



STATE OF WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Sent Via Email and FedEx

March 12, 2019

Jim Smith
General Manager
Klickitat Public Utility District
1313 S. Columbus Ave
Goldendale, WA 98620-9578

RE: 2019 Biogas Standard Inspection – Klickitat PUD – (Insp. No. 7819)

Dear Mr. Smith:

Staff from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (staff) conducted a Standard Inspection of Klickitat Public Utility District from January 15 to January 16, 2019. This inspection included a records review and inspection of the pipeline facilities.

Our inspection indicates 6 probable violation(s) as noted in the enclosed report.

Your response needed

Please review the attached report and respond in writing by April 15. 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:

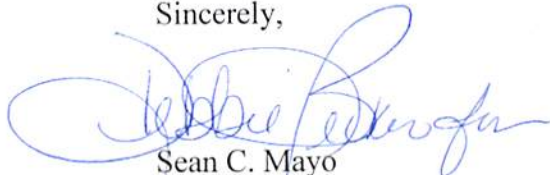
- Issue an administrative penalty under RCW 81.04.405; or

- Issue a complaint under RCW 81.88.040, seeking monetary penalties, changes in the company's practices, or other relief authorized by law, and justified by the circumstances. Any pipeline company that violates any pipeline safety provision of any commission order, or any rule in this chapter including those rules adopted by reference, or chapter 81.88 RCW is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed two hundred thousand dollars for each violation for each day that the violation persists. The maximum civil penalty for a related series of violations is two million dollars; or
- Consider the matter resolved without further commission action.

We have not yet decided whether to pursue a penalty or complaint in this matter. Should the commission decide to assess a penalty or initiate a complaint, your company will have an opportunity to respond and formally present its position.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean C. Mayo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "M".

Sean C. Mayo
Pipeline Safety Director

Enclosure

cc: Kevin Ricks, Renewable Energy Assets Manager, KPUD
Robert Cosentino, Principal Consultant, Cosentino Consulting

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
2019 Biogas Pipeline Safety Inspection
Klickitat Public Utilities District - KPUD

The following probable violation(s) and areas of concern of Title 49 CFR Part 192.614, .615, and .616 were noted as a result of the 2019 inspection of the Klickitat Public Utilities 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 VIOLATIONS

1. **49 CFR §192.615(c) Emergency plans**

(c) Each operator shall establish and maintain liaison with appropriate fire, police, and other public officials to:

- (1) Learn the responsibility and resources of each government organization that may respond to a gas pipeline emergency;*
- (2) Acquaint the officials with the operator's ability in responding to a gas pipeline emergency;*
- (3) Identify the types of gas pipeline emergencies of which the operator notifies the officials; and*
- (4) Plan how the operator and officials can engage in mutual assistance to minimize hazards to life or property.*

Finding(s):

Operator did not have documentation supporting any liaison with appropriate fire, police, or other public officials.

2. **49 CFR §192.614(c)(1) Damage prevention program**

(c) The damage prevention program required by paragraph (a) of this section must, at a minimum:

- (1) Include the identity, on a current basis, of persons who normally engage in excavation activities in the area in which the pipeline is located.*

Finding(s):

Operator did not have a written Damage Prevention program. Operator did not identify persons who normally engage in excavation in the area of the pipeline.

3. **49 CFR §192.614(c)(3) Damage prevention program**

(3) Provide a means of receiving and recording notification of planned excavation activities.

Finding(s):

Operator did not have a written Damage Prevention program. Operator did not have a means of receiving and recording notifications of planned excavations.

4. **49 CFR §192.614(c) Damage Prevention program**

(c) The damage prevention program required by paragraph (a) of this section must, at a minimum:

- (1) Include the identity, on a current basis, of persons who normally engage in excavation activities in the area in which the pipeline is located.*
- (2) Provides for notification of the public in the vicinity of the pipeline and actual notification of the persons identified in paragraph (c)(1) of this section of the following as often as needed to make them aware of the damage prevention program:
 - (i) The program's existence and purpose; and*
 - (ii) How to learn the location of underground pipelines before excavation activities are begun.**
- (3) Provide a means of receiving and recording notification of planned excavation activities.*
- (4) If the operator has buried pipelines in the area of excavation activity, provide for actual notification of persons who give notice of their intent to excavate of the type of temporary marking to be provided and how to identify the markings.*
- (5) Provide for temporary marking of buried pipelines in the area of excavation activity before, as far as practical, the activity begins.*
- (6) Provide as follows for inspection of pipelines that an operator has reason to believe could be damaged by excavation activities:
 - (i) The inspection must be done as frequently as necessary during and after the activities to verify the integrity of the pipeline; and*
 - (ii) In the case of blasting, any inspection must include leakage surveys.**
- (d) A damage prevention program under this section is not required for the following pipelines:*

Finding(s):

Operator did not have a written Damage prevention program. Operator did not present a Damage prevention program that covered the minimum requirements listed in 49CFR192.614(c)

5. 49 CFR §192.615(c) Emergency plans

(c) Each operator shall establish and maintain liaison with appropriate fire, police, and other public officials to:

- (1) Learn the responsibility and resources of each government organization that may respond to a gas pipeline emergency;*
- (2) Acquaint the officials with the operator's ability in responding to a gas pipeline emergency;*
- (3) Identify the types of gas pipeline emergencies of which the operator notifies the officials; and*
- (4) Plan how the operator and officials can engage in mutual assistance to minimize hazards to life or property.*

Finding(s):

Operator did not have documentation of liaison with appropriate officials.

6. 49 CFR §192.616(c) Public Awareness

(g) The program must be conducted in English and in other languages commonly understood by a significant number and concentration of the non-English speaking population in the operator's area.

Finding(s):

Operator did not provide records showing a program that provided materials written in other languages commonly understood.