



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

January 9, 2015

Don Kopczynski
Vice President, Energy Delivery
Avista Utilities Corporation
1411 East Mission
Spokane, WA 99220

Dear Mr Kopczynski:

**RE: 2014 Natural Gas Control Room Management Inspection – Avista Utilities,
Headquarters - (Insp. No. 2644)**

Staff from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (staff) conducted a Control Room Management inspection from October 7 - 8, 2014, at Avista Utilities Corporation (Avista) Headquarters. The inspection included a records review and inspection of the control room facilities.

Our inspection indicates one probable violation as noted in the enclosed report. No areas of concern were noted.

Your response needed

Please review the attached report and respond in writing by February 11, 2015. The response should include how and when you plan to bring the probable violation 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;

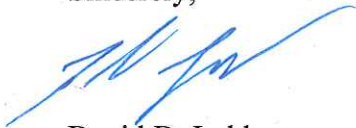
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- Institute a complaint, seeking monetary penalties, changes in the company's practices, or other relief authorized by law, and justified by the circumstances, or;
- Consider the matter resolved without further commission action.

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 Lex Vinsel at (360) 664-1319. 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 Faulkenberry, Director of Natural Gas Avista Utilities Corp.

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
2014 Natural Gas Control Room Management Safety Inspection
Avista Utilities - Headquarters

The following probable violation of Title 49 CFR Part 192 was noted as a result of the 2014 Control Room Management (CRM) inspection of the Avista Utilities – Headquarters. The inspection included a review of CRM plan and training records of all controllers and a site visit to the control room for observation.

PROBABLE VIOLATION

1. **49 CFR §192.631 Control Room Management**

- (d) *Fatigue mitigation. Each operator must implement the following methods to reduce the risk associated with controller fatigue that could inhibit a controller's ability to carry out the roles and responsibilities the operator has defined:*
 - (2) *Educate controllers and supervisors in fatigue mitigation strategies and how off-duty activities contribute to fatigue;*
 - (3) *Train controllers and supervisors to recognize the effects of fatigue; and*

Finding(s):

Control room personnel did not complete required training on Fatigue mitigation annually, not to exceed 15 months. Dates between required training exceeded fifteen months from 2011 to 2012.

The following ten Avista Utilities employees exceeded 15 months between required training on Fatigue Mitigation:

Jeff Grassl
Martin Grieser
Cheryl Hagel-Smith
Mary Johnson
Mike McAllister
Margaret Morrison
William Muller
Jesse Royster
Lewis Singleton
Eric Walker