



STATE OF WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

**CERTIFIED MAIL**

October 27, 2014

James Daly  
Vice President of Manufacturing  
Solvay Chemicals, Inc.  
3333 Richmond Ave  
Houston, TX 77098

Dear Mr. Daly:

**RE: 2014 Natural Gas Standard Inspection – Solvay Chemicals, Inc. – (Insp. No. 5855)**

Staff from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (staff) conducted a standard inspection on August 19, 2014, of Solvay Chemicals, Inc. (Solvay). The inspection included a records review and inspection of the pipeline facilities.

Our inspection indicates six probable violation(s) as noted in the enclosed report.

The report notes specific deficiencies with Solvay's O&M manual. Should Solvay make any revisions based on these findings, a copy of the revised manual should be submitted to the commission on completion.

**Your response needed**

Please review the attached report and respond in writing by December 1, 2014. The response should include how and when you plan to bring the probable violations into full compliance.

**What happens after you respond to this letter?**

The attached report presents staff's decision on probable violations and does not constitute a finding of violation by the commission at this time.

After you respond in writing to this letter, there are several possible actions the commission, in its discretion, may take with respect to this matter. For example, the commission may:

- Issue an administrative penalty under RCW 81.88.040, or;

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- Institute a complaint, seeking monetary penalties, changes in the company's practices, or other relief authorized by law, and justified by the circumstances, or;
- Consider the matter resolved without further commission action.

We have not yet decided whether to pursue a complaint or penalty in this matter. Should an administrative law judge decide to pursue a complaint or penalty, your company will have an opportunity to present its position directly to the commissioners.

If you have any questions or if we may be of any assistance, please contact Ronda Shupert at (360) 664-1182. Please refer to the subject matter described above in any future correspondence pertaining to this inspection.

Sincerely,



David D. Lykken  
Pipeline Safety Director

Enclosure

cc: Mike Banigan, Site Manager, Solvay Chemicals, Inc.

**UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**  
**2014 Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Inspection**  
**Solvay Chemicals, Inc.**

The following probable violation(s) of WAC 480-93 were noted as a result of the 2014 inspection of the Solvay Chemicals, Inc. The inspection included a random selection of records, operation and maintenance (O&M), emergency response, inventory, and field inspection of the pipeline facilities.

**PROBABLE VIOLATIONS**

1. **WAC 480-93-200 Reporting Requirements.**

(7) *In the event of damage to a gas pipeline, each gas pipeline company must provide to the commission the following information using either the commission's web-based damage reporting tool or its successor, or the damage reporting form located on the commission's web site:*

(b) *If the damage is believed by the company to be the result of an excavation conducted without a facilities locate first being completed, the gas pipeline company must also report the name, address, and phone number of the person or entity that the company has reason to believe may have caused the damage. The company must include this information in the comment section of the web-based damage reporting tool form or send it to the commission separately. If the company chooses to send the information separately, it must include sufficient information to allow the commission to link the name of the party believed to have caused the damage with the damage event reported through the damage reporting tool.*

(c) *Each gas pipeline company must retain all damage and damage claim records it creates related to damage events, including photographs and documentation supporting the conclusion that a facilities locate was not completed, reported under subsection (b) of this section, for a period of two years and make those records available to the commission upon request.*

**Finding(s):**

Solvay Chemicals, Inc. does not include retention timeframes in their O&M manual.

2. **WAC 480-93-200 Reporting Requirements.**

(8) *Each gas pipeline company must provide, to an excavator who damages a gas pipeline facility, the following information set forth in chapter 19.122 RCW:*

(a) *Notification requirements for excavators under RCW 19.122.050(1);*

**Finding(s):**

Solvay Chemicals, Inc. does not have this requirement written in their O&M manual.

3. **WAC 480-93-200 Reporting Requirements.**  
(8) *Each gas pipeline company must provide, to an excavator who damages a gas pipeline facility, the following information set forth in chapter 19.122 RCW:*  
(b) *A description of the excavator's responsibilities for reporting damages under RCW 19.122.053; and*

**Finding(s):**

Solvay Chemicals, Inc. does not have this requirement written in their O&M manual.

4. **WAC 480-93-200 Reporting Requirements.**  
(8) *Each gas pipeline company must provide, to an excavator who damages a gas pipeline facility, the following information set forth in chapter 19.122 RCW:*  
(c) *Information concerning the safety committee referenced under RCW 19.122.130, including committee contact information, and the process for filing a complaint with the safety committee.*

**Finding(s):**

Solvay Chemicals, Inc. does not have this requirement written in their O&M manual.

5. **WAC 480-93-200 Reporting Requirements.**  
(9) *Each gas pipeline company must report to the commission the details of each instance of the following when the company or its contractor observes or becomes aware of either of these events:*  
(a) *An excavator digs within thirty-five feet of a transmission pipeline, as defined by RCW 19.122.020(26) without first obtaining a facilities locate; or*  
(b) *A person intentionally damages or removes marks indicating the location or presence of gas pipeline facilities.*

**Finding(s):**

Solvay Chemicals, Inc. does not have this requirement written in their O&M manual.

6. **WAC 480-93-200 Reporting Requirements.**  
(11) *Each gas pipeline company must file with the commission, and with appropriate officials of all municipalities where gas pipeline companies have facilities, the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the responsible officials of the gas pipeline company who may be contacted in the event of an emergency. In the event of any changes in such personnel, the gas pipeline company must immediately notify the commission and municipalities.*

**Finding(s):**

Solvay Chemicals, Inc. does not have this requirement written in their O&M manual.