

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

2023 Gas State Program Evaluation

for

VIRGINIA STATE CORPORATION 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: Virginia Agency Status:		Rating: 60105(a): Yes	60106(a): Yes	Interstate Agent: No
Date of Visit: 04/30/2024	- 07/11/2024			8
Agency Representative:	Mr. Scott Marshall			
	Program Manager			
PHMSA Representative:	Clint Stephens			
	State Liaison			
Commission Chairman te	o whom follow up letter is to be	sent:		
Name/Title:	Mr. Jahmel T. Hudson, Chairma	n		
Agency:	Virginia State Corporation Com	mission		
Address:	1300 East Main Street			
City/State/Zip:	Richmond, Virginia 23219			

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	50
Е	Field Inspections	15	15
F	Damage prevention and Annual report analysis	10	10
ΤΟΤΑ	LS	100	100
State Rating		100.0	

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:

Corrections were made to Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 of Progress Report by Carrie on July 16, 2024.

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

1 Evaluator Satis	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 r Notes:	5	5
2 Evaluator Satis	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? r Notes: sfactory	4	4
3 Evaluator Satis	 (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 r Notes: 	3	3
4 Evaluator Satis	 (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. r Notes: 	3	3

5 General Comments:

Info Only = No Points Evaluator Notes: There were no issues with Part B of the program evaluation.

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

1	Append	h inspector and program manager fulfilled training requirements? (See Guideline ix C for requirements) Chapter 4.3 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-4	es 5	5
	a. b.	Completion of Required OQ Training before conducting inspection as lead 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		
		lard inspection as the lead inspector (Reference State Guidelines Section 4.3.1)		
Evaluato				
Satis	sfactory			
2 Evaluato Satis	adequate Yes = 5 N	e records and discussions with state pipeline safety program manager indicate e knowledge of PHMSA program and regulations? No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-4	5	5
	Juctory			
3		Comments: = No Points	Info Only I	nfo Only
Evaluato	2			
Ther	e were no	issues with Part C of the program evaluation.		
		Total points so Total possible p		

1	Did state inspect all types of operators and inspection units in accordance with time intervals established in written procedures? Chapter 5.1 Yes = $5 \text{ No} = 0 \text{ Needs Improvement} = 1-4$	5	5
	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)		
Evaluato	r Notes:		
Satis	sfactory		
2	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	10	10
	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)		
Evaluato Satis	r Notes: sfactory		
	•		
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 $Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1$	2	2
Evaluato	r Notes:		
Satis	sfactory		
4	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 = $2 \text{ No} = 0 \text{ Needs Improvement} = 1$	2	2
	 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 		
Evaluato	systems in their threat analysis?		
	sfactory		
Sull			

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	2	2
	during the evaluation process): Chapter 5.1		
	Yes = $2 \text{ No} = 0$ 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		
Evaluato	inside buildings?		
	sfactory		
	5		
6	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	1	1
Evaluato			
	sfactory		
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?		
	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 30/00 day requirement)		
Evaluato	meet 30/90-day requirement) or Notes:		
	enforcement letters for master meter operators Stone Ridge, LLC and Solomon Court Associa	tion wer	e sent to operator

The enforcement letters for master meter operators Stone Ridge, LLC and Solomon Court Association were sent to operator in 2024, but inspections were complete in 2022. There was no communication with master meter operator Stone Ridge

standard inspection from October 2022 to July 2024, when a Warning Letter, LOC, and NOA was sent to the operator. Recommend add procedures for monitoring status of possible enforcement actions against operators.

8	(Incident Investigations) Were all federally reportable incidents investigated, thoroughly	10	10
	documented, with conclusions and recommendations? Yes = $10 \text{ No} = 0 \text{ Needs Improvement} = 1-9$		
	a. Does state have adequate mechanism to receive and respond to operator reports	5	
	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?		
Evaluato	r Notes:		
Satis	sfactory		
		1	1
9	Did state respond to Chairman's letter on previous evaluation within 60 days and correct	1	1
	or address any noted deficiencies? (If necessary) Chapter 8.1 Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5		
Evaluato			
Satis	sfactory		
10	Did State conduct or participate in pipeline safety training session or seminar in Past 3	Info Only I	nfo Only
10	Years? Chapter 8.5	into Only I	ino only
	Info $Only = No Points$		
Evaluato	r Notes:		
Satis	sfactory		
11		Info Only	afe Oaler
11	Has state confirmed transmission operators have submitted information into NPMS database along with changes made after original submission?	Info Only I	IIIO OIIIy
	Info Only = No Points		
Evaluato	r Notes:		
Satis	sfactory		
12	Does the state have a mechanism for communicating with stakeholders - other than state	1	1
	pipeline safety seminar? (This should include making enforcement cases available to		
	public). Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5		
Evaluato			
Satis	sfactory		
13	Did state execute appropriate follow-up actions to Safety Related Condition (SRC)	1	1
	Reports? Chapter 6.7		
Evoluate	Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5		
Evaluato			
Satis	sfactory		

14	Was the State responsive to:	1	1
	Yes = $1 \text{ No} = 0$ Needs Improvement = .5		
	a. Surveys or information requests from NAPSR or PHMSA; and		
Evaluator	b. PHMSA Work Management system tasks?		
	factory		
	, 		
15	If the State has issued any waivers/special permits for any operator, has the stat conditions of those waivers/special permits are being met? This should include operator amend procedures where appropriate. Yes = $1 \text{ No} = 0 \text{ Needs Improvement} = .5$		1
Evaluator	-		
Satist	factory		
16	Were pipeline program files well-organized and accessible? Info Only = No Points	Info Only Ir	nfo Only
Evaluator Satist	Notes: factory		
17	Discussion with State on accuracy of inspection day information submitted into Inspection Day Calculation Tool (SICT). Has the state updated SICT data? Yes = $3 \text{ No} = 0$ Needs Improvement = $1-2$	o State 3	3
Evaluator Satist			
18	Discussion on State Program Performance Metrics found on Stakeholder Comm site.\ http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/states.htm?nocache=4805 Info Only = No Points	nunication Info Only Ir	nfo Only
Evaluator	•		
Satist	factory		
19	Did the state encourage and promote operator implementation of Pipeline Safet Management Systems (PSMS), or API RP 1173? This holistic approach to imp pipeline safety includes the identification, prevention and remediation of safety Info Only = No Points	roving	nfo Only
	a. https://pipelinesms.org/		
F 1	b. Reference AGA recommendation to members May 20, 2019		
Evaluator			
Satis	factory		
20	General Comments: Info Only = No Points	Info Only Ir	nfo Only
Evaluator			
There	e were no issues with Part D of the program evaluation.		
		l points scored for this possible points for this	

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

Info Only = No Points

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

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

- When was the unit inspected last? b.
- Was pipeline operator or representative present during inspection? c.
- d. Effort should be made to observe newest state inspector with least experience

Evaluator Notes:

a. Two different construction projects on separate days were observed with two different inspectors.

b. Weekly

c. Yes, at the first construction project located at Ivy Home Road in Hampton, VA, Charles Basnight and Kevin Almond representing Virginia Natural Gas company were present. At the second construction project located at 3612 Martha Street in Norfolk, VA, Charles Daraio and Kris Ballesteros with Virginia Natural Gas were present.

The VASSC inspectors observed were Greg Connolly and Jackson Phillips. Neither of these individuals have been observed previously.

2	Did the inspector use an appropriate inspection form/checklist and was the form/checklist	2	2
	used as a guide for the inspection? (New regulations shall be incorporated)		
	Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1		
Evaluator	Notes:		

Yes, both inspectors used the appropriate forms for their inspections.

3	Did the inspector adequately review the following during the inspection	10	10
	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:

- a. Operator qualification documents were checked and found to be up to date. Calibration of fusion equipment was checked and found to be current.
- b. Satisfactory
- c. Satisfactory
- d. N/A
 - e. Satisfactory
 - From your observation did the inspector have adequate knowledge of the pipeline safety 2 4 2 program and regulations? (Evaluator will document reasons if unacceptable) Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

Evaluator Notes:

Yes, both inspectors have completed the basic courses at TQ and demonstrated excellent knowledge of the pipeline safety regulations. Satisfactory.

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) Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

6 Was inspection performed in a safe, positive, and constructive manner ? Info Only Info Only Info Only Info Only
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:

a. Satisfactory

b. Greg Connolly and Jackson Phillips checked OQ records, calibration of fusion equipment, manufacture date of the service line and verification of locate markings.

c. OQ records were check using their cell phone.

d. N/A

7 General Comments:

Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

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

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 = $2 \text{ No} = 0 \text{ Needs Improvement} = 1$	2	2
Evaluato Satis	r Notes: sfactory		
2 Evaluato		2	2
Satis	sfactory		
3 Evaluato	 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
	r Notes: sfactory		
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? 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 	2	2

education and training to address the causes of excavation damages?

Evaluator Notes:

Satisfactory

5 General Comments:

Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

There were no issues with Part F of the program evaluation.

Info Only Info Only

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