



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and  
Hazardous Materials Safety  
Administration**

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WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

12300 W. Dakota Ave., Suite 110  
Lakewood, CO 80228

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

December 21, 2009

Mr. David Lykken  
Acting Pipeline Safety Director  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
PO Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Dear Ms. Lykken:

Between April 20, 2009 and April 24, 2009 a representative of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) evaluated the Pipeline Safety Program administered by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC). The period evaluated was from January 1 through December 31, 2008.

Based on both the evaluation and the validation of the Certification information, it appears that the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is generally complying with the Pipeline Safety Program requirements. I commend the WUTC for attaining a 98% score for both your Hazardous Liquid and Natural Gas program evaluations. These high scores were attained even though this year's Federal evaluation was expanded to include more program assessment areas. Since PHMSA's possible contribution to your Pipeline Safety Program's funding was increased from 50 % to 80%, it was incumbent upon our agency to conduct a much more thorough evaluation than was performed during the previous years' evaluations. Your pipeline safety program scored well.

Based on both the evaluation and the validation of Certification documents, however, I would like to bring the following items to your attention:

1. Part B 1 Inspection Procedures for both programs needs to include and state your Damage Prevention and On- Site Operator Training inspection plans in your procedures.
2. Part E 1 needs improvement in your state's review of directional drilling/boring procedures of each pipeline operator or its contractor to determine if they include

actions to protect their facilities from the dangers posed by drilling and other trenchless technologies.

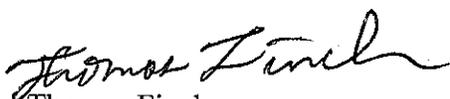
3. Part G 13 (Hazardous Liquid) and Part G 14 ( Natural Gas) Washington needs to confirm that transmission operators have submitted information into the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS) along with any changes made after original submission.
4. Verify that operators continue to implement public education programs required under Part 192.616.

I appreciate the hospitality that your Pipeline Safety staff has afforded to me while we performed their annual Pipeline Safety Program office and field audits for the past seven (7) years. Since this was probably my last year performing these evaluations; I wish to thank you and your staff for your continuing cooperation, professionalism, and especially for your partnership.

This year your Pipeline Safety Program received an excellent score of 98% on both program's portions of their annual evaluation. These 98% scores indicate that Washington has a solid Pipeline Safety Program. Thank you for continuing to serve as an active participant in the National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR).

I would appreciate your comments on the items 1 through 4 listed above within 60 days of your receipt of this letter. Thank you for your continuing efforts to support the Washington Pipeline Safety Program and for your continued cooperation concerning pipeline safety matters.

Sincerely,



Thomas Finch  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration  
State Liaison, Western Region

Enclosure: 2008 Hazardous Liquid Program Evaluation Document  
2008 Natural Gas Program Evaluation Document

cc: PHP-50