

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

2023 Gas State Program Evaluation

for

NORTH DAKOTA 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



2023 Gas State Program Evaluation -- CY 2023 Gas

State Agency: North Dakota Rating:

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

Date of Visit: 05/07/2024 - 05/09/2024 **Agency Representative:** Caleb Simburger **PHMSA Representative:** Joe Subsits

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

Name/Title: Randy Christmann, Chairman

Agency: North Dakota Public Service Commission

Address: 600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408

City/State/Zip: Bismark, North Dakota 58505-0480

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 2023 (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
\mathbf{C}	State Qualifications	10	10
D	Program Performance	50	50
E	Field Inspections	15	15
F	Damage prevention and Annual report analysis	10	10
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:

- a. satisfactory
- b. satisfactory
- c. Attachment 1 had 13 total units. Attachment 3 had 12 total units. Calab was instructed to contact Carrie with the correct change.
- d. satisfactory
- e. satisfactory
- f. satisfactory
- g. satisfactory
- h. satisfactory
- i. satisfactoy

Total points scored for this section: 0

Total possible points for this section: 0



and compliance activities)

area, Population Centers, etc.)

Equipment, Operators and any Other Factors)

Are inspection units broken down appropriately?

1 D		5	E
	n procedures address pre-inspection, inspection and post inspection activities of the following inspection types: Chapter 5.1	5	5
	= 0 Needs Improvement = 1-4		
a.	Standard Inspections, which include Drug/Alcohol, CRM and Public		
Aware	eness Effectiveness Inspections		
b.	TIMP and DIMP Inspections (reviewing largest operator(s) plans annually)		
c.	OQ Inspections		
d.	Damage Prevention Inspections		
e.	On-Site Operator Training		
f.	Construction Inspections (annual efforts)		
g.	LNG Inspections		
Evaluator Notes:	1		
 satisfactory 			
b. satisfactory			
c. satisfactory			
 d. satisfactory 			
e. satisfactory			
f. satisfactory			
g. satisfactory			
2 Do writte	n procedures address inspection priorities of each operator, and if necessary	4	4
	based on the following elements and time frames established in its procedures?		
Chapter 5	5.1		
Yes = 4 No	= 0 Needs Improvement = 1-3		
a.	Length of time since last inspection		
b	Operating history of operator/unit and/or location (includes leakage incident		

Evaluator Notes:

a. satisfactory

c. d.

- b. satisfactory
- c. satisfactory
- d. satisfactory
- e. satisfactory
- f. satisfactory
- 3 (Compliance Procedures) Does the state have written procedures to identify steps to be taken from the discovery to resolution of a probable violation? Chapter 5.1 Yes = 3 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-2

Type of activity being undertaken by operators (i.e. construction)

Process to identify high-risk inspection units that includes all threats -(Excavation Damage, Corrosion, Natural Forces, Outside Forces, Material and Welds,

Locations of operator's inspection units being inspected - (HCA's, Geographic

- Procedures to notify an operator (company officer) when a noncompliance is identified
- Procedures to routinely review progress of compliance actions to prevent delays or breakdowns
- Procedures regarding closing outstanding probable violations

Evaluator Notes:

- a. satisfactory
- b. satisfactory
- c. satisfactory

3

4 (Incident/Accident Investigations) Does the state have written procedures to address state actions in the event of an incident/accident?

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

- a. Mechanism to receive, record, and respond to operator reports of incidents, including after-hours reports
- 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 on-site

Evaluator Notes:

a. satisfactory

b. satisfactory

5 General Comments: Info Only = No Points Info Only Info Only

3

Evaluator Notes:

No issues with Part B

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



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





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

2

2

Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

Evaluator Notes:

satisfactory

f. satisfactory g. satisfactory h.satisfactory

	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			
E14-	systems in their threat analysis?			
Evaluato	or Notes: atisfactory			
	atisfactory			
	atisfactory			
5	Did the state review the following (these items are NTSB recommendations to PHMSA	2	2	
	that have been deemed acceptable response based on PHMSA reviewing these items			
	during the evaluation process): Chapter 5.1			
	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 third-			
	party 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			
	g. Operator compliance with state and federal regulations for regulators located inside buildings?			
Evaluato				
a. N	o cast iron in North Dakota			
b. N	To cast iron in North Dakota			
c. Sa	atisfactory			
d. S	atisfactory			
	atisfactory			
	tisfactory			
g. sa	atisfactory			
6	Did the State verify Operators took appropriate action regarding advisory bulletins issued	1	1	
	since the last evaluation? (Advisory Bulletins Current Year)			
Б 1	Yes = $1 \text{ No} = 0 \text{ Needs Improvement} = .5$			
Evaluato				
NO 8	advisory bulletins released in 2023			
		10	10	
7	(Compliance Activities) Did the state follow compliance procedures (from discovery to	10	10	

resolution) and adequately document all probable violations, including what resolution or

further course of action is needed to gain compliance? Chapter 5.1

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

DUNS: 802744946

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4

2

- Were compliance actions sent to company officer or manager/board member if municipal/government system?
- Were probable violations documented properly? b.
- Resolve probable violations c.
- d. Routinely review progress of probable violations
- Did state issue compliance actions for all probable violations discovered? e.
- f. Can state demonstrate fining authority for pipeline safety violations?
- Does Program Manager review, approve and monitor all compliance actions? g. (note: Program Manager or Senior Official should sign any NOPV or related enforcement action)
- Did state compliance actions give reasonable due process to all parties? h. Including "show cause" hearing, if necessary.
- Within 30 days, conduct a post-inspection briefing with the owner or operator outlining any concerns
- 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)

- a. satisfactory
- b. satisfactory
- c. satisfactory
- d. satisfactory
- e. satisfactory
- f. satisfactory
- g. satisfactory
- h. satisfactory
- i. satisfactory
- j. satisfactory
- 8 (Incident Investigations) Were all federally reportable incidents investigated, thoroughly documented, with conclusions and recommendations?
 - Yes = 10 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-9
 - Does state have adequate mechanism to receive and respond to operator reports of incidents, including after-hours reports?
 - Did state keep adequate records of Incident/Accident notifications received? b.
 - 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?
 - Were contributing factors documented? e.
 - f. Were recommendations to prevent recurrences, where appropriate, documented?
 - g. Did state initiate compliance action for any violations found during any incident/accident investigation?
 - 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?
 - Does state share any lessons learned from incidents/accidents?

Evaluator Notes:

- a. satisfactory
- b. satisfactory
- c. N/A, onsite investigation was made.
- d. satisfactory
- e. satisfactory
- f. satisfactory
- g. N/A, No compliance were items identified for the incident.
- h. Satisfactory
- i. Satisfactory

10

9	Did state respond to Chairman's letter on previous evaluation within 60 days and correct or address any noted deficiencies? (If necessary) Chapter 8.1 Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5	1	1
Evaluato			
	factoy		
	ractoy		
10	Did State conduct or participate in pipeline safety training session or seminar in Past 3 Years? Chapter 8.5 Info Only = No Points	Info Only Info	Only
Evaluator			
satis	factory		
11	Has state confirmed transmission operators have submitted information into NPMS database along with changes made after original submission? Info Only = No Points	Info Only Info	Only
Evaluator			
satis	factory		
12	Does the state have a mechanism for communicating with stakeholders - other than state pipeline safety seminar? (This should include making enforcement cases available to public).	1	1
Evaluato	Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5		
	factory		
	lactory		
13	Did state execute appropriate follow-up actions to Safety Related Condition (SRC) Reports? Chapter 6.7 Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5	1	1
Evaluator			
N/A,	No Safety Related Conditions in 2023		
14	Was the State responsive to:	1	1
	Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5		
	a. Surveys or information requests from NAPSR or PHMSA; and		
	b. PHMSA Work Management system tasks?		
Evaluator			
	tisfactory tisfactory		
	usiaciory		
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. Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5	1	1
Evaluato			
	factory		
Saus	ractory		

Evaluator Notes:

Info Only = No Points

Were pipeline program files well-organized and accessible?

16

Info Only Info Only

Yes =

17

Discussion with State on accuracy of inspection day information submitted into State Inspection Day Calculation Tool (SICT). Has the state updated SICT data? Yes = 3 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-2

3

3

Evaluator Notes:

satisfactory

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:

satisfactoy

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

a. https://pipelinesms.org/

b. Reference AGA recommendation to members May 20, 2019

Evaluator Notes:

satisfactory

20 General Comments:

Info Only Info Only

Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

No issues with Part D

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



comments box below)
Info Only = No Points

c. d.

1

Evaluator Notes:

2

10

2

1

2

10

2

1

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

Operator, Inspector, Location, Date and PHMSA Representative (enter specifics into the Info Only Info Only

What type of inspection(s) did the state inspector conduct during the field

Effort should be made to observe newest state inspector with least experience

Was pipeline operator or representative present during inspection?

portion of the state evaluation? (i.e. Standard, Construction, IMP, etc)

When was the unit inspected last?

a. The inspection was a construction inspection of MDU in Jamestown.



Info Only Info Only

Evaluator Notes: satisfactory

6

time of field evaluation)

Info Only = No Points

Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

- 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

- a. satisfactory
- b. Check calibration, welding procedures, pipe specification, pipe storage, stopple procedure, locates, qualification
- c. N/A, no best practices to report.
- d. N/A, No other information to report
- 7 General Comments:

Info Only Info Only

Info Only = No Points Evaluator Notes:

No issues identified in Part E.

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



Satisfactory

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

2

2

4

Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

Evaluator Notes:

satisfactory

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

4

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:

- a. satisfactory
- b. satisfactory
- c. satisfactory
- d. satisfactory
- e. satisfactory
- f. Addressed in inquiry letter
- g. Addressed in inquiry letter
- h. satisfactory
- i. satisfactory
- j. satisfactory
- 4 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?

2

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

- a. Excavators
- b. satisfactory
- c. satisfactory
- d. satisfactory
- 5 General Comments:

Info Only = No Points

Info Only Info Only

Evaluator Notes:

No issues with Part F

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

