STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
621 Woodland Square Loop S.E. ● Lacey, Washington 98503
P.O. Box 47250 ● Olympia, Washington 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160 ● TTY 1-800-833-6384 or 711

Sent via email

March 31, 2021

Kevin Rasler
President
Inland Empire Paper Company
3320 N. Argonne Road
Milwood, WA 99212

RE: 2021 Natural Gas Standard Inspection – Inland Empire Paper Company – (Insp. No. 8268)

Dear Mr. Rasler:

Staff from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (staff) conducted a Standard Inspection of Inland Empire Paper Company (Inland Empire) from March 22, 2021 to March 23, 2021. This inspection included a records review and inspection of the pipeline facilities. Our inspection indicates two probable violations as noted in the enclosed report.

Your response needed
Please review the attached report and respond in writing by May 3, 2021. 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 $222,504 for each violation for

each day that the violation persists. The maximum civil penalty for a related series of violations is $2,225,034; 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 Derek Norwood at (360) 259-2525. Please refer to the subject matter described above in any future correspondence pertaining to this inspection.

Sincerely,

Mayo, Sean (UTC)
Digitally signed by Mayo, Sean (UTC)
Date: 2021.03.31 14:00:24 -07'00'

Sean C. Mayo
Pipeline Safety Director

cc: Doug Krapas, Environmental Manager, Inland
Kevin Davis, Production Manager, Inland
Tony Ventresco, Human Resources Manager, Inland

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
2021 Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Inspection
Inland Empire Paper Company

The following probable violation**s** of Title 49 CFR Part 192 were noted as a result of the 2020 inspection of the Inland Empire Paper Company. The inspection included a random selection of records, operations and maintenance tasks and field inspection of the pipeline facilities.

PROBABLE VIOLATIONS

1**.** **49 CFR §192.805(b) Qualification program.**

Each operator shall have and follow a written qualification program. The program shall include provisions to:

(b) Ensure through evaluation that individuals performing covered tasks are qualified

Finding(s):

Inland Empire's process does not specify the evaluation and qualification requirements for supervisors and managers who perform covered tasks. The process must include qualification procedures for all personnel who perform covered tasks. The qualification process must show that an individual can perform the task and react to abnormal operating conditions.

2. **49 CFR §192.805(g) Qualification program.**

Each operator shall have and follow a written qualification program. The program shall include provisions to:

(g) Identify those covered tasks and the intervals at which evaluation of the individual's qualifications is needed

Finding(s):

Inland Empire has specified a 3-year re-qualification interval for Inland Empire employees performing covered tasks. One individual was due for re-qualification in 2020 and at the time of the commission inspection, the employee had not been re-qualified.