



STATE OF WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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December 18, 2017

Eric Martuscelli
Vice President-Operations
Cascade Natural Gas Corporation
8113 W. Grandridge Blvd
Kennewick, WA 99336

RE: 2017 National Response Center Incident No. 1169311 - Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, Wenatchee District - (Investigation No. 7434)

Dear Mr. Martuscelli:

Staff from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (staff) concluded their investigation into the incident that occurred on January 19, at 1317 South Hills Avenue in Wenatchee. The incident was caused by the separation of two-inch butt weld constructed in 1967. We agree with Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's (CNGC) conclusions that the weld failure occurred due to poor workmanship and inadequate weld penetration, in addition to an unusually deep frost which caused undue stress on the pipeline, resulting in weld separation.

As a result of this failure, CNGC has replaced approximately 4,000 feet of late 1960s vintage two-inch steel main that was installed in and around the area of the failed weld. During this replacement, CNGC removed additional welds and conducted destructive tests in accordance with API-1104 standards which are incorporated by reference in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 192. Although the original pipeline was installed prior to the implementation of Part 192 requirements, we believe the use of API-1104 standards was the most conservative approach to testing additional welds in determining the extent of the potential weld deficiencies. In addition, CNGC has implemented a system-wide program to excavate, remove and test a pre-determined number of late 1960s vintage two-inch steel oxy-acetylene welds. The additional weld tests will be used to determine if the poor quality weld was a local issue or a system wide issue that will require additional actions to ensure public safety.

CNGC agreed to keep staff informed of their progress in locating and excavating additional welds. Additionally, CNGC has agreed to notify staff when the aforementioned welds will be tested so that we may be on site to observe the tests.

As additional weld sampling and testing is conducted, it may be necessary for CNGC to make modifications to their current Distribution Integrity Management Program (DIMP) plan based on the results of the tests. Staff is scheduled to conduct a full DIMP audit in late 2018 after CNGC has had time to make any necessary program modifications.

At this point we are confident that CNGC is taking the necessary actions to determine the extent of the weld quality issue and we will continue to work with your organization to determine the best course of action as additional information is gathered.

National Response Incident No. 1169311 (WUTC #7434) will be closed as of December 18. If you have any questions or if we may be of any assistance, please contact Scott Rukke at (360) 664-1241 or Joe Subsits at (360) 664-1322.

Sincerely,



Sean C. Mayo

Pipeline Safety Director

cc: Mike Eutsey, Director, Operations Services, CNGC
Jeremy Ogden, Director, Engineering Services, CNGC
Ryan Privratsky, Director, System Integrity, Integrity Management, CNGC
Chris Grissom, Manager, Standards and Compliance, CNGC