



July 3, 2019

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

Mr. Dustin Hubbard
Director, Office of Pipeline Safety
PHMSA Western Region
12300 W. Dakota Ave., Suite 110
Lakewood, CO 80228

Re: CPF 5-2019-0017M

Dear Mr. Hubbard:

AmeriGas Propane, LP, received the Notice of Amendment letter directed to James Palkovic, VP Operations – West, dated May 16, 2019 which indicated apparent inadequacies within the AmeriGas plans and procedures.

AmeriGas is committed to the safety of our employees, customers, and neighbors and compliance with Federal regulations. AmeriGas takes PHMSA's concerns seriously. While AmeriGas does not agree that the circumstances identified by PHMSA constitute actual violations, in the interest of cooperation with PHMSA, here we are providing documentation showing the steps we took to address the alleged violations as described below.

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT

1. 192.605 Procedural manual for operations, maintenance , and emergencies.

- a. ...
- 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.
 - (1)...

(4) Gathering of data needed for reporting incidents under Part 191 of this chapter in a timely and effective manner.

AmeriGas' written plans are inadequate because the reporting requirements did not include a process for the immediate notice of certain incidents pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 191.5(b). Specifically, AmeriGas' plan failed to include that notice to the National Response Center (NRC) can also be made electronically at <https://www.nrc.usg.mil>, and failed to set out what information needed to be reported to the NRC required by 191.5(b)(1) to (b)(5).

RESPONSE:

AmeriGas has revised its written plan to include that notice to the National Response Center (NRC) can also be made electronically. AmeriGas has also included in its plan the information that is needed to be reported to the NRC. Here AmeriGas is providing the relevant sections of its plan showing these changes.

2. 192.273 General

(a)...

(b) Each joint must be made in accordance with written procedures that have been proven by test or experience to produce strong gas tight joints.

AmeriGas' Operating and Maintenance (O&M) Manual – Construction of Mains is inadequate because it does not address joining plastic pipe by solvent or adhesives pursuant to 192.281 (b) and 192.281 (d). At the time of PHMSA inspection, AmeriGas stated that it does not use solvent cements or adhesives to join pipe, however, there is nothing in its written procedures noting that AmeriGas does not use these joining procedures.

RESPONSE:

AmeriGas Construction of Mains procedure, page 22 of 57, addresses joining of plastic pipe by solvent cements and adhesives pursuant to 192.281 (b) and 192.281 (d). Here AmeriGas is providing a copy of the relevant section of this procedure showing these items are covered. It should be noted the effective date of this procedure 7/31/2018, so these procedures were in place at the time of the PHMSA inspection (November 2018).

3. 192.283 Plastic Pipe: Qualifying joining procedures.

(a)...

(c) A copy of each written procedure being used for joining plastic pipe must be available to the persons making and inspecting joints.

AmeriGas' O&M Manual – Construction of Mains is inadequate because it does not require that a copy of each written procedure being used for joining plastic pipe be available to the persons making and inspecting joints pursuant to 192.283 (c).

RESPONSE:

AmeriGas has included in its Construction of Mains Procedure to make available a copy of each written procedure being used for joining plastic pipe to the persons making and inspecting joints pursuant to 192.283 (c). Here AmeriGas is providing a copy of the particular section of this procedure showing this addition.

4. 192.285 Plastic pipe: Qualifying persons to make joints.

(a)...

(b) The specimen joint must be:

(1) Visually examined during and after assembly or joining and found to have the same appearance as a joint or photographs of a joint that is acceptable under the procedures; and

(2) In the case of heat fusion, solvent cement, or adhesive joint:

(i) Tested under any one of the test methods listed under 192.283(a) applicable to the type of joint and material being tested;

(ii) Examined by ultrasonic inspection and found not to contain flaws that would cause failure; or

(iii) Cut into at least 3 longitudinal straps, each of which is;

(A) Visually examined and found not to contain voids or discontinuities on the cut surfaces of the joint area; and

(B) Deformed by bending, torque, or impact, and if failure occurs, it must not initiate in the joint area.

(c) ...

(d) Each operator shall establish a method to determine that each person making joints in plastic pipelines in the operator's system is qualified in accordance with this section.

AmeriGas' O&M Manual – Construction of Mains is inadequate because it does not have a procedure that complies with the inspection and testing requirements set forth in 192.285(b), nor does it have a method to determine that each person making joints in plastic pipelines in the operator's system is qualified in accordance with 192.285(d).

RESPONSE:

AmeriGas' current Construction of Mains procedure, page 19 of 57 refers the user to the AmeriGas Operator Qualification training for further information as it pertains to 192.285 (b) and 192.285 (d). Here, AmeriGas is providing this page of its Construction of Mains procedure and the related slides of the OQ program for plastic pipe to show these requirements are met.

5. 192.605 Procedural manual for operations, maintenance, and emergencies.

(a) ...

(c) *Maintenance and normal operations.* The manual required by paragraph of this section must include procedures for the following, if applicable, to

provide safety during maintenance operations.

(1)...

(3) Making construction records, maps, and operating history available to operating personnel.

AmeriGas' O&M Manual – General is inadequate because it did not have an explicit, implementable process for making construction records, maps, and operating history available to appropriate personnel.

RESPONSE:

AmeriGas does not have a central repository for the storage of each individual jurisdictional LP Gas system it serves, rather this information is stored at the individual District(s) serving pipeline systems. As such, AmeriGas has revised its current General procedure to state specifically "System and previous information records are collected and stored in individual District sites." Here AmeriGas is providing a copy of the specific section of the General Procedure showing this change.

6. 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.

(1)...

(8) Periodically reviewing the work done by operator personnel to determine the effectiveness, and adequacy of the procedures when deficiencies are found.

AmeriGas' O&M Manual – General is inadequate because it did not have an explicit, implementable process for how and when it will conduct periodic reviews of the work done by operator personnel to determine the effectiveness and adequacy of its procedures used in normal operation and maintenance, and how it will modify those procedures when deficiencies are found.

RESPONSE:

AmeriGas believes its current General Procedure for how and when periodic reviews of work done by operator personnel is addressed on page 4 of 7 of this procedure. Here AmeriGas is providing a copy of the specific section of this procedure for you review.

Mr. D. Hubbard
July 3, 2019
Page 5

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 215-970-4159 or by email at david.hedrick@amerigas.com if you or your staff have any questions or require additional information.

Thank you,

David Hedrick

David Hedrick
Pipeline Safety Manager
AmeriGas Propane, LP

Cc: C. Serna, AmeriGas Area 55 Director
N. Chatriand, AmeriGas, West Region Safety Director
L. Whitmore, AmeriGas Pipeline Safety Manager
M. Langston, AmeriGas Group Safety Director
S. Doyle McManus, AmeriGas Counsel

AmeriGas Office of Pipeline Safety Manual	Operating and Maintenance Manual Emergency Plan	Page 6 of 9 Effective Date: 01/31/2019 Supersedes: 07/31/2018
--	---	--

Accident and Incident Reporting – 49 CFR-191.5, 191.9(a), 191.9(b)

Telephone or submit electronically an incident report at the earliest possible moment, but in any case within one hour (49 CFR 191.5) of a release of LP-gas from a system involving:

- An event that involves a release of gas from a pipeline, or liquefied petroleum gas that results in one or more of the following consequences:
 - A death, or personal injury necessitating in-patient hospitalization ¹; or
 - Estimated property damage of \$50,000 or more, including loss to the operator and others, or both, but excluding cost of gas lost; or
 - Unintentional estimated gas loss of three million cubic feet (82,262 gallons) or more;
- An event that results in an emergency shutdown of an LPG facility. Activation of an emergency shutdown system for reasons other than an actual emergency does not constitute an incident.
- An event that is significant in the judgment of the operator, even though it did not meet the above criteria.

The telephone or electronic incident report is made to the National Response Center at:

- TOLL FREE (800) 424-8802
- IN WASHINGTON, D.C. (202) 267-2675
- 24 HOURS EVERY DAY
- or electronically at <http://www.nrc.uscg.mil>

The report must include the following information:

- (1) Names of operator and person making report and their telephone numbers.
- (2) The location of the incident.
- (3) The time of the incident.
- (4) The number of fatalities and personal injuries, if any.
- (5) All other significant facts that are known by the operator that are relevant to the cause of the incident or extent of the damages.

AmeriGas Office of Pipeline Safety Manual	Operating and Maintenance Manual Construction of Mains	Page 7 of 9 Effective Date 06/30/2019 Supersedes 07/31/2018
--	--	---

Plastic Pipe

Requirement (192.281)

(a) *General.* A plastic pipe joint that is joined by solvent cement, adhesive, or heat fusion may not be disturbed until it has properly set. Plastic pipe may not be joined by a threaded joint or miter joint.

(b) *Solvent cement joints.* Each solvent cement joint on plastic pipe must comply with the following:

(1) The mating surfaces of the joint must be clean, dry, and free of material which might be detrimental to the joint.

(2) The solvent cement must conform to ASTM D2513-99, (incorporated by reference, see §192.7).

(3) The joint may not be heated to accelerate the setting of the cement.

(c) *Heat-fusion joints.* Each heat-fusion joint on plastic pipe must comply with the following:

(1) A butt heat-fusion joint must be joined by a device that holds the heater element square to the ends of the piping, compresses the heated ends together, and holds the pipe in proper alignment while the plastic hardens.

(2) A socket heat-fusion joint must be joined by a device that heats the mating surfaces of the joint uniformly and simultaneously to essentially the same temperature.

(3) An electrofusion joint must be joined utilizing the equipment and techniques of the fittings manufacturer or equipment and techniques shown, by testing joints to the requirements of §192.283(a)(1)(iii), to be at least equivalent to those of the fittings manufacturer.

(4) Heat may not be applied with a torch or other open flame.

(d) *Adhesive joints.* Each adhesive joint on plastic pipe must comply with the following:

(1) The adhesive must conform to ASTM Designation D 2517.

(2) The materials and adhesive must be compatible with each other.

(e) *Mechanical joints.* Each compression type mechanical joint on plastic pipe must comply with the following:

(1) The gasket material in the coupling must be compatible with the plastic.

(2) A rigid internal tubular stiffener, other than a split tubular stiffener, must be used in conjunction with the coupling.

A copy of each written procedure being used for joining plastic pipe must be available to the persons making and inspecting joints.

AmeriGas Office of Pipeline Safety Manual	Operating and Maintenance Manual Construction of Mains	Page 8 of 9 Effective Date 06/30/2019 Supersedes 07/31/2018
--	--	--

Plastic pipe: Qualifying persons to make joints (192.285), (c)

(c) A person must be re-qualified under an applicable procedure once each calendar year at intervals not exceeding 15 months, or after any production joint is found unacceptable by testing under § 192.513. Annual requalification is required for all plastic pipe joining methods. Refer to the AmeriGas Operator Qualification Program for further information.

Plastic pipe: Inspection of joints (192.287)

No person may carry out the inspection of joints in plastic pipes required by §§ 192.273(c) and 192.285(b) unless that person has been qualified by appropriate training or experience in evaluating the acceptability of plastic pipe joints made under the applicable joining procedure. Refer to the AmeriGas Operator Qualification Program for further information.

Below taken from AmeriGas OQ Training Program:

- ▶ The pipeline safety regulations say a person making or inspecting joints must be qualified.
 - ▶ No person can make a plastic pipe joint unless that person has been qualified under the applicable joining procedure by making a specimen joint that is acceptable under the procedure that passes the inspection and test.
- ▶ The specimen joint must be visually inspected during and after joining and found to have the same appearance as a joint or photograph of a joint that is acceptable under the procedure. (This includes mechanical fittings)
- ▶ In the case of heat fusion, the specimen must be cut into at least three longitudinal strips, each of which is:
 - ▶ Visually examined and found not to contain voids or discontinuities on the cut surfaces of the joint area.
 - ▶ Deformed by bending, torque or impact and if failure occurs, it must not initiate in the joint area.

AmeriGas Office of Pipeline Safety Manual	Operating and Maintenance Manual General	Page 9 of 9 Effective Date: 06-30-2019 Supersedes 01/31/2019
--	--	--

(a)...

(b)...

(1)...

(3) Making construction records, maps, and operating history available to appropriate operating personnel. System and previous information records are collected and stored in individual District sites.

AmeriGas Office of Pipeline Safety Manual	Operating and Maintenance Manual General	Page 9 of 9 Effective Date: 06-30-2019 Supersedes 01/31/2019
--	--	--

The Field Safety Managers will audit a representative sample each year to review the work done and the effectiveness of the procedures. The audits results must be entered into AirsWeb.