

**POST INSPECTION MEMORANDUM**

**Inspector:** Al Jones/WUTC 4/10/2013  
**Reviewed:** Joe Subsits/WUTC, 4/12/2013  
**Peer Reviewed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Follow-Up Enforcement:** No Violation  
**PCP\* PCO\* NOA WL LOC**  
**Director Approval\*** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** April 10, 2013

**Operator Inspected:** **OPID: 15014** **Region:** Western  
Gas Transmission Northwest LLC  
U.S. Western Pipe Region  
1400 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Suite 900  
Portland, OR 97201

**Unit Address:**  
Rosalia District  
201 West North River Drive, Suite 505  
Spokane, WA 99201

**Unit Inspected:** Rosalia District **Unit ID:** 66685  
**Unit Type:** Interstate Natural Gas  
**Inspection Type:** 3/14/2013 Leak Investigation - NRC #1041089  
**Record Location:** Spokane, WA  
**Inspection Dates:** March 19 – 21, 2013  
**AFOD:** 3  
**SMART Activity Number:**

**Operator Contact:** Kurt Smith, Pipe Regulatory Specialist  
**Phone:** (509) 533-2831 **Fax:** (509) 546-8825 **Emergency:** (800) 447-8066

**Unit Description:**  
The Rosalia District is located in Eastern Washington in Spokane and Whitman Counties; extending south from the Idaho/Washington border to the Snake River crossing. The pipeline is approximately 100 miles in length. The transmission lines are primarily in Class-1 Location, except the Spokane Valley with about 14 miles of Class-2 Location and about 7 miles of Class-3 Location. The District includes a compressor station at Rosalia, various main line block valves, CP test sites, and rectifier stations.

**Facilities Inspected:**  
The portion of the District where the leak was discovered on the 42-inch diameter pipeline (B-Line) is located in Whitman County about 4 miles NW of La Crosse, WA. The leak is about 2,050 feet from the nearest house and 1,300 feet from Union Flat Creek Road (County Rd

#6010) (See photo A, below). The leak is located at Lat. 46.855857 and Long. -117.809636. The leak was discovered by the land owner and he called GTN because the ground over the pipeline was wet from a liquid in the pipeline. The field where the leak was located was not cultivated. The leak was at the 2-inch threaded pipe cap fitting and likely the result of the thread dope drying out. The pipe is attached to a 4-inch Mueller fitting (A-105/1440) attached to the 42-inch pipeline (See photos B & C, below). The leak was stopped by welding the cap to the 2-inch pipe. The 2-inch pipe was used as a port to purge air prior to hydro testing the pipeline. Weather permitting the line is patrolled weekly by aircraft and nothing unusual was reported. The location is about 30 miles downstream from the compressor station and near mainline valve 6-2. At the time of the leak discovery the line pressure was 860 psig (911 MAOP) and lowered to 100 psig. The pipeline upstream of the port was constructed in 1980-81 using long seam pipe and about ten years later the pipeline was extended south using spiral seam pipe (See photo D, below).

**Persons Interviewed:**

Kurt Smith    Pipe Regulatory Specialist    (509) 533-2832  
 John Plaster    Northern Area Manager    (509) 533 2901  
 Dave Coker,    Pipe Integrity Engineer    (708) 342-4726

**Probable Violations/Concerns:**

None.

**Follow up on the history of prior offenses that are still open:**

<b>Prior Offenses</b> (for the past 5 years)		
<b>CPF #</b>	<b>What type of open enforcement action(s)?</b>	<b>Status of the regulations(s) violated (Reoccurrence Offenses, Implement a NOA Revision, Completion of PCO or CO, and etc...)</b>

**Recommendations:**

Maintain normal inspection cycle.

**Comments:**

See Facilities Inspected comments above.

**Attachments:**

Photos A, B, C, and D.

Version Date: 5/5/08



Photo A: Site location of leak on 42-inch Gas Transmission Northwest LLC pipeline, La Crosse, WA  
Photo taken by Al Jones / UTC, March 20, 2013



Photo B: 42-inch Gas Transmission Northwest LLC pipeline at threaded cap fitting.  
Photo taken by Al Jones / UTC, March 20, 2013



Photo C: 42-inch Gas Transmission Northwest LLC pipeline leak at threaded cap fitting with coating removed.

Photo taken by Al Jones / UTC, March 20, 2013



Photo D: 42-inch girth weld and transition between long and spiral seam pipe.

Photo taken by Al Jones / UTC, March 20, 2013