



STATE OF WASHINGTON

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

Ref. No. Docket PG-110045

**CERTIFIED MAIL**

November 16, 2011

Jason Thackston  
Vice President, Energy Delivery  
Avista Utilities Corporation  
1411 E. Mission, P.O. Box 3727  
Spokane, WA 99202-3727

Dear Mr. Thackston:

**Re: 2011 Natural Gas Standard Inspection – Goldendale District**

We conducted a natural gas inspection from September 26-29, 2011 of Avista Utilities Corporation (Avista) Goldendale District. The 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 December 19, 2011. 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.

It is anticipated that staff will close this docket and consider the matter resolved without further commission action once the company's response is in hand.

If you have any questions or if we may be of any assistance, please contact Lex Vinsel at (360) 664-1319. Please refer to Docket PG-110045 in any future correspondence regarding this inspection.

Sincerely,

David D. Lykken  
Pipeline Safety Director

cc. Mike Faulkenberry, Chief Gas Engineer, Avista



**WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**  
**2011 Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Inspection**  
**Avista Utilities Corporation – Goldendale District**  
**Docket PG-110045**

The following probable violation(s) of WAC 480-93 were noted as a result of the inspection of the Avista Utilities Corporation – Goldendale District. The inspection included a random selection of records, operation and maintenance, emergency response, inventory and field inspection of the pipeline facilities.

**PROBABLE VIOLATIONS**

1. **WAC 480-93-018 Records**

(5) *Each gas pipeline company must update its records within six months of when it completes any construction activity and make such records available to appropriate company operations personnel.*

**Finding(s):**

Avista did not update system maps within 6 months of the end of construction.

During review of construction records, staff found one case out of thirteen where company maps were not updated within the 6 month time period.

2. **WAC 480-93-187 Gas leak records**

*Gas leak records must contain, at a minimum, the following information:*

(12) *Magnitude and location of CGI readings left;...*

**Finding(s):**

Avista did not grade the leak properly by using a Combustible Gas Indicator (CGI) to determine percent Lower Explosive Limit.

During review of gas leak records service, personnel on 9/9/2011 did not correctly grade the leak with a CGI, but listed a reading of 10,000 ppm at the leaking gas valve.