



STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Ref. No. Docket PG-090077

CERTIFIED MAIL

November 24, 2009

Don Kopczynski
Vice President – Operations
Avista Utilities Corporation
East 1411 Mission, MSC 20
PO Box 3727
Spokane, Washington 99220-3727

Dear Mr. Kopczynski:

RE: 2009 Natural Gas Standard Inspection – Colville, Washington

We conducted a natural gas inspection of Avista Utilities Corporation (Avista) – Colville during the week of October 12, 2009. The inspection included a records review and inspection of the pipeline facilities.

Our inspection indicates no probable violation and two areas of concern, which unless corrected, could potentially lead to future violation of state and/or federal pipeline safety rules.

We would like to note the quality of Avista's mapping system. The ability to see detail such as repairs made, bar hole testing points, and meter less risers is a great asset to the mapping system. We would also like to note our appreciation for the cooperation and positive attitude presented by Avista's employees during the course of the Colville inspection.

If you have any questions, or if we may be of any assistance, please contact Patti Johnson at (360) 664-1266. Please refer to Docket PG-090077 in any future correspondence regarding this inspection. Docket PG-090077 will be closed as of November 24, 2009.

Sincerely,

David D. Lykken
Pipeline Safety Director

Enclosure

cc: Mike Faulkenberry, Avista Utilities Corp.



WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
2009 Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Inspection
Avista Utilities Corporation – Colville District
Docket PG-090077

The following areas of concern were noted as a result of the 2009 pipeline safety inspection of the Avista Utilities Corporation, Colville District. The inspection included a review of the records, inventory, and field operations and maintenance of the natural gas facilities.

AREAS OF CONCERN

1. A probable violation of WAC 480-93-170 (7) was written in the Pullman inspection, UTC Docket PG-090076. In the Pullman letter of intent, Avista committed to modify pressure test documentation to include those items as outlined in WAC 480-93-170 (7). Pipeline Safety staff accepted the Avista commitment. In the Colville inspection, conducted shortly after the Pullman inspection, missing pressure test information was also found at the following locations.
 - a. A pressure test of the entire main extension at Coxy Nook Rd in Chewelah, WA was completed and the pressure sticker properly filled out on 7-8-09. On 9-8-09, Spokane employees, added approximately 10 feet of 2 inch steel pipe in order to remove an existing valve and install a new valve to complete the job. The employee added information and signed the original pressure test sticker, rather than complete a second pressure test sticker. It is not clear that a second pressure test was conducted.
 - b. On the service card for a service installation at 490 W 2nd, there was (a) no company name, (c) the test medium was not identified, (g) pressure test times were not noted and (h) there was no test results.
 - c. On the service card for a service installation at 2235 Alm, Chewelah, there was (a) no company name, (c) the test medium was not identified, (g) pressure test times were not noted and (h) there was no test results.
 - d. Avista replaced an isolated main in the alley between 8th and 9th in Colville, and tied existing services over. The pressure test sticker for the main does not have (g) the times of the test.
 - e. Avista installed gas main and services to the Pheasant Ridge Development. The times of day were missing on the pressure sticker.
2. During atmospheric corrosion inspections, Avista must conduct a thorough investigation to determine there is no corrosion. For example, a thorough investigation would require, where necessary, an examination of the pipe under surface oxidation, under disbonded coating and above and below the ground at soil-to-air interfaces where there is disbonded, loose, cracked or missing wrap and/ or bare pipe.

Regardless of whether or not the safe operation of the pipeline will be effected before the next scheduled inspection, soil-to-air interfaces must be protected from atmospheric corrosion.

The conditions found must be documented in accordance with WAC 480-93-018 regardless of whether or not remediation is required.