

WARNING LETTER
(Revised with Correct CPF No.)

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

April 15, 2014; revised April 30, 2014

Mr. Ronald Jorgensen
Vice President of Operations
Questar Pipeline Company
333 South State Street
P.O. Box 45360
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0360

CPF 5-2014-1001W

Dear Mr. Jorgensen:

On August 26–30, September 09–13, and September 16-20, 2013, representatives of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code, inspected your pipeline facilities on ML 40 at multiple locations between Provo and Vernal, Utah.

As a result of the inspection, it appears that you have committed a probable violation of the Pipeline Safety Regulations, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations. The items inspected and the probable violation is:

1. §192.161 Supports and anchors

(b) Each exposed pipeline must have enough supports or anchors to protect the exposed pipe joints from the maximum end force caused by internal pressure and any additional forces caused by temperature expansion or contraction or by the weight of the pipe and its contents.

Based on the operator's analytical process in place at the time of our inspection, numerous above ground spans did not have adequate supports in place to protect the

exposed pipe joints from the maximum end force. During the inspection weeks of August 26–30, September 09–13, and September 16-20, 2013, PHMSA’s inspectors reviewed multiple above ground span locations. The following ten (10) locations on Mainline 40 were calculated to have inadequate support with the QPC analytical tool:

1) Span #69; 2) Span #68; 3) Span #65; 4) Span-Whitmore Park; 5) Span #50; 6) Span #49; 7) Span #47; 8) Span-River Bend West; 9) Span-River Bend East; and 10) Span-Wayne’s Crossing/Mesa Tap.

Questar Pipeline Company (QPC) stated that their analytical tool was too conservative. PHMSA received a letter on October 29, 2013, from QPC stating: “QPC will modify its Standard Practice 1-11-01, *Design for the Protection of Transmission Lines and Mains from Physical Hazards*, to include the more recently developed span stress assessment methodology.” While this tool now indicates a safe condition for the aforementioned spans, they must continue to be monitored to ensure they stay safe.

Under 49 United States Code, § 60122, you are 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.

No reply to this letter is required. If you choose to reply, in your correspondence please refer to **CPF 5-2014-1001W**. 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,

Chris Hoidal
Director, Western Region
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

cc: PHP-60 Compliance Registry
PHP-500 Ross Reineke (#142689)