



# Idaho Public Utilities Commission

PO Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074

**Brad Little, Governor**

**Paul Kjellander, Commissioner**  
**Kristine Raper, Commissioner**  
**Eric Anderson, Commissioner**

May 31, 2019

Report # I201904

Pat Darras  
Intermountain Gas Company  
400 N 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Bismarck, ND 58501

Dear Mr. Darras:

On May 14, 2019, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Pipeline Safety Division, pursuant to Chapter 601 of Title 49, United States Code, conducted a follow-up High Pressure Service Set (HPSS) inspection of Intermountain Gas Company's (IGC) equipment in the Owyhee District.

The inspection showed that IGC's Idaho natural gas distribution system was out of compliance. Specifically HPSS 00967-521, which is located at 3671 A Buttercup in Hailey. This noncompliance results in probable violations of the pipeline safety regulations at Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 192.

## PROBABLE VIOLATIONS

1. **49 C.F.R. § 192.605(a) Procedural manual for operations, maintenance, and emergencies.**  
*General. Each operator shall prepare and follow for each pipeline, a manual of written procedures for conducting operations and maintenance activities and for emergency response.*

### **IGC's Standard Operating Procedure 3111.4 High Pressure Service Sets (HPSS)**

*-Definitions 4. Small HPSS ... Regulating facility capable of service up to two (2) service lines up to a maximum combined load of 700 CFH and may be located remotely or at the building.*

*-Procedure 1.5. Standard HPSS facilities that serve three or more service lines shall be reclassified and maintained as a district regulator station.*

### **Finding:**

*HPSS 00967-521 is supplying 3 service lines located at 3661 A&B and 3671 A at 3671 A Buttercup, Hailey, ID.*

### REQUESTED ACTION

A reply to this letter, as outlined below, is required no later than 45 days from the date of this letter. Please send all documents to our office at P.O. Box 83720-0074, Boise, Idaho 83720-0074. Be advised that all material you submit in response to this enforcement action may be a public record, subject to disclosure under Idaho's Public Records Law. See Idaho Code § 74-101-126.

You have a right to appear before the Pipeline Safety Division in an informal conference before July 15, 2019, at the Commission's offices at 472 W. Washington St, Boise, Idaho 83702. You have the right to present relevant documents to the Commission at that conference. The Commission will make available to you any evidence which indicates that you may have violated the law, and you will have the opportunity to rebut this evidence. See IDAPA 31.01.01.21-26. If you intend to request an informal conference, please contact the Pipeline Safety Division no later than July 1, 2019.

If you wish to dispute the allegations in this notice, but do not want an informal conference, you may send the Pipeline Safety Division a written reply to this notice. This written reply must be filed with the Commission on or before July 15, 2019, and must be signed by a Company Official. The reply must include a complete statement of all relevant facts including a complete description of the corrective action(s) taken and any and all actions to be taken to prevent future failures in these areas of concern.

If you do not respond to this notice, as specified above, by July 15, 2019, you may be subject to statutory civil penalties and further enforcement, as allowed by law. Idaho Code § 61-712A states that "[a]ny person who violates or fails to comply with, or who procures, aids or abets any violation of title 61, Idaho Code, governing safety of pipeline facilities and the transportation of gas, or of any order, decision, rule or regulation duly issued by the Idaho public utilities commission governing the safety of pipeline facilities and the transportation of gas, shall be subject to a civil penalty of not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for each violation for each day that the violation persists. However, the maximum civil penalty shall not exceed two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for any related series of violation."

If you have any questions concerning this notice, please contact me at (208) 334-0321. Also all written responses should be addressed to me at the above address or you may fax your response to (208) 334-4045. We appreciate your attention to this matter and your effort to promote pipeline safety.

Sincerely,



Darrin M. Ulmer

Pipeline Safety, Program Manager  
Idaho Public Utility Commission