



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  
1411 East Mission, PO Box 3727  
Spokane, WA 99220-3727

Dear Ms. Rosentrater:

**RE: 2015 Natural Gas Standard Inspection – Avista Utilities Corporation –  
Pullman/Clarkston District (Insp. No 6194)**

Staff from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (staff) conducted a Standard Inspection from October 26, 2015 to November 20, 2015 of Avista Utilities Corporation (Avista), Pullman/Clarkston 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 Corporation

**UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
2015 Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Inspection  
Avista Utilities – Pullman/Clarkston District**

The following probable violation of an Order associated with Docket PG-082253 was noted as a result of the 2015 inspection of the Avista Utilities Corporation – Pullman/Clarkston 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. **Settlement Agreement to leak survey Aldyl-A mains annually.**  
Per Docket PG-082253 Settlement Agreement, Avista will perform annual leak surveys of Aldyl-A mains installed prior to 1987.

**Finding(s):**

There were two instances in Pullman where the annual leak survey for Alydl-A main was not performed.