



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials Safety
Administration**

233 Peachtree Street Ste. 600
Atlanta, GA 30303

WARNING LETTER

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

March 28, 2013

Mr. Paul Grady
Vice President & Chief Operating Officer
AmeriGas Propane, LP
460 North Gulf Road
Valley Forge, PA 19482

CPF 2-2013-0003W

Dear Mr. Grady:

From February 11-13 & 15, 2013, representatives of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Southern Region, Office of Pipeline Safety, pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code, inspected the AmeriGas Propane, LP (AmeriGas) liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) pipeline system records and facilities in Fort Myers, Florida.

As a result of the inspection, it appears that AmeriGas has committed probable violations of the Pipeline Safety Regulations, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations. The items inspected and the probable violations are as follows:

1. §192.11 Petroleum gas systems.

...(b) Each pipeline system subject to this part that transports only petroleum gas or petroleum gas/air mixtures must meet the requirements of this part and of ANSI/NFPA 58 and 59.

AmeriGas did not meet the requirements for "Regulator Installation" in NFPA 58, Section 6.7.4.6, which states that *"The point of discharge [of a regulator] shall also be located not less than 5 ft (1.5 m) in any direction away from any source of ignition, openings into direct-vent (sealed combustion system) appliances, or mechanical ventilation air intakes."*

The PHMSA inspectors observed and photographed an AmeriGas gas meter assembly at the Herons Glen clubhouse, which included a regulator with a point of discharge less than 5 feet from a gas pool heater - a source of ignition.

2. §192.465(a) 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 line, not in excess of 100 feet (30 meters), or separately protected service line, 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 any records to demonstrate that it had tested the three cathodic protection test stations located at its Herons Glen pressure regulating and limiting station in calendar years 2011 and 2012 to determine whether the cathodic protection met the requirements of §192.463.

3. §192.616 Public Awareness.

... (j) Unless the operator transports gas as a primary activity, the operator of a master meter or petroleum gas system is not required to develop a public awareness program as prescribed in paragraphs (a) through (g) of this section. Instead the operator must develop and implement a written procedure to provide its customers public awareness messages twice annually. If the master meter or petroleum gas system is located on property the operator does not control, the operator must provide similar messages twice annually to persons controlling the property. The public awareness message must include:

- (1) A description of the purpose and reliability of the pipeline;**
- (2) An overview of the hazards of the pipeline and prevention measures used;**
- (3) Information about damage prevention;**
- (4) How to recognize and respond to a leak; and**
- (5) How to get additional information..**

AmeriGas did not provide any records to demonstrate that it had provided public awareness messages twice annually to all required stakeholder audiences in calendar year 2012.

4. §192.723 Distribution systems: Leakage surveys.

(a) Each operator of a distribution system shall conduct periodic leakage surveys in accordance with this section.

(b) The type and scope of the leakage control program must be determined by the nature of the operations and the local conditions, but it must meet the following minimum requirements:

- (1) A leakage survey with leak detector equipment must be conducted in business districts, including tests of the atmosphere in gas, electric, telephone, sewer, and water system manholes, at cracks in pavement and sidewalks, and at other locations providing an opportunity for finding gas leaks, at intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least once each calendar year.**

AmeriGas had commercial meters serving a club and a restaurant in business districts but did not provide any records to demonstrate that it had conducted leakage surveys at these locations in calendar years 2011 and 2012.

5. **§ 192.743 Pressure limiting and regulating stations: Testing of relief devices.**
(a) Pressure relief devices at pressure limiting stations and pressure regulating stations must have sufficient capacity to protect the facilities to which they are connected. Except as provided in §192.739(b), the capacity must be consistent with the pressure limits of §192.201(a). This capacity must be determined at intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least once each calendar year, by testing the devices in place or by review and calculations.

AmeriGas did not provide any records to demonstrate that the capacities of several pressure regulators and relief valves were confirmed, either by testing the devices in place or by review and calculations, in calendar years 2011 and 2012.

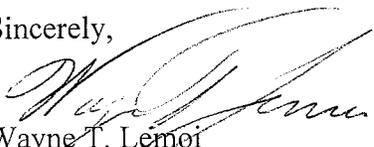
6. **§192.747 Valve maintenance: Distribution systems.**
(a) Each valve, the use of which may be necessary for the safe operation of a distribution system, must be checked and serviced at intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least once each calendar year.

AmeriGas identified 40 poly plug valves as key or emergency valves but did not provide any records to demonstrate that it had checked and serviced each of these valves in calendar years 2011 and 2012.

Under 49 United States Code, § 60122, AmeriGas Propane, LP is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$200,000 per violation per day the violation persists up to a maximum of \$2,000,000 for a related series of violations. For violations occurring prior to January 4, 2012, the maximum penalty may not exceed \$100,000 per violation per day, with a maximum penalty not to exceed \$1,000,000 for a related series of violations. We have reviewed the circumstances and supporting documents involved in this case, and have decided not to conduct additional enforcement action or penalty assessment proceedings at this time. We advise you to correct the items identified in this letter. Failure to do so will result in AmeriGas Propane, LP being subject to additional enforcement action.

No reply to this letter is required. If you choose to reply, in your correspondence please refer to **CPF 2-2013- 0003W**. 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).

Sincerely,


Wayne T. Lemoie
Director, Office of Pipeline Safety
PHMSA Southern Region

CC: Dan Gardner, District Manager
2600 Katherine Street
Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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460 North Gulf Road
Valley Forge, PA 19482