Management and Materials Laboratory factual reports and decided on a disposition for each one, as summarized below.

Operations and Integrity Management Factual Report

Section F.1, Table 2, the estimated pressure at the rupture elevation will be provided for the 1952 and 1986 hydrostatic tests.

Section F.4 will be clarified to indicate that the multidisciplinary team's basis for determining no immediate actions were needed included estimated strain demand and other considerations. Additionally, a statement will be added indicating Enbridge's position that additional monitoring, mitigation, and future stress relief was planned for the Summer 2020.

In Section H.2, two footnotes will be added. One footnote will indicate that the locations of curved wide plate samples were selected to include defects discovered through nondestructive evaluation. The other footnote will indicate that the material properties used in the finite element model were based on flawed samples. Additionally, the discussion of the full circumferential pipe model will be clarified to indicate that flaws were “explicitly” included in the 4-inch section.

In Section I.2, the definition of “failure 2 isolated segment” will be corrected.

Materials Laboratory Factual Reports

No changes will be made.

All editorial suggestions have been considered and will be incorporated as appropriate. The deadline for providing party submissions pursuant to 49 CFR 831.14 is January 14, 2022.

Sincerely,

Sara Lyons
Investigator-in-Charge