

U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration

2021 Gas State Program Evaluation

for

WISCONSIN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Document Legend PART:

- O -- Representative, Dates and Title Information
- A -- Progress Report and Program Documentation Review
- B -- Program Inspection Procedures
- C -- State Qualifications
- D -- Program Performance
- E -- Field Inspections
- F -- Damage prevention and Annual report analysis
- G -- Interstate Agent/Agreement States



2021 Gas State Program Evaluation -- CY 2021 Gas

State Agency: Wisconsin Rating:

Agency Status: 60105(a): Yes 60106(a): No Interstate Agent: No

Date of Visit: 09/12/2022 - 09/16/2022 **Agency Representative:** Alex Kirschling **PHMSA Representative:** David Appelbaum

Commission Chairman to whom follow up letter is to be sent:

Name/Title: Becky Valcq, Chairman

Agency: Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Address: 4822 Madison Yards Way City/State/Zip: Madison, Wisconsin 53705

INSTRUCTIONS:

Complete this evaluation in accordance with the Evaluator Guidance for conducting state pipeline safety program evaluations. The evaluation should generally reflect state program performance during CY 2021 (not the status of performance at the time of the evaluation). A deficiency in any one part of a multiple-part question should be scored as "Needs Improvement." Determine the answer to the question then select the appropriate point value. If a state receives less than the maximum points, include a brief explanation in the appropriate notes/comments section. If a question is not applicable to a state, select NA. Please ensure all responses are COMPLETE and ACCURATE, and they OBJECTIVELY reflect the state's program performance for the question being evaluated. Increasing emphasis is being placed on how the state pipeline safety programs conduct and execute their pipeline safety responsibilities (their performance). This evaluation, together with selected factors reported in the state's annual progress report attachments, provide the basis for determining the state's pipeline safety grant allocation.

Scoring Summary

PARTS		Possible Points	Points Scored
A	Progress Report and Program Documentation Review	0	0
В	Program Inspection Procedures	15	15
C	State Qualifications	10	10
D	Program Performance	50	50
E	Field Inspections	15	15
F	Damage prevention and Annual report analysis	10	10
G	Interstate Agent/Agreement States	0	0
TOTAL	\mathbf{S}	100	100
State Rating			100.0



PART A - Progress Report and Program Documentation Review

Points(MAX) Score

Were the following Progress Report Items accurate? (*items not scored on progress Info Only Info Only report)

Info Only = No Points

- a. Stats On Operators Data Progress Report Attachment 1
- b. State Inspection Activity Data Progress Report Attachment 2
- c. List of Operators Data Progress Report Attachment 3*
- d. Incidents/Accidents Data Progress Report Attachment 4*
- e. Stats of Compliance Actions Data Progress Report Attachment 5*
- f. List of Records Kept Data Progress Report Attachment 6 *
- g. Staff and TQ Training Data Progress Report Attachment 7
- h. Compliance with Federal Regulations Data Progress Report Attachment 8
- i. Performance and Damage Prevention Question Data Progress Report

Attachment 10*

Evaluator Notes:

All areas of the Progress Report appear to be accurate and current. PHMSA recommended the Program utilize the comments section of each section to better describe information contained on any items not obvious (e.g., operator counts, etc.)

Total points scored for this section: 0 Total possible points for this section: 0



Yes = 5 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-4

OO Inspections

c.

d.

e. f.

Awareness Effectiveness Inspections

for each of the following inspection types: Chapter 5.1

Damage Prevention Inspections

Construction Inspections (annual efforts)

On-Site Operator Training

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b. If onsite investigation was not made, do procedures require on-call staff to obtain sufficient information to determine the facts to support the decision not to go

Yes, the required information can be found in Section VI of the WI PSC procedures manual

Do written procedures address pre-inspection, inspection and post inspection activities

Standard Inspections, which include Drug/Alcohol, CRM and Public

TIMP and DIMP Inspections (reviewing largest operator(s) plans annually)



Evaluator Notes:

5 General Comments: Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

Total points scored for this section: 15 Total possible points for this section: 15



5

Has each inspector and program manager fulfilled training requirements? (See Guidelines 5 Appendix C for requirements) Chapter 4.3

Yes = 5 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-4

- a. Completion of Required OQ Training before conducting inspection as lead
- b. Completion of Required DIMP/IMP Training before conducting inspection as

lead

- c. Completion of Required LNG Training before conducting inspection as lead
- d. Root Cause Training by at least one inspector/program manager
- e. Note any outside training completed
- f. Verify inspector has obtained minimum qualifications to lead any applicable standard inspection as the lead inspector (Reference State Guidelines Section 4.3.1)

Evaluator Notes:

Yes. All lead inspectors and Program Manager have met the requisite training requirements.

Did state records and discussions with state pipeline safety program manager indicate adequate knowledge of PHMSA program and regulations?

Yes = 5 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-4

Evaluator Notes:

Yes, my discussions with Alex, (Program Manager) he showed he possesses an adequate knowledge of PHMSA programs and regulations.

3 General Comments: Info Only Info Only

Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

Total points scored for this section: 10 Total possible points for this section: 10



Did state inspect all types of operators and inspection units in accordance with time intervals established in written procedures? Chapter 5.1

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Yes = 5 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-4

- a. Standard (General Code Compliance)
- b. Public Awareness Effectiveness Reviews
- c. Drug and Alcohol
- d. Control Room Management
- e. Part 193 LNG Inspections
- f. Construction (did state achieve 20% of total inspection person-days?)
- g. OQ (see Question 3 for additional requirements)
- h. IMP/DIMP (see Question 4 for additional requirements)

Evaluator Notes:

Program has historically lost points because of the absence of Master Meter inspections. Program has aggressively been reducing the number of jurisdictional master meters by having LDC's take them over. At the time of this evaluation, the state was down to 15 jurisdictional MMs. Of these 15, 10 have been inspected, three are on schedule for LDC acquisition, and two are scheduled for inspection in October. With PHP-50 Director approval, no points are taken this year because of the substantial progress made.

All other inspection types were verified to have occurred within time interval requirements.

Did inspection form(s) cover all applicable code requirements addressed on Federal Inspection form(s)? Did State complete all applicable portions of inspection forms? Chapter 5.1. Do inspection records indicate that adequate reviews of procedures, records and field activities, including notes and the appropriate level of inspection person-days for each inspection, were performed?

Yes = 10 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-9

- a. Standard (General Code Compliance)
- b. Public Awareness Effectiveness Reviews
- c. Drug and Alcohol
- d. Control Room Management
- e. Part 193 LNG Inspections
- f. Construction
- g. OQ (see Question 3 for additional requirements)
- h. IMP/DIMP (see Question 4 for additional requirements)

Evaluator Notes:

The PSC uses an equivalent to the federal inspection forms for its inspections. Upon a review of randomly selected 2021 inspection files all applicable portions of the forms were completed appropriately.

3 Is state verifying monitoring (Protocol 9/Form15) of operators OQ programs? This should include verification of any plan updates and that persons performing covered tasks (including contractors) are properly qualified and requalified at intervals established in the operator's plan. 49 CFR 192 Part N

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Yes = $\frac{1}{2}$ No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

Evaluator Notes:

Yes, they are conducting OQ Program evaluations in accordance with their procedures, and check employee certifications during filed inspections.

Is state verifying operator's integrity management Programs (IMP and DIMP)? This should include a review of plans, along with monitoring progress. In addition, the review should take in to account program review and updates of operator's plan(s). 49 CFR 192 Subparts O and P

Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

a. Are the implementation plans of the state's large/largest operators(s) being reviewed annually to ensure they are completing full cycle of the IMP process?

- b. Are states verifying with operators any plastic pipe and components that have shown a record of defects/leaks and mitigating those through DIMP plan?
- c. Are the states verifying operators are including low pressure distribution systems in their threat analysis?

Evaluator Notes:

Yes, they are conducting IMP field verification inspections in accordance with their procedures. They also meet in person with their largest operators in 2021.

Did the state review the following (these items are NTSB recommendations to PHMSA that have been deemed acceptable response based on PHMSA reviewing these items during the evaluation process): Chapter 5.1

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- Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1
 - a. Operator procedures for determining if exposed cast iron pipe was examined for evidence of graphitization and if necessary remedial action was taken;
 - b. Operator procedures for surveillance of cast iron pipelines, including appropriate action resulting from tracking circumferential cracking failures, study of leakage history, or other unusual operating maintenance condition? (Note: See GPTC Appendix G-18 for guidance);
 - c. Operator emergency response procedures for leaks caused by excavation damage near buildings and determine whether the procedures adequately address the possibility of multiple leaks and underground migration of gas into nearby buildings Refer to 4/12/01 letter from PHMSA in response to NTSB recommendation P-00-20 and P-00-21;
 - d. Operator records of previous accidents and failures including reported thirdparty damage and leak response to ensure appropriate operator response as required by 192.617;
 - e. Directional drilling/boring procedures of each pipeline operator or its contractor to determine if they include actions to protect their facilities from the dangers posed by drilling and other trench less technologies;
 - f. Operator procedures for considering low pressure distribution systems in threat analysis?
 - g. Operator compliance with state and federal regulations for regulators located inside buildings?

Evaluator Notes:

The state has no known cast iron facilities. NTSB recommendations P-00-20 and P-00-21 questions added to states forms. There are no low pressure systems operated in the state. Additionally, they have met with their operators on inside meter and regulator sets and have documented compliance actions for not performing surveys in the established times.

6 Did the State verify Operators took appropriate action regarding advisory bulletins issued 1 since the last evaluation? (Advisory Bulletins Current Year)

Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Evaluator Notes:

Yes, They have added questions to their inspection forms and have let operators know of the concerns surrounding inside meter and regulator sets.

7 (Compliance Activities) Did the state follow compliance procedures (from discovery to resolution) and adequately document all probable violations, including what resolution or further course of action is needed to gain compliance? Chapter 5.1

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Yes = 10 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-9

- a. Were compliance actions sent to company officer or manager/board member if municipal/government system?
- b. Were probable violations documented properly?
- c. Resolve probable violations
- d. Routinely review progress of probable violations
- e. Did state issue compliance actions for all probable violations discovered?
- f. Can state demonstrate fining authority for pipeline safety violations?
- g. Does Program Manager review, approve and monitor all compliance actions? (note: Program Manager or Senior Official should sign any NOPV or related enforcement action)

- h. Did state compliance actions give reasonable due process to all parties? Including "show cause" hearing, if necessary.
- i. Within 30 days, conduct a post-inspection briefing with the owner or operator outlining any concerns
- j. Within 90 days, to the extent practicable, provide the owner or operator with written preliminary findings of the inspection. (Incident investigations do not need to meet 30/90-day requirement)

Evaluator Notes:

The Program is ostensibly in compliance with the requirements of this question. A couple compliance letters went to operator personnel below the officer level. Program has promulgated a review of all operator contacts to ensure the right personnel are identified. No point deduction, but Program is aware that repeat issues could yield a point loss.

8 (Incident Investigations) Were all federally reportable incidents investigated, thoroughly 10 documented, with conclusions and recommendations?

Yes = 10 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-9

- a. Does state have adequate mechanism to receive and respond to operator reports of incidents, including after-hours reports?
- b. Did state keep adequate records of Incident/Accident notifications received?
- c. If onsite investigation was not made, did the state obtain sufficient information from the operator and/or by means to determine the facts to support the decision not to go on site?
- d. Were onsite observations documented?
- e. Were contributing factors documented?
- f. Were recommendations to prevent recurrences, where appropriate, documented?
- g. Did state initiate compliance action for any violations found during any incident/accident investigation?
- h. Did state assist Region Office or Accident Investigation Division (AID) by taking appropriate follow-up actions related to the operator incident reports to ensure accuracy and final report has been received by PHMSA?
- i. Does state share any lessons learned from incidents/accidents?

Evaluator Notes:

The one incident in CY 2021 was investigated properly, and all aspects of this question were sufficiently satisfied.

9 Did state respond to Chairman's letter on previous evaluation within 60 days and correct 1 or address any noted deficiencies? (If necessary) Chapter 8.1

Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5 Evaluator Notes:

Program was compliant with this requirement

Did State conduct or participate in pipeline safety training session or seminar in Past 3 Info Only Info Only Years? Chapter 8.5
Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

Conducted in February 2022.

Has state confirmed transmission operators have submitted information into NPMS Info Only Info Only database along with changes made after original submission?

Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

Yes, Program asks operators during inspections if they have submitted information into the NPMS database. A review of the of PDM was done and NPMS and AR data was consistent.

Does the state have a mechanism for communicating with stakeholders - other than state 1 pipeline safety seminar? (This should include making enforcement cases available to public).

Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5



E	Evaluator Notes: Yes the Prog			
	13	Did s Repo		

Program has a web site for the public that they continuously make needed updates.

Did state execute appropriate follow-up actions to Safety Related Condition (SRC) Reports? Chapter 6.7

Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Evaluator Notes:

There were no SRCR's in 2021.

14 Was the State responsive to: 1

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Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

- Surveys or information requests from NAPSR or PHMSA; and
- b. PHMSA Work Management system tasks?

Evaluator Notes:

Yes, reviewed responses by state to NAPSR surveys and questions. The PM keeps a list of these.

15 If the State has issued any waivers/special permits for any operator, has the state verified conditions of those waivers/special permits are being met? This should include having the operator amend procedures where appropriate.

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Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Evaluator Notes:

State only has one perpetual waiver that is monitored.

16 Were pipeline program files well-organized and accessible?

Info Only Info Only

Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

Files were very well organized. Program manager (and staff) were able to provide all requested files electronically without delay.

17 Discussion with State on accuracy of inspection day information submitted into State Inspection Day Calculation Tool (SICT). Has the state updated SICT data?

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Yes = 3 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-2

Evaluator Notes:

A review of the SICT program was discussed and reviewed with staff. PM is well versed in the mechanics of the SICT.

18 Discussion on State Program Performance Metrics found on Stakeholder Communication Info Only Info Only site.\ http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/states.htm?nocache=4805 Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

Reviewed the state performance metrics found in the PHMSA web-site, and discussed the changes and trending for each metric with the program manager.

19 Did the state encourage and promote operator implementation of Pipeline Safety Management Systems (PSMS), or API RP 1173? This holistic approach to improving pipeline safety includes the identification, prevention and remediation of safety hazards. Info Only = No Points

Info Only Info Only

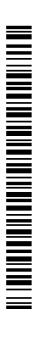
- https://pipelinesms.org/ a.
- b. Reference AGA recommendation to members May 20, 2019

Evaluator Notes:

Yes, they have added questions to their inspection forms.

20 General Comments: Info Only = No Points

Info Only Info Only



Total points scored for this section: 50 Total possible points for this section: 50

Info Only = No Points

- a. What type of inspection(s) did the state inspector conduct during the field portion of the state evaluation? (i.e. Standard, Construction, IMP, etc)
- b. When was the unit inspected last?
- c. Was pipeline operator or representative present during inspection?
- d. Effort should be made to observe newest state inspector with least experience

Evaluator Notes:

Construction inspections of Aliant Energy

Lead inspector: Alex Rodriguez

Inspector in training also present: Sam Quon

Site 1

Location: Fond du Lac, Dixie St 12" steel & HDPE replacement

Site 2

Location: Eden, Church Rd 2" HDPE main extension

Did the inspector use an appropriate inspection form/checklist and was the form/checklist used as a guide for the inspection? (New regulations shall be incorporated)

Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

2

2

Evaluator Notes:

Yes. Inspector used appropriate checklists to conduct the two construction inspections.

3 Did the inspector adequately review the following during the inspection

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Yes = 10 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-9

- a. Procedures (were the inspector's questions of the operator adequate to determine compliance?)
- b. Records (did the inspector adequately review trends and ask in-depth questions?)
- c. Field Activities/Facilities (did inspector ensure that procedures were being followed, including ensuring that properly calibrated equipment was used and OQ's were acceptable?)
- d. Other (please comment)
- e. Was the inspection of adequate length to properly perform the inspection?

Evaluator Notes:

Inspector was very thorough in all aspects of these audits. They were observed asking multiple questions about the operator's records and recording their response on the inspection (notes) form. A sufficient records review was performed on all operators including the name of the person(s) performing the work and their OQ tasks.

From your observation did the inspector have adequate knowledge of the pipeline safety program and regulations? (Evaluator will document reasons if unacceptable)

Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

Evaluator Notes:

Inspectors were competent with the pipeline safety regulations and inspection protocols. They conducted the inspections in a professional manner. Additionally, he asked excellent questions and insured the operator's records, procedures, and alike, reflected compliance with the pipeline safety regulations.



2

5	Did the inspector conduct an exit interview, including identifying probable violations? (If	1
	inspection is not totally completed the interview should be based on areas covered during	
	time of field evaluation)	
	Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5	
14	NT-4	

Evaluator Notes:

Yes

Was inspection performed in a safe, positive, and constructive manner?

Info Only = No Points

Info Only Info Only

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- a. No unsafe acts should be performed during inspection by the state inspector
- b. What did the inspector observe in the field? (Narrative description of field observations and how inspector performed)
- c. Best Practices to Share with Other States (Field could be from operator visited or state inspector practices)
- d. Other

Evaluator Notes:

No issues

7 General Comments: Info Only Info Only

Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:





- 1 Has the state reviewed Operator Annual reports, along with Incident/Accident reports, for accuracy and analyzed data for trends and operator issues.

2

4

Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

Evaluator Notes:

The WI PSC reviews the Operator Annual reports for accuracy and analyzed data for trends and operator issues. Utilizing the data provided by all corresponding utility companies, both the Total Number of Excavation Damages by Apparent Root Cause and Total Excavation Tickets are calculated to produce the metrics for damages per thousand tickets.

Has the state verified that the operators analyze excavation damages for the purpose of determining root causes and minimizing the possibility of a recurrence? (192.617)

Has the state verified that the operators have appropriately identified excavators who have repeatedly violated one-call laws and damaged their facilities. Have the operators taken steps to mitigate that risks? (192.1007)

2

4

Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

Evaluator Notes:

Yes, the Program verifies that the operators analyze excavation damages for the purpose of determining root causes and minimizing the possibility of a recurrence.

3 Has the state reviewed the operator's annual report pertaining to Part D - Excavation Damage?

Yes = 4 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-3

- a. Is the information complete and accurate with root cause numbers?
- b. Has the state evaluated the causes for the damages listed under "One-Call Notification Practices Not Sufficient" (Part D.1.a.)?
- c. Has the state evaluated the causes for the damages listed under "Locating Practices Not Sufficient" (Part D.1.b)? For each operator, does the state review the following?
- d. Is the operator or its locating contractor(s) qualified and following written procedures for locating and marking facilities?
- e. Is the operator appropriately requalifying locators to address performance deficiencies?
- f. What is the number of damages resulting from mismarks?
- g. What is the number of damages resulting from not locating within time requirements (no-shows)?
- h. Is the operator appropriately addressing discovered mapping errors resulting in excavation damages?
- i. Are mapping corrections timely and according to written procedures?
- j. Has the state evaluated the causes for the damages listed under "Excavation Practices Not Sufficient" (Part D.1.c.)?

Evaluator Notes:

The Program verifies the root cause numbers reported against the data collected annually (internally).

Has the agency or another organization within the state collected data and evaluated trends on the number of pipeline damages per 1,000 locate requests?

Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

2

2

- a. What stakeholder group is causing the highest number of damages to the pipelines? Operator, contractor, locating company or public.
- b. Has the state verified the operator is appropriately focusing damage prevention education and training to stakeholders causing the most damages?
- c. Has the state evaluated which of the following best describes the reason for the excavation damages; i.e., operator or contractor not following written procedures, failure to maintain marks, failure to support exposed facilities, failure to use hand tools were required, failure to test-hole (pot hole), improper backfilling practices, failure to maintain clearance or insufficient excavation practices.
- d. Has the state verified the operator is appropriately focusing damage prevention education and training to address the causes of excavation damages?

Evaluator Notes:

5 General Comments:

Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

Info Only Info Only

Total points scored for this section: 10 Total possible points for this section: 10



Were all inspections of interstate pipelines conducted using the Inspection Assistant program for documenting inspections?

Info Only = No Points

Info Only Info Only

Evaluator Notes:

WIPSC is not an Interstate Agent

If inspections were conducted independent of a PHMSA team inspection was notice of allInfo Only Info Only identified probable violations provided to PHMSA within 60 days?

Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

WIPSC is not an Interstate Agent

3 If inspections were conducted independent of a PHMSA team inspection was PHMSA immediately notified of conditions which may pose an immediate safety hazard to the public or environment?

Info Only Info Only

Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

WIPSC is not an Interstate Agent

4 If inspections were conducted independent of a PHMSA team inspection did the state coordinate with PHMSA if inspections not were not included in the PHMSA Inspection Work Plan?

Info Only Info Only

Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

WIPSC is not an Interstate Agent

5 Did the state take direction from and cooperate with PHMSA for all incident investigations conducted on interstate pipelines?

Info Only = No Points

Info Only Info Only

Evaluator Notes:

WIPSC is not an Interstate Agent

6 General Comments:

Info Only Info Only

Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

WIPSC is not an Interstate Agent

Total points scored for this section: 0 Total possible points for this section: 0

