



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

April 26, 2022

Report # I202203

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

Dear Mr. Darras:

On April 25, 2022, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Pipeline Safety Division, pursuant to Chapter 601 of Title 49, United States Code, conducted a construction inspection on project 22NG-1013/292672 at 68 E Fairview Ave, Meridian Idaho 83642.

During the inspection it was observed that Intermountain Gas Company was out of compliance. This results in probable violations of the pipeline safety regulations Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 192. The probable violation(s) are listed below:

PROBABLE VIOLATION(S)

1. **49 CFR § 192.605 Procedural manual for operations, maintenance, and emergencies.**
(a) 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. For transmission lines, the manual must also include procedures for handling abnormal operations. This manual must be reviewed and updated by the operator at intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least once each calendar year. This manual must be prepared before operations of a pipeline system commence. Appropriate parts of the manual must be kept at locations where operations and maintenance activities are conducted.

Finding(s):

During the inspection it was noted that:

- Procedure as required by OPS 501 Section 2.4 was not followed.
- Heat plate temperatures were checked with a digital pyrometer that was out of calibration during plastic fusing.
- Calibration on digital pyrometer ID# 50733740MV was due 10/26/21.

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 June 10, 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 May 26, 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 June 10, 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 June 10, 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