



The Power of Proof

BP DENIES ALLEGATIONS OF WHITEWASHING INSPECTION DATA

British oil company BP on Monday denied allegations it manipulated data from inspections of Alaska pipelines which were partially shut down earlier this month because of corrosion problems.

The Financial Times reported the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was probing allegations by BP PLC workers that the company manipulated data to avoid replacing pipelines in the Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, oil field.

“We’ve been working with the DOT (Department of Transportation) and the EPA since we notified them of the original leak two weeks ago,” said Robert Wine, a BP spokesman in London.

BP would provide any information requested by the investigators, Wine said, and referred other questions to BP’s operation in Alaska.

Alaska Attorney General David Marquez told a special hearing of the state legislature being held in Anchorage on Friday that the state had served subpoenas to BP and other Prudhoe Bay leaseholders to preserve all documentation related to the Aug. 6 event and pipeline corrosion dating to 1996.

The Financial Times quoted unidentified workers as claiming that BP inspected more areas of known good pipe than bad, creating the impression that the pipeline was in better shape than it really was.

Days after the shutdown, the Transportation Department’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration ordered the company to conduct more rigorous tests on the so-called transit pipelines, which carry market-ready oil to the 800-mile trans-Alaska pipeline. DOT engineers have been at the site since Aug. 8.

Acting U.S. Transportation Secretary Maria Cino toured BP’s facilities in Alaska on Friday and said she was surprised and disappointed by what she had seen of the company’s maintenance procedures.

“When we look at other operators, this problem has not been found,” Cino said. “I think this problem is unique to BP.”

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SURETY’S TAKE...

Corroding Pipelines Expose Corroding Data Management Practices

When faced with serious allegations of data manipulation that could affect the bottom line, BP did not have adequate proof of data integrity. As a result, the company was the target of negative press, a government investigation and additional testing.

Deterrence

Surety’s AbsoluteProof® gives companies the ability to confidently prove that data has not been tampered or altered.

Governance

BP executives exposed the company to extensive scrutiny and investigation by not investing in proper data integrity solutions. Surety’s AbsoluteProof could have easily been used in this situation to show, without challenge, that the content of the data was not manipulated by any party.

Litigation Readiness

By using AbsoluteProof, BP would have saved itself further inquiry into the data manipulation allegations. With independent third-party verification of data integrity, BP would have had proof, verifiable by anyone, that its data was not altered following the Alaska inspections. AbsoluteProof’s assurance would have saved litigation and investigation costs, along with the damage done by these manipulation allegations.



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ABOUT SURETY

Founded in 1994 by two prominent Bellcore Scientists, Surety is recognized as a premiere trusted third-party timestamp authority. The Company's flagship product AbsoluteProof® enables organizations to meet the legal, fiduciary and regulatory responsibilities associated with creating, managing and archiving electronic data by providing verifiable evidence of data authenticity. Their client base is made up of legal and financial services firms, research and development laboratories and copyright protection agencies that are ensuring record integrity with AbsoluteProof. For more information, visit www.surety.com.

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