

Agenda Date: October 24, 2001
Item Number: 2C

Docket: **UG-010499**
Basin Frozen Foods, Inc.
2001 Standard Intrastate Transmission Pipeline Audit

Staff: Patricia Johnson, Pipeline Safety Engineer
Dennis Lloyd, Technical Program Manager

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Commission enter an order requiring Basin Frozen Foods, Inc., to take the steps set out in the Non-Compliance Report to come into compliance with pertinent sections of Title 49 CFR Part 192 and WAC 480-93-180 by November 7, 2001.

Background:

Basin Frozen Foods, Inc. (Basin), located in Warden, Washington, is a natural gas intrastate transmission pipeline company and is subject to the Commission's jurisdiction by application of RCW 80.04.010, RCW 80.28.210, WAC 480-93-005(8), and WAC 480-93-002. Avista was providing gas service to the Basin Plant through its distribution pipeline system. Basin is now proposing to bypass Avista Utilities by building its own 3.8-mile 6-inch high-pressure steel pipeline. The new proposed pipeline will connect to the William Gas pipeline – West interstate system.

The Code of Federal Regulation Title 49 (CFR) Part 192.605(a) adopted for application in Washington State by WAC 480-93-010, requires that a pipeline operator prepare all operation, maintenance, and emergency procedures before it begins pipeline system operations. Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-93-180 requires that the operating plans and procedures must be filed with the Commission for review and requires that the Commission determine whether they are adequate to achieve an acceptable level of safety.

Discussion:

Staff conducted an Intrastate Transmission Standard Audit of Basin Frozen Foods, Inc. (Basin), on April 23, 24, and 25, 2001, at Basin Frozen Food's Facility in Warden, Washington. At that time, Avista was providing gas service to the Basin plant through its distribution pipeline system. Basin had constructed a natural gas transmission pipeline but was not transporting natural gas.

The purpose of an Intrastate Transmission Standard Audit, is to review manuals, records, pipeline facilities, and make field tests of Basin's transmission pipeline to verify compliance with CFR 49 Part 192 and WAC 480-93 to ensure safe pipeline operations and public safety.

Staff's audit identified 22 violations that in part include failure to:

- Document the maximum allowable operating pressure
- Prepare start up and shut down procedures
- Document pressure relief capacity
- Patrol the pipeline in a timely manner
- Establish operating procedures for abnormal circumstances
- Prepare adequate emergency response plans
- Service and maintain transmission line valves , and
- Provide documentation of emergency response personnel training

A non-compliance letter and non-compliance report was sent to Basin on June 4, 2001. Staff received from Basin a letter of intent dated July 5, 2001. After reviewing the letter of intent staff accepted Basin's intent to correct the 22 violations by October 1, 2001. To date, Staff has not received any documentation that Basin is in compliance with all pertinent regulations.

Conclusion:

Staff recommends that the Commission enter an order requiring Basin Frozen Foods, Inc., to take the steps set out in the Non-Compliance Report to come into compliance with pertinent sections of Title 49 CFR Part 192 and WAC 480-93-180 by November 7, 2001.