



# Idaho Public Utilities Commission

P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074

Brad Little, Governor

Eric Anderson, President  
John Chatburn, Commissioner  
John R. Hammond, Jr., Commissioner

March 17, 2022

Report # I202201

Pat Darras – Vice President of Engineering & Operations Services  
Intermountain Gas Company  
400 N 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Bismarck, ND 58501

Dear Mr. Darras:

On March 14-16, 2022, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Pipeline Safety Division, pursuant to Chapter 601 of Title 49, United States Code, conducted the field inspection of Intermountain Gas Company's (IGC) equipment in the Nampa District.

During the inspection it was observed that some of the Idaho natural gas distribution system owned and operated by IGC was out of compliance on items. This results in probable violations of the pipeline safety regulations Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 192. The probable violations are as follows:

## **PROBABLE VIOLATION(S)**

1. **49 CFR §192.739 (a) (4) Pressure limiting and regulating stations: Inspection and testing.**  
Pressure limiting and regulating stations: Inspection and testing – reads: *Properly installed and protected from dirt, liquids, or other conditions that might prevent proper operation.* Which is also covered in IGC OPS 500 Sec. 4.1.

### **Finding(s):**

During the inspection it was noted that regulator stations 48325-RS-60738, 48321-RS-59930, 48321-RS-59936, 48318-RS-59839, 48267-RS-59881, 48363-RS-59887 had one or both regulators fail to lock up at the pre-established set point preventing proper operation.

## **REQUESTED ACTIONS**

A reply to this correspondence, as outlined below, is required no later than 45 days from the date of this letter. Please send all documents to our office at 11331 W Chinden Blvd, Boise, Idaho 83714-1021. 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 et seq.

You have a right to appear before the Pipeline Safety Division in an informal conference before May 2, 2022, at the Commission's offices at 11331 W. Chinden Blvd, Bldg. 8, Ste 201-A, Boise. You have the right to present relevant documents to the Pipeline Safety Division at that conference. The Pipeline Safety Division 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 Commission Order 35095 and 35334 which can be found at <https://puc.idaho.gov/>. If you intend to request an informal conference, please contact the Pipeline Safety Division no later than April 18, 2022.

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 May 2, 2022 and must be signed by a IGC official with authority to bind the company. 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 by May 2, 2022 you may be subject to statutory civil penalties and further enforcement, as allowed under Idaho 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) 334-0333. Also, all written responses should be addressed to me at the above address, or you may fax your response to (208) 334-3762.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and your effort to promote pipeline safety.

Sincerely,



Jeff Brooks  
Pipeline Safety, Program Manager  
Idaho Public Utility Commission