



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials Safety
Administration**

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12300 W. Dakota Ave., Suite 110
Lakewood, CO 80228

WARNING LETTER

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

March 16, 2009

Mr. Randy Barnard
Vice President, Operations
Northwest Pipeline Corporation
2800 Post Oak Blvd., Mail Stop 21
Houston, TX 77056

CPF 5-2009-3001W

Dear Mr. Barnard:

During the week of October 20-23, 2008, a representative of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC), pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 CFR United States Code, conducted an inspection of Northwest Pipeline Corporation (WGP) liquefied natural gas plant in Plymouth, Washington. The WUTC acts as an interstate agent of the Western Region, Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA).

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. §193.2619 Control systems.

(c)(2) Control systems that are intended for fire protection must be inspected and tested at regular intervals not to exceed 6 months.

The operator exceeded six (6) months when inspecting and testing their fire detectors. The six-month time frame was exceeded by sixteen (16) days.

Under 49 United States Code, § 60122, you are subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$100,000 for each violation for each day the violation persists up to a maximum of \$1,000,000 for any related series of violations. We have reviewed the circumstances and supporting documents involved in this case, and have decided not to conduct additional enforcement action or penalty assessment proceedings at this time. We advise you to correct the item identified in this letter. Failure to do so will result in Northwest Pipeline (Williams Gas Pipeline) Company being subject to additional enforcement action.

No reply to this letter is required. If you choose to reply, in your correspondence please refer to CPF 5-2009-3001W. 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 M. Petronis, T. Finch (#122981)
WUTC Anne Soiza