

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

2023 Gas State Program Evaluation

for

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

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: Texas Agency Status:		Rating: 60105(a): Yes	60106(a): No	Interstate Agent: No
Date of Visit: 08/22/2024	- 08/26/2024	()		8
Agency Representative:	Stephanie Weidman, Program M	anager		
PHMSA Representative:	David Lykken, State Liaison			
	Clint Stevens, State Liaison			
	Michael Thompson, State Liaiso	n		
Commission Chairman to	o whom follow up letter is to be	sent:		
Name/Title:	Christi Craddick, Chairman			
Agency:	Railroad Commission of Texas			
Address:	1701 N. Congress			
City/State/Zip:	Austin, Texas 78711-2967			

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
А	Progress Report and Program Documentation Review	0	0
В	Program Inspection Procedures	15	15
С	State Qualifications	10	10
D	Program Performance	50	45
Е	Field Inspections	15	15
F	Damage prevention and Annual report analysis	10	10
ΤΟΤΑ	LS	100	95
State I	Rating		95.0



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:

Yes for items a thru i. No issues or concerns noted. PR review score - 50 points

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



1 Evaluato Yes,	 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 a. No point deductions or concerns noted. 	5	5
2 Evaluato		4	4
Yes,	, for items a thru f. No point deductions or concerns noted.		
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 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
Evaluato			
Yes	for all. No point deductions or concerns noted.		
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

Yes for a and b. No point deductions or concerns noted.

5 General Comments:

Info Only = No Points Evaluator Notes: No point deductions or concerns noted under Part B.

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



1		n inspector and program manager fulfilled training requirements? (See Guideline x C for requirements) Chapter 4.3	s 5	5
	Yes = 5 N	o = 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			
	с.	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		
	stand	lard inspection as the lead inspector (Reference State Guidelines Section 4.3.1)		
Evaluato	r Notes:			
Yes,	, verified ite	ems a thru f. No issues or areas of concern identified.		
2	Did state	e records and discussions with state pipeline safety program manager indicate	5	5
		e knowledge of PHMSA program and regulations?		
		0 = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-4		
Evaluato	· - · - · - ·			
Yes.	The Progra	am Manager is well qualified. No issues or concerns noted.		
3	Ganaral	Comments:	Info Only I	nfo Only
U			into only i	line only
Evaluato		= No Points		
	· - · - · - ·			
No p	boint deduc	tions under Part C. No concerns identified.		
		Total points so	ored for thi	s section: 10

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

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

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:

No. Five points deducted for failure to meet inspection time intervals for several operators, units, and types of inspections as listed here.

Gas Distribution: Atmos Energy-Greenville Unit / Quinlan System. Std Comp on 10/16/23. Last Prior on 8/25/17; Atmos Energy-Sweetwater Unit / Blackwater, Merkel, & Trent Systems. Std Comp on 9/11/23. Last Prior on 9/22/17; Atmos Energy-Sweetwater Unit / ML-8, ML-10, Roby, Rosco, Rotan, Roscoe ML-14 systems. Std Comp on 8/21/23. Last Prior on 9/22/17. Sweetwater, Sweetwater-Rolling Hills, and ML-3 systems Std Comps done on 5/8/23. Last Prior on 8/11/17; Atmos Energy-Terrell Unit / Terrell-19, Terrell-20, Terrell-22, and Terrell-6 systems Std Comp on 5/19/2017. None completed in 2023; Atmos Energy-Tyler Unit / Joshua Talley system Std Comp on 6/26/23. Last Prior on 10/13/17; CenterPoint Energy-Carthage Unit / Carthage system. Std Comp on 4/24/23. Last Prior on 8/11/17; CenterPoint Energy-Crockett Unit / Crockett system. Partial Std Comp on 11/13/23. Last prior on 5/24/18; CenterPoint Energy-Henderson Unit / Gulf Camp, New London, and Price systems. Std Comp on 9/11/23. Last Prior on 8/18/17; CenterPoint Energy O&M review last completed on 10/12/2015. D&A last completed on 7/18/18. PA last completed on 5/13/19. No prior on record; Gas Energy LLC Universal/ Houston system. No Std Comp on record. Magnolia system on 8/20/21. No prior on record. O&M review last on 11/29/21. No prior on record. D&A on 12/2/22. No prior on record. PA last on 11/18/19. No prior on record. OQ review on 4/18/17. No prior on record. DIMP on 3/20/17. No prior on record; Suburban Propane. OQ on 7/19/23. No prior on record.



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2 Evaluator Yes t	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)	10	10
3 Evaluator Yes.	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 Yes = $2 \text{ No} = 0 \text{ Needs Improvement} = 1$ Notes: No issues noted.	2	2
4 Evaluator Yes.	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? Notes: No issues or concerns noted.	2	2
5	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 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);	2	2

Evaluator	 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 inside buildings? 		
Yes	to all. No issues or concerns noted.		
6 Evaluator	Did the State verify Operators took appropriate action regarding advisory bulletins issued since the last evaluation? (Advisory Bulletins Current Year) Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5 r Notes:	1	1
	No issues or concerns.		
7 Evaluator Vest		10	10
Yes	to items a thru j. Full points awarded. No deficiencies identified.		
8	 (Incident Investigations) Were all federally reportable incidents investigated, thoroughly 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? 	10	10

e. Were contributing factors documented?	
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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:

Yes, for items a thru i. Full points. No deficiencies identified.

103	, for tems a una f. i an points. No deficiencies identified.		
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 = $1 \text{ No} = 0$ Needs Improvement = .5	1	1
Evaluato			
Yes	. No issues.		
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 In	fo Only
Evaluato	or Notes:		
Hele	d annually. No issues.		
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 In	fo Only
Evaluato	or Notes:		
Yes	. No issues identified.		
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). Yes = $1 \text{ No} = 0 \text{ Needs Improvement} = .5$	1	1
Evaluato			
Yes	. No issues or concerns noted.		
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
Evaluato	-		
	. 11 SRC's reported in CY2023. When applicable all updates occur within the stipulated 30-o	lay interval.	No issues or
cone	cerns identified.		
14	Was the State responsive to: Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5	1	1
	a. Surveys or information requests from NAPSR or PHMSA; and		
	b. PHMSA Work Management system tasks?		
Evaluato		A A F	
Yes	. The program responded to 9 of 11 NAPSR surveys in CY2023. No IM Notifications in 202	3. No issues	or concerns

identified.

	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 = $1 \text{ No} = 0 \text{ Needs Improvement} = .5$		
Evaluator	*		
	e currently open including 1 new on 1/14/2024. No issues or concerns identified.		
16	Were pipeline program files well-organized and accessible? Info Only = No Points	Info Only Info Only	у
Evaluator			
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 = $3 \text{ No} = 0 \text{ Needs Improvement} = 1-2$	3 3	3
Evaluator	-		
Discu	issed. No issues or concerns identified.		
18	Discussion on State Program Performance Metrics found on Stakeholder Communication	a Infa Only Infa Only	
	site.\ http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/states.htm?nocache=4805 Info Only = No Points		у
Evaluator	site.\ http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/states.htm?nocache=4805 Info Only = No Points Notes:		У
	site.\ http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/states.htm?nocache=4805 Info Only = No Points		у
	site.\ http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/states.htm?nocache=4805 Info Only = No Points Notes:	Info Only Info Only	
Upda	site.\ http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/states.htm?nocache=4805 Info Only = No Points Notes: ted annually. No issues or concerns noted. 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.		
Upda	site.\ http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/states.htm?nocache=4805 Info Only = No Points Notes: ted annually. No issues or concerns noted. 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		
Upda	site.\ http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/states.htm?nocache=4805 Info Only = No Points Notes: ted annually. No issues or concerns noted. 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		
Upda 19	site.\ http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/states.htm?nocache=4805 Info Only = No Points Notes: ted annually. No issues or concerns noted. 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		
Upda 19 Evaluator	site.\ http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/states.htm?nocache=4805 Info Only = No Points Notes: ted annually. No issues or concerns noted. 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		y

D1 - Five points deducted for not completing all inspections within the maximum five-year time interval allowed in its written procedures and PHMSA State Program Guidelines.

Total points scored for this section: 45 Total possible points for this section: 50

1	Operator, Inspector, Location, Date and PHMSA Representative (enter specifics into the In	nfo Only I	nfo 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		
Evalua	tor Notes:		
	Amarillo Natural Gas Inc.		
Sta	andard Inspection, last STD inspection 6-2019		
Op	berator Rep Present; Robert Price		
ТХ	KRRC Rep. Davis Abney PHMSA Rep. M. Thompson		
	. Edge Mentone LNG Plant - Std Insp.		
	New Operator-First Inspection		
	Edge Gathering Virtual Pipeline LLC (Owner), Galileo Tecnologies (Operator)		
d.	RRCTX Inspector - Priscilla Sterling. PHMSA Rep. D. Lykken		
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)	2	2
	Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1		
	tor Notes:		
	Yes, satisfactory		
2.	Yes. IA equivalent form in a excel format utilized.		
3	Did the inspector adequately review the following during the inspection	10	10
	Yes = $10 \text{ No} = 0 \text{ Needs Improvement} = 1-9$		
	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		
	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?		
Evalua	tor Notes:		
	A -E Satisfactory		
	Yes for items a thru e. No issues.		
4		2	2
4	From your observation did the inspector have adequate knowledge of the pipeline safety	2	2
	program and regulations? (Evaluator will document reasons if unacceptable) Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1		
Evalua	tor Notes:		
	Yes, satisfactory		
	Yes, No issues or concerns noted.		
5	Did the inspector conduct an exit interview, including identifying probable violations? (If	1	1
	inspection is not totally completed the interview should be based on areas covered during		
	time of field evaluation)		
D 1	Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5		
Evalua	tor Notes:		

1. Yes, satisfactory

2. Yes. Several probable violations documented.

6	Was ins	pection performed in a safe, positive, and constructive manner?	Info Only Info Only
	Info Only	r = 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	
	obse	rvations and how inspector performed)	
	с.	Best Practices to Share with Other States - (Field - could be from operator	
	visit	ed or state inspector practices)	
	d.	Other	
Evaluator	Notes:		
1. A -	D Satisfa	actory	
2.Yes	. No conc	erns for items a thru d.	

7 General Comments:

Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

1. NONE

2. None noted. No point deductions under Part E.

Info Only Info Only

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



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					
	valuator Notes:							
Yes.	No point deductions. No concerns noted.							
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					
Evaluato								
Yes,	No point deductions. No issues or concerns identified.							
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? j. Are mapping corrections timely and according to written procedures? 	4	4					
	Practices Not Sufficient" (Part D.1.c.)?							
Evaluato								
Yes,	to items a thru j. Reviewed with PM, AR data pertaining to Part D - Damage Prevention. No	point dedu	ictions.					
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	2	2					

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:

Yes. No point deductions. No concerns noted.

5 General Comments:

Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

No point deductions under Part F. No concerns noted.

Info Only Info Only

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