



*America's Propane Company*

August 28, 2013

Mr. Wayne T. Lemoi  
Director, Office of Pipeline Safety  
PHMSA Southern Region  
233 Peachtree Street  
Suite 600  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Re: **Warning Letter CPF 2-2013-0002W**

Dear Mr. Lemoi:

This is to reply to your letter addressed to AmeriGas's COO, Paul Grady dated March 27, 2013 for alleged violations of the Pipeline Safety Regulations, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations and NFPA 58 2004 Edition. Your letter has been referred to me for response.

**Item 1 – Section 6.7.4.6 Regulator Installation:**

The point of discharge shall be located not less than 5 ft in any direction away from any source of ignition, openings into direct-vent appliances, or mechanical ventilation air intakes.

The PHMSA inspectors observed and photographed AmeriGas gas meter assemblies, each of which a regulator with a point of discharge less than 5 feet from a source of ignition (gas heater) at the following locations:

- 2411 Drake Elm Street, Valrico
- 2204 Durrant Court (Brandon East)
- 2203 Sunnybank (Brandon East)
- 3803 Sunnybank (Brandon East)

**Response**

ALL four locations have been addressed and remediated. The regulators have been properly vented away from ignition sources using ANSI/UL 651 ridged PVC electrical conduit as per NFPA 58.

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**Item 2 – Section 192.465 External Corrosion Control: Monitoring:**

(a) Each pipeline that is under cathodic protection must be tested at least once each calendar year, but with intervals not exceeding 15 months, to determine whether the cathodic protection meets the requirements of § 192.463. However, if tests at those intervals are impractical for separately protected short sections of mains or transmission lines, not in excess of 100 feet (30 meters), or separately protected service lines, these pipelines may be surveyed on a sampling basis. At least 10 percent of these protected structures, distributed over the entire system must be surveyed each calendar year, with a different 10 percent checked each subsequent year, so that the entire system is tested in each 10-year period.

AmeriGas did not provide records to demonstrate that it had performed external corrosion control monitoring of the tanks for the following systems in calendar year 2012 to determine whether the cathodic protection met the requirements of 192.263.

- Stoney Creek
- Valterra
- Brandon East
- Arista

**Response**

I have provided the follow information (see attached) regarding the Inspections that were made pertaining to External Corrosion Control at the above 4- locations. These locations have been inspected and the records reside in each of the systems O&M manual.

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Mr. Wayne T. Lemoi  
August 28, 2013  
Page 3

**Item 3 – Section 192.721 Distribution Systems: Patrolling:**

(a) The frequency of patrolling mains must be determined by the severity of the conditions which could cause failure or leakage, and the consequent hazards to public safety.

(b) Mains in places or on structures where anticipated physical movement or external loading could cause failure or leakage must be patrolled—

(1) In business districts, at intervals not exceeding 4 1/2 months, but at least four times each calendar year; and

(2) Outside business districts, at intervals not exceeding 7 1/2 months, but at least twice each calendar year.

AmeriGas did not provide records to demonstrate that it had patrolled its mains outside business districts for the following systems in calendar year 2012 at intervals not exceeding 7 ½ months, but at least twice each calendar year.

- Stoney Creek
- Valterra
- Brandon East
- Crosby Crossing
- Arista

**Response**

I have provided the follow information (see attached) regarding the Inspections that were made pertaining to Distribution System Patrolling at the above 5 - locations. These locations have been patrolled and the records reside in each of the systems O&M manual.

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**Item 4 – Section 192.739 Pressure Limiting and Regulating Stations: Inspection and Testing:**

(a) Each pressure limiting station, relief device (except rupture discs), and pressure regulating station and its equipment must be subjected at intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least once each calendar year, to inspections and tests to determine that it is—

- (1) In good mechanical condition;
- (2) Adequate from the standpoint of capacity and reliability of operation for the service in which it is employed;
- (3) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, set to control or relieve at the correct pressure consistent with the pressure limits of § 192.201(a); and
- (4) Properly installed and protected from dirt, liquids, or other conditions that might prevent proper operation.

AmeriGas did not provide any records to demonstrate that it had inspected, tested, and determined that capacity of each pressure limiting and regulating station, and its equipment at the following locations in calendar year 2012.

- Brandon East
- Stoney Creek
- Valterra

**Response**

The regulators that are installed at these systems are (Fisher R622) and are all ANSI/UL 144, Standard for LP Gas Regulators approved. I have attached a withdrawal of allegation from an OPS inspection that occurred in December, 1997 which stated that NFPA 58/59 only requires that these regulators be UL 144 approved and does not require further testing and calculations. According to 49 CFR 192.11 (c), if there is a conflict between that part (Part 192) and ANSI/NFPA 58/59, ANSI/NFPA 58/59 will prevail. Since Part 192 requires testing or calculations and NFPA 58/59 does not, there exists a conflict therefore, the NFPA standard prevails.

I have also attached a list of Emerson (Fisher) regulators that are approved under the ANSI/UL 144, Standard for LP Gas Regulators.

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Mr. Wayne T. Lemoi  
August 28, 2013  
Page 5

**Item 5 - Section 192.747 Valve Maintenance: Distribution Systems: Need to get records going forward this will be tracked.**

(a) Each valve, the use of which may be necessary for the safe operation of a distribution system, must be checked and serviced at intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least once each calendar year.

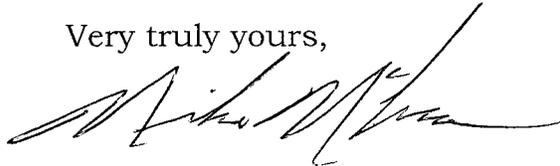
AmeriGas identified 19 poly plug valves functioning as key or emergency valves in 5 regulated systems but did not provide any records to demonstrate that it had checked and serviced each of these valves in calendar year 2012. The two key valves at the Valterra system were not checked and serviced calendar years 2011 and 2012.

**Response**

I have provided the follow information (see attached) regarding the Inspections that were made pertaining to Key Valve Inspection at the above 5 - regulated locations. These locations have been inspected and the records reside in each of the systems O&M manual.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 904-716-3006 or by email to [mike.mclean@amerigas.com](mailto:mike.mclean@amerigas.com) if you or your staff have any questions or require additional information.

Very truly yours,



Mike McLean  
Corporate OPS Compliance

C.c.: Paul Grady