



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

December 31, 2015

Heather Rosentrater
Vice President, Energy Delivery
Avista Utilities Corporation
1411 East Mission
PO Box 3727
Spokane, WA 99220-3727

Dear Ms. Rosentrater:

RE: 2015 Natural Gas Standard Inspection – Avista Utilities Corporation – Colville District – (Insp. No 6193)

Staff from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (staff) conducted a Standard Inspection from August 31, 2015 to November 20, 2015 of Avista Utilities Corporation (Avista), Colville District. The inspection included a records review and inspection of the pipeline facilities.

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

Your response needed

Please review the attached report and respond in writing by February 2, 2016. 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 Lex Vinsel at (360) 664-1319. Please refer to the subject matter described above in any future correspondence pertaining to this inspection.

Sincerely,



Alan E. Rathbun
Pipeline Safety Director

Enclosure

cc: Mike Faulkenberry, Director of Natural Gas, Avista Utilities Corp.

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
2015 Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Inspection
Avista Utilities Corporation – Colville District

The following probable violation of WAC 480-93 was noted as a result of the 2015 inspection of the Avista Utilities – Colville District. The inspection included a random selection of records, operation and maintenance (O&M), emergency response, inventory and field inspection of the pipeline facilities.

PROBABLE VIOLATION

1. **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:*

(b) *A person intentionally damages or removes marks indicating the location or presence of gas pipeline facilities.
The company must only report information to the extent that an employee or contractor of the company observes or becomes aware of these events.*

Finding(s):

Condition that a person will report the removal or damage of locate marks was not included in Gas Service Manual Spec 4.13 sheets 7&8.