



U.S. Department  
Of Transportation  
**Pipeline and  
Hazardous Materials  
Safety Administration**

820 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 103  
West Trenton, NJ 08628  
**609.989.2171**

## NOTICE OF AMENDMENT

### OVERNIGHT EXPRESS MAIL

March 22, 2011

Mr. Victor Gaglio  
Sr. Vice President of Operations & Engineering  
NiSource Gas Transmission & Storage  
1700 MacCorkle Avenue SE  
Charleston, WV 25314

**CPF 1-2011-1002M**

Dear Mr. Gaglio:

From September 21 through 24, 2009, representatives of New York Public Service Commission (NY PSC) acting as agents for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code, inspected Columbia Gas Transmission Corp's facility (CGT), which is a subsidiary of NiSource Gas Transmission & Storage, in Binghamton, New York.

On the basis of the inspection, PHMSA has identified the apparent inadequacies found within CGT's plans or procedures, as described below:

- 1. §192.605 Procedural manual for operations, maintenance, and emergencies.**
  - (b) Maintenance and normal operations. The manual required by paragraph (a) of this section must include procedures for the following, if applicable, to provide safety during maintenance and operations.**
  - (8) Periodically reviewing the work done by operator personnel to determine the effectiveness and adequacy of the procedures used in normal operation and maintenance and modifying the procedure when deficiencies are found.**

At the time of the inspection, CGT did not have specific written procedures for periodically reviewing the work done by operator personnel.

In reviewing CGT's Operation and Maintenance manual, procedures for periodically reviewing the work done by operator personnel were not found. CGT explained it had an internal process by which, annually, each team leader is sent from corporate to evaluate a single procedure, then the results were sent back to be reviewed by a committee. At the time of the inspection, this internal process was not documented.

CGT's procedures need to specify the process for reviewing work performed by operator personnel.

**2. §192.615 Emergency plans.**

**(b) Each operator shall:**

**(2) Train the appropriate operating personnel to assure that they are knowledgeable of the emergency procedures and verify that the training is effective.**

CGT's Emergency Plan procedures were inadequate because the plans did not completely address training of appropriate personnel to assure that they were knowledgeable of the emergency procedures and verified that the training was effective.

CGT's procedures do not provide a method to review performance, make appropriate changes, and verify that training was effective. CGT's electronic database that tracks the emergency training, Learning Management System (LMS), documents that training was completed.

CGT's Emergency Plan must clearly describe what actions must be taken to meet the requirement of section 192.615(b)(2).

Response to this Notice

This Notice is provided pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 60108(a) and 49 C.F.R. § 190.237. Enclosed as part of this Notice is a document entitled *Response Options for Pipeline Operators in Compliance Proceedings*. Please refer to this document and note the response options. Be advised that all material you submit in response to this enforcement action is subject to being made publicly available. If you believe that any portion of your responsive material qualifies for confidential treatment under 5 U.S.C. 552(b), along with the complete original document you must provide a second copy of the document with the portions you believe qualify for confidential treatment redacted and an explanation of why you believe the redacted information qualifies for confidential treatment under 5 U.S.C. 552(b). If you do not respond within 30 days of receipt of this Notice, this constitutes a waiver of your right to contest the allegations in this Notice and authorizes the Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety to find facts as alleged in this Notice without further notice to you and to issue a Final Order.

If, after opportunity for a hearing, your plans or procedures are found inadequate as alleged in this Notice, you may be ordered to amend your plans or procedures to correct the inadequacies (49 C.F.R. § 190.237). If you are not contesting this Notice, we propose that you submit your amended procedures to my office within 30 days of receipt of this Notice. This period may be extended by written request for good cause. Once the inadequacies identified herein have been addressed in your amended procedures, this enforcement action will be closed.

It is requested (not mandated) that Columbia maintain documentation of the safety improvement costs associated with fulfilling this Notice of Amendment (preparation/revision of plans, procedures) and submit the total to Byron Coy, PE, Director, Eastern Region, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, 820 Bear Tavern Rd, West Trenton, NJ 08628. In correspondence concerning this matter, please refer to **CPF 1-2011-1002M** and, for each document you submit, please provide a copy in electronic format whenever possible.

Sincerely,

Byron E. Coy  
Director, Eastern Region  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Enclosure: *Response Options for Pipeline Operators in Compliance Proceedings*