

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Pipeline Rupture Could Have Been Prevented By Local Company's Technology**

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Phoenix, AZ -- August, 20, 2003 -- We now know that the cause of the eruption of the 60-year old Tucson-to-Phoenix petroleum pipeline was nothing more than corrosion. And that corrosion could have been avoided by a new technology developed by Pantheon Chemical, a Phoenix-based firm.

Though the Phoenix gas-shortage is dominating national news, corroding pipelines have long been a problem for the industry. In the past 10 years alone, the Nation Transportation Safety Board reports that 433 pipeline accidents attributed to corrosion occurred, resulting in \$144 million in damages.

Corrosion is caused by the poor condition of the coating on the pipe. The basic process for treating underground pipes involves a zinc primer, followed by an enamel topcoat and perhaps an epoxy topcoat. Processes may vary as it appears they all use some sort of primer/topcoat system, sometimes followed by a tar-like coating.

The current process does not work well. In March 2000, a corrosion-related pipeline rupture in Greenville, Texas resulted in \$18 million in damage and clean-up costs. The National Transportation Safety Board determined that "the probable cause of the pipeline failure was corrosion-fatigue cracking at the edge of a likely pre-existing weld defect. Contributing to the failure was the loss of pipe coating integrity."

Pantheon Chemical has breakthrough technology that dramatically improves the adhesion of paint, which increases the corrosion protection properties. This technology, PreKote Surface Pretreatment, is currently in use by the U.S. Air Force not only to eliminate pollution associated with painting, but has been proven to dramatically decrease corrosion on over

1,000 military aircraft over the last 10 years. Laura Roberts, CEO of Pantheon Chemical stated, “The technology in use by the Air Force to increase paint adhesion and prevent corrosion on the surface of planes could easily be adapted to the materials used in the petroleum pipelines.”

As our national petroleum pipelines age, we could face a future of increasingly disrupted supplies – resulting in more closed gas stations and long lines, etc. Or we can look in our own backyard to new technologies that prevent corrosion in the first place. Pantheon Chemical’s PreKote could save us all a lot of headaches.

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PreKote Surface Pretreatment is an environmentally safe adhesion promoter that increases the corrosion protection properties of paints and other coatings.

Pantheon Chemical is a Phoenix-based chemical company that specializes in providing effective and environmentally safe solutions to a variety of industries. Pantheon Chemical’s technology makes it possible to extend the life of our customer’s equipment, reduce costs, and eliminate the exposure of hazardous material to individuals, workers, organizations, and the environment.

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