

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

2023 Gas State Program Evaluation

for

NEBRASKA PIPELINE SAFETY DIVISION

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: Nebraska		Rating:		
Agency Status:		60105(a): Yes	60106(a): No	Interstate Agent: No
Date of Visit: 08/05/2024	- 08/09/2024			
Agency Representative:	David Levering, Chief Deputy S	tate Fire Marsha	l	
	Kevin Bumgardner, Deputy State	e Fire Marshal		
	Scott Knoles, Deputy State Fire	Marshal		
	Scott Petersen, Deputy State Fire	e Marshal		
	Daniel Niles, Deputy State Fire I	Marshal		
PHMSA Representative:	Glynn Blanton, State Liaison			
Commission Chairman to	o whom follow up letter is to be	sent:		
Name/Title:	Scott Cordes, State Fire Marshal			
Agency:	Nebraska State Fire Marshal			
Address:	246 South 14th Street, Suite #1			
City/State/Zip:	Lincoln, NE 68508			
INSTRUCTIONS				

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	Possible Points Points Scored		
А	Progress Report and Program Documentation Review	0	0		
В	Program Inspection Procedures	15	15		
С	State Qualifications	10	10		
D	Program Performance	50	49		
E	Field Inspections	15	15		
F	Damage prevention and Annual report analysis	10	10		
TOTA	LS	100	99		
State Rating			99.0		

PART A - Progress Report and Program Documentation Review

1 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. Reviewed and found data correct.
- b. Reviewed and found data correct.
- c. Reviewed and found data correct and matched PHMSA Portal.
- d. Verification of the two incidents found it listed in PHMSA Portal.
- e. Reviewed and confirmed number to be corrected at Year end is correct.
- f. No issues
- g. Satisfactory
- h. No issues
- i. No issues

2023 Progress Report score was 43. Loss of points occurred on Civil penalty (4 pts) & adoption of amendments (3 pts).

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

1 Evaluato All r	 Do written procedures address pre-inspection, inspection and post inspection activities for each of the following inspection types: Chapter 5.1 Yes = 5 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-4 a. Standard Inspections, which include Drug/Alcohol, CRM and Public Awareness 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 arequirements for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points. 	5	5
2 Evaluato All 1	Do written procedures address inspection priorities of each operator, and if necessary each unit, based on the following elements and time frames established in its procedures? Chapter 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 and compliance activities) c. Type of activity being undertaken by operators (i.e. construction) d. Locations of operator's inspection units being inspected - (HCA's, Geographic area, Population Centers, etc.) e. Process to identify high-risk inspection units that includes all threats - (Excavation Damage, Corrosion, Natural Forces, Outside Forces, Material and Welds, Equipment, Operators and any Other Factors) f. Are inspection units broken down appropriately? or Notes: requirements for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points.	4	4
3 Evaluato	 (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 a. Procedures to notify an operator (company officer) when a noncompliance is identified b. Procedures to routinely review progress of compliance actions to prevent delays or breakdowns c. Procedures regarding closing outstanding probable violations 	3	3
4 Evaluato	 (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. 	3	3

All requirements for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points.

5 General Comments:

Info Only = No Points Evaluator Notes: No loss of points occurred on this section of the review.

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

1	Appendi	inspector and program manager fulfilled training requirements? (See Guidelines x C for requirements) Chapter 4.3 o = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-4	5 5	5
	a. b. lead	Completion of Required OQ Training before conducting inspection as lead Completion of Required DIMP/IMP Training before conducting inspection as		
	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		
Evaluator		ard inspection as the lead inspector (Reference State Guidelines Section 4.3.1)		
All re	quirement	s for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points.		
2	adequate	records and discussions with state pipeline safety program manager indicate knowledge of PHMSA program and regulations? o = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-4	5	5
Evaluator				
		ering has been the program manager for seven years. He clearly demonstrated his program. All requirements for this question were found satisfied.	s knowledg	e about the
3		Comments: = No Points	Info Only I	nfo Only
Evaluator	Notes:			
No lo	ss of point	s occurred in this section of the evaluation.		

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

1	intervals	e inspect all types of operators and inspection units in accordance with time s established in written procedures? Chapter 5.1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-4	5	5
	a.	Standard (General Code Compliance)		
	b.	Public Awareness Effectiveness Reviews		
	с.	Drug and Alcohol		
	с. d.	Control Room Management		
		Part 193 LNG Inspections		
	е. f.	•		
		Construction (did state achieve 20% of total inspection person-days?)		
	g.	OQ (see Question 3 for additional requirements)		
E. 1. 4	h.	IMP/DIMP (see Question 4 for additional requirements)		
	or Notes:	e randomly selected operators for this review determined Standard, PAPEI, D&A, C	'RM ING	G OO DIMP
		re performed in accordance with their procedure schedule.	, בוויי	5, 0 Q , D inii
All	requiremen	ts for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points.		
2	Inspection Chapter and field for each	bection form(s) cover all applicable code requirements addressed on Federal on form(s)? Did State complete all applicable portions of inspection forms? 5.1. Do inspection records indicate that adequate reviews of procedures, records d activities, including notes and the appropriate level of inspection person-days inspection, were performed? No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-9	10	10
	a.	Standard (General Code Compliance)		
	b.	Public Awareness Effectiveness Reviews		
	с.	Drug and Alcohol		
	d.	Control Room Management		
	е.	Part 193 LNG Inspections		
	с. f.	Construction		
		OQ (see Question 3 for additional requirements)		
	g. h.	IMP/DIMP (see Question 4 for additional requirements)		
Evoluot	n. or Notes:	INIP/DIMP (see Question 4 for additional requirements)		
Ye	s, selected ir	nspection reports from the randomly selected operators found all sections of the form estions marked N/A were provided with a comment on the reason for the classification		omplete.
All	requiremen	ts for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points.		
3	should in (includin the oper	verifying monitoring (Protocol 9/Form15) of operators OQ programs? This nclude verification of any plan updates and that persons performing covered tasks ng contractors) are properly qualified and requalified at intervals established in ator's plan. 49 CFR 192 Part N No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1	2	2
Evaluat	or Notes:			
		ts for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points.		
		tor and question were round substitut. (10 1055 of points.		
4	should in should ta Subparts	verifying operator's integrity management Programs (IMP and DIMP)? This nclude a review of plans, along with monitoring progress. In addition, the review ake in to account program review and updates of operator's plan(s). 49 CFR 192 s O and P No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1 Are the implementation plans of the state's large/largest operators(s) being	2	1
	revie	ewed 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? Are the states verifying operators are including low pressure distribution c. systems in their threat analysis? Evaluator Notes: a. No. A review of inspection records found annual meeting or verification with Black Hill Energy Company on their integrity management program was not conducted in calendar 2023. b. Yes, all requirements for this question were found satisfied. c. Yes, all requirements for this question were found satisfied. A loss of one point occurred on this question. 2 5 Did the state review the following (these items are NTSB recommendations to PHMSA 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 = 1Operator procedures for determining if exposed cast iron pipe was examined a. 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): Operator emergency response procedures for leaks caused by excavation c. 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: Operator records of previous accidents and failures including reported thirdd. party damage and leak response to ensure appropriate operator response as required by 192.617: Directional drilling/boring procedures of each pipeline operator or its e. 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? Operator compliance with state and federal regulations for regulators located g. inside buildings? **Evaluator Notes:**

All requirements for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points.

- 6 Did the State verify Operators took appropriate action regarding advisory bulletins issued 1 1 since the last evaluation? (Advisory Bulletins Current Year) Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5
 Evaluator Notes: No Advisory Bulletins were issued. All requirements for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points.
 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
 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?

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) h. Did state compliance actions give reasonable due process to all parties? Including "show cause" hearing, if necessary. Within 30 days, conduct a post-inspection briefing with the owner or operator 1. outlining any concerns Within 90 days, to the extent practicable, provide the owner or operator with j. written preliminary findings of the inspection. (Incident investigations do not need to meet 30/90-day requirement) **Evaluator Notes:** All requirements for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points. 10 8 (Incident Investigations) Were all federally reportable incidents investigated, thoroughly 10 documented, with conclusions and recommendations? Yes = 10 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-9Does state have adequate mechanism to receive and respond to operator reports a. of incidents, including after-hours reports? Did state keep adequate records of Incident/Accident notifications received? b. If onsite investigation was not made, did the state obtain sufficient information c. 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? Were recommendations to prevent recurrences, where appropriate, f. documented? Did state initiate compliance action for any violations found during any g. incident/accident investigation? Did state assist Region Office or Accident Investigation Division (AID) by h. 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:** One incident occurred in CY2023. The Metropolitan Utility District incident report was reviewed. All information in the report was complete. No issues were found in the report. All requirements for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points. 1 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:** Yes, Mr. Scott Cordes, State Fire Marshal response letter was received on July 25, 2023, and within the required 60-day period. 10 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: Yes, they conduct annual pipeline safety seminars. They held a seminar on February 7-8, 2023 & February 6-7, 2024, in Kearney, NE. The number of attendances were more than 90 participants at each seminar. Info Only Info Only 11 Has state confirmed transmission operators have submitted information into NPMS database along with changes made after original submission? Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

Yes, this item is found on question 33 of their annual report review form.

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
	Yes = $1 \text{ No} = 0 \text{ Needs Improvement} = .5$		
Evaluator			
They	use their website to accomplish this item. All requirements for this question were found sa	itisfied. No l	oss of points.
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 A rev			
All r	equirements for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points.		
14	Was the State responsive to:	1	1
	Yes = $1 \text{ No} = 0 \text{ Needs Improvement} = .5$		
	a. Surveys or information requests from NAPSR or PHMSA; and		
	b. PHMSA Work Management system tasks?		
Evaluator			
All r	equirements for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points.		
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.		1
Evaluator	Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5		
	vaivers/special permits have been issued.		
All r	equirements for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points.		
16	Were pipeline program files well-organized and accessible? Info Only = No Points	Info Only I	nfo Only
Evaluator All re	equirements for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points.		
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 = $3 \text{ No} = 0 \text{ Needs Improvement} = 1-2$	3	3
Evaluator			
A dis	scussion with Program Manager regarding SICT was conducted. Program Manager has a g has filed the data on July 10, 2024.	ood understa	nding of the tool
All r	equirements for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points.		
18	Discussion on State Program Performance Metrics found on Stakeholder Communicatio site.\ http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/states.htm?nocache=4805 Info Only = No Points	n Info Only I	nfo Only
Evaluator			
All r	equirements for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points.		

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

Evaluator Notes:

All requirements for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points.

20 General Comments:

Info Only = No Points Evaluator Notes:

A loss of one point occurred on question D.4 in this section of the review.

Total points scored for this section: 49 Total possible points for this section: 50

Info Only Info Only

- 1 Operator, Inspector, Location, Date and PHMSA Representative (enter specifics into the Info Only Info Only comments box below)
 - 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:

This was a construction inspection in Omaha, NE. The operator was Metroplitan Utilities District (MUD). The following representatives were present at the construction site located at D Street and S 24th Street.

Jason Querry ? Supervisor, Joey Rachwalik- Technician, Josh Tietsort- Technician, Andy Randall- Engineer/Locator. Another construction site review was conducted at 156th & Q Street N/W Omaha. The following individuals were present: Steven Clark- Technician, Dayton Seidengling- Technician, Stuart Longmeyer- Technician/Wrap Application, John Hubbord- Technician/Wrap Application, MUD representative DJ Satterfield- Compliance/OQ Records.

The inspector being reviewed was Kevin Bumgardner, NE SFM Deputy State Fire Marshal. Glynn Blanton, PHMSA State Programs was present at both construction sites.

2	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 = $2 \text{ No} = 0$ Needs Improvement = 1	2	2
	or Notes:		
Yes	s, the inspector was observed using the agency's construction inspection form.		
3	 Did the inspector adequately review the following during the inspection Yes = 10 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-9 a. Procedures (were the inspector's questions of the operator adequate to determine compliance?) 	10	10
	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?		
Evaluat	or Notes:		
	requirements for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points.		
4	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	2	2
Evaluate	or Notes:		
	s, Mr. Kevin Bumgardner has completed all TQ courses and is a qualified gas safety inspector. weldge of the pipeline safety regulations.	He demo	nstrated excellent
5	Did the inspector conduct an exit interview, including identifying probable violations? (If inspection is not totally completed the interview should be based on areas covered during time of field evaluation) Yes = $1 \text{ No} = 0 \text{ Needs Improvement} = .5$	1	1
Evaluate	pr Notes:		
All	requirements for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points.		

- 6 Was inspection performed in a safe, positive, and constructive manner ? Info Only = No Points
 - 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:

All requirements for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points.

7 General Comments:

Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

No loss of points occurred in this section of the review.

Info Only Info Only

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

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1	Has the state reviewed Operator Annual reports, along with Incident/Accident reports, for accuracy and analyzed data for trends and operator issues. Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1	2	2
	-	Rank spread	lsheet. The data
All r	equirements for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points.		
2	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) Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1	2	2
sessi prog is rel	r Notes: Black Hills Energy (BHE) has a program to monitor damages that are occurring on their sys ons to all contractor personnel who have damaged their facilities. Nebraska State Fire Marsh ram and assisted BHE in training. Additionally, NE SFM state rule requires all operators to c leased due to over-pressure, interruption of service of 50 or more customers, an occurrence re e evacuation of four or more one- or two-family dwellings, businesses, public building or pu	al (NE SFN contact their elated to nat	1) monitored the office when gas tural gas release
All r	equirements for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points.		
3 Evaluator All r	 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.)? 	4	4
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? 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? 	2	2

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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:

a. Contractor companies.

- b. Yes, operators and NESFM conduct training courses on damage prevention.
- c. Yes, the reasons for excavation damages in NE is failure to maintain clearance or insufficient excavation practices.

d. Yes.

All requirements for this question were found satisfied. No loss of points.

5 General Comments:

Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

No loss of points occurred on this section of the review.

Info Only Info Only

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