



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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**CERTIFIED MAIL**

October 9, 2012

Don Kopczynski  
Vice President, Energy Delivery  
Avista Utilities Corporation  
1411 E. Mission  
P.O. Box 3727  
Spokane, WA 99220-3727

Dear Mr. Kopczynski:

**RE: 2012 Natural Gas Standard Inspection – Colville District**

We conducted a natural gas inspection the week of September 24, 2012, of Avista Utilities Corporation (Avista) Colville District. The inspection included a records review and inspection of the pipeline facilities.

No apparent violations were noted as a result of the inspection. One area of concern was noted which unless corrected, could potentially lead to future violations of state and/or federal pipeline safety rules.

Staff would like to thank Avista's personnel for their cooperation and professionalism during this inspection.

If you have any questions or if we may be of any assistance, please contact Scott Rukke at (360) 664-1241. Please refer to the subject matter described above in any future correspondence pertaining to this inspection.

Sincerely,

David D. Lykken  
Pipeline Safety Director

cc: Mike Faulkenberry, Chief Gas Engineer, Avista

**WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**  
**2012 Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Inspection**  
**Avista Utilities Corporation – Colville District**

The following area of concern was noted as a result of the inspection of the Avista Utilities Corporation – Colville District. The inspection included a random selection of records, operation and maintenance, emergency response, inventory and field inspection of the pipeline facilities.

**Area of Concern**

In accordance with Avista Procedure 5.12 and 49 CFR §192.743, Avista conducted an annual relief valve capacity check. During this annual capacity check, district regulator station #539 was noted as needing an orifice change from ¼” to 3/16”. Electronic records for station #539 have a follow-up column that is either checked Y (yes) or N (no) indicating whether follow-up action is necessary.

The electronic records we reviewed indicated that no follow-up action was necessary. Paper records indicated that follow-up work was necessary and was completed on February 4, 2011. In addition, the electronic records did not indicate the new orifice size for the station after it was changed.

Since Avista is transitioning to mostly electronic records, it is important that Avista have proper processes and procedures to ensure that electronic records accurately reflect follow-up actions and work performed.