

**MAR 4 2010**

Mr. Charles B. Stanley  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Questar Gas Management Company  
1050 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Denver, CO 80265

**Re: CPF No. 5-2008-5019**

Dear Mr. Stanley:

Enclosed please find the Final Order issued in the above-referenced case. It makes a finding of violation and finds that Questar Gas Management Company has completed the actions specified in the Notice to comply with the pipeline safety regulations. Therefore, this case is now closed. Service of the Final Order by certified mail is deemed effective upon the date of mailing, or as otherwise provided under 49 C.F.R. § 190.5.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Wiese  
Associate Administrator  
for Pipeline Safety

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Chris Hoidal, Director, Western Region, OPS  
Mr. Perry Richards, Vice President of Operations, Questar Gas Management Company

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED [7009 1410 0000 2472 5088]**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE OF PIPELINE SAFETY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590**

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<b>In the Matter of</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Questar Gas Management</b>	)	<b>CPF No. 5-2008-5019</b>
<b>Company,</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Respondent.</b>	)	
_____	)	

**FINAL ORDER**

On April 23, 2008, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 60117, a representative of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS), conducted an on-site pipeline safety inspection of the facilities and records of Questar Gas Management Company (Questar or Respondent) near Lyman, Wyoming, including the Emigrant Trail Pipeline System, an 8.9-mile-long pipeline constructed in 1984, and the Black Forks Pipeline System, a pair of 2.85-mile-long pipelines constructed in 1995.

As a result of the inspection, the Director, Western Region, OPS (Director), issued to Respondent, by letter dated June 19, 2008, a Notice of Probable Violation and Proposed Compliance Order (Notice). In accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 190.207, the Notice proposed finding that Questar had violated 49 C.F.R. § 195.452(b)(3) and (c)(1)(i)(B) and proposed ordering the company to take certain measures to correct the alleged violation.

Questar responded to the Notice by letters dated July 16, 2008, and February 9, 2009 (collectively, Response). Respondent did not contest the allegations of violation but provided information concerning the corrective actions it had taken. Questar did not request a hearing and therefore has waived its right to one.

**FINDING OF VIOLATION**

In its Response, Questar did not contest the allegation in the Notice that it violated 49 C.F.R. Part 195, as follows:

**Item 1:** The Notice alleged that Respondent violated 49 C.F.R. § 195.452(b)(3) and (c)(1)(i)(B), which state, in relevant part:

**§ 195.452 Pipeline integrity management in high consequence areas.**

(a) . . . .

(b) *What program and practices must operators use to manage pipeline integrity?* Each operator of a pipeline covered by this section must:

(1) . . . .

(3) Include in the program a plan to carry out baseline assessments of line pipe as required by paragraph (c) of this section.

(4) . . . .

(c) *What must be in the baseline assessment plan?*

(1) An operator must include each of the following elements in its written baseline assessment plan:

(i) The methods selected to assess the integrity of the line pipe. An operator must assess the integrity of the line pipe by any of the following methods. . . .

(B) Pressure test conducted in accordance with subpart E of this part;

In particular, the Notice alleged that Questar violated 49 C.F.R. § 195.452(b)(3) and (c)(1)(i)(B) by failing to perform an 8-hour pressure test of its buried propane pipeline as part of the company's baseline assessment. Instead, the Notice alleged that Respondent had only performed a 4-hour pressure test, an inadequate length of time for a pipeline that cannot be visually inspected.<sup>1</sup> Questar did not contest this allegation of violation.<sup>2</sup> Accordingly, based upon a review of all of the evidence, I find that Respondent violated 49 C.F.R. § 195.452(b)(3) and (c)(1)(i)(B) by failing to perform an 8-hour pressure test of its buried propane line as part of the company's baseline assessment.

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<sup>1</sup> 49 C.F.R. § 195.304.

<sup>2</sup> The Notice also alleged that Respondent erred in using nitrogen as the test medium. However, in its Response, Questar provided the Director with documentation confirming that the maximum operating pressure of the line in question is less than 20 percent of the specified minimum yield strength of the line pipe, thereby permitting the use of nitrogen as a test medium. See 49 C.F.R. §§ 195.2 (defining low-stress pipeline), 195.306(d) (permitting use of inert gases as a test medium for low-stress pipelines).

This finding of violation will be considered a prior offense in any subsequent enforcement action taken against Respondent.

### **COMPLIANCE ORDER**

The Notice proposed a compliance order with respect to Item 1 in the Notice for violations of 49 C.F.R. § 195.452(b)(3) and (c)(1)(i)(B). Under 49 U.S.C. § 60118(a), each person who engages in the transportation of hazardous liquids or who owns or operates a pipeline facility is required to comply with the applicable safety standards established under chapter 601. The Director has indicated that Respondent has taken the following actions specified in the proposed compliance order:

On November 6, 2008, Questar performed an 8-hour pressure test of its propane and butane lines. The Director has reviewed the documentation from those tests and determined that each was conducted in compliance with the requirements of Part 195.

Accordingly, I find that compliance has been achieved with respect to this violation. Therefore, the compliance terms proposed in the Notice are not included in this Order.

The terms and conditions of this Final Order are effective upon receipt of service.

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Jeffrey D. Wiese  
Associate Administrator  
for Pipeline Safety

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Date Issued