



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC 20590

Pipeline Safety

2014 Natural Gas Year End Payment Request

for

NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



FedSTAR Information

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2014 Natural Gas Year End Payment Request

Public Service Commission


2014 Natural Gas Year End Payment Request Cost Summary

DIRECT COSTS

Estimated

Actual

Compensation for Personnel Services (A-87 #8)

	A. Supervisory personnel who are directly engaged in the administration of the Pipeline Safety Program	\$36,560.00	\$29,445.24
	A1. Supervisory fringe benefits	\$12,800.00	\$10,568.65
	B. Technical personnel who conduct pipeline safety inspections, failure investigations and review plans, etc.	\$90,200.00	\$77,323.26
	B1. Technical fringe benefits	\$31,570.00	\$31,175.71
	C. Administrative personnel whose duties are directly related to the Pipeline Safety Program.	\$0.00	\$0.00
	C1. Administrative fringe benefits	\$0.00	\$0.00
	D. Damage Prevention/Technical personnel include damage prevention personnel, GIS personnel and other technical personnel directly related to the pipeline safety program	\$6,140.00	\$8,183.26
	D1. Damage Prevention/Technical fringe	\$2,150.00	\$3,195.78

ACTIVITIES

Audit costs and related services (A-87 #04).....	\$0.00	\$0.00
Communication costs (A-87 #07).....	\$0.00	\$0.00
Maintenance, operations and repairs (A-87 #25).....	\$300.00	\$0.00
Memberships, subscriptions and professional activity costs (A-87 #28)..	\$150.00	\$200.00
Professional services (i.e. Studies and Research) (A-87 #32).....	\$300.00	\$0.00
Publication and printing costs(A-87 #34).....	\$2,500.00	\$2,681.74
Rental costs of building and equipment (A-87 #37).....	\$0.00	\$315.30
Training and Education (A-87 #42).....	\$0.00	\$0.00
Travel costs (A-87 #43).....	\$73,000.00	\$40,669.06

MATERIALS

Motor Vehicles (A-87 #15).....	\$0.00	\$0.00
Office Equipment (A-87 #15).....	\$300.00	\$0.00
Safety Clothing (A-87 #26).....	\$300.00	\$0.00
Supplies (A-87 #26).....	\$500.00	\$14.99
Testing Equipment(A-87 #15).....	\$0.00	\$0.00

INDIRECT COSTS (A-87 Attachment C, D, E)

Indirect costs incurred by State Agency(i.e. Public Utilities Commission, Public Service Commission, State Corporation Commission).	\$35,900.00	\$41,316.57
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TOTAL

\$292,670.00

\$245,089.56

Pipeline Safety Program Cost Summary Explanations -- Calendar Year 2014

DIRECT COSTS

PERSONNEL



Supervisory Personnel

The Commission's second full-time inspector for the gas pipeline safety program resigned effective September 30, 2014. The estimated costs provided in the CY2014 base grant application included salary and fringe benefits for the full year. Therefore, the Program Manager was required to dedicate more time for pipeline safety inspections, spending less time performing the supervisory function. Therefore, the actual cost is greater than the estimated cost.

Supervisory Fringe Benefits

The Commission's second full-time inspector for the gas pipeline safety program resigned effective September 30, 2014. The estimated costs provided in the CY2014 base grant application included salary and fringe benefits for the full year. Therefore, the Program Manager was required to dedicate more time for pipeline safety inspections, spending less time performing the supervisory function. Therefore, the actual cost is greater than the estimated cost.

Technical Personnel

The Commission's second full-time inspector for the gas pipeline safety program resigned effective September 30, 2014. The estimated costs provided in the CY2014 base grant application included salary and fringe benefits for the full year. Therefore, the actual cost is greater than the estimated cost.

Technical Fringe Benefits

Thresholds not exceeded; therefore an explanation is not needed.

Administrative Personnel

Thresholds not exceeded; therefore an explanation is not needed.

Administrative Fringe Benefits

Thresholds not exceeded; therefore an explanation is not needed.

Damage Prevention Personnel

The Public Service Commission has authority to enforce the North Dakota One-Call law through proceedings, including the imposition of penalties. In CY2014, the number of damage prevention complaints to be processed at the Commission increased substantially. Therefore, the Program Manager/ Inspector and Division Director spent more time than anticipated for investigating and processing damage prevention complaints. Therefore, the costs estimated for salary and fringe benefits in the CY2014 base grant application for damage prevention was lower than the actual cost. At the end of year 2014, the Commission, at the recommendation of State Programs, designated staff other than gas safety inspectors, for processing damage prevention complaints. This will reduce the damage preventions personnel costs in the gas pipeline safety program. The damage prevention cost estimates provided in the CY2015 base grant application will likely be overstated as well.

Damage Prevention Fringe Benefits

The Public Service Commission has authority to enforce the North Dakota One-Call law through proceedings, including the imposition of penalties. In CY2014, the number of damage prevention complaints to be processed at the Commission increased substantially. Therefore, the Program Manager/ Inspector and Division Director spent more time than anticipated for investigating and processing damage prevention complaints. Therefore, the costs estimated for salary and fringe benefits in the CY2014 base grant application for damage prevention was lower than the actual cost. At the end of year 2014, the Commission, at the recommendation of State Programs, designated staff other than gas safety inspectors, for processing damage prevention complaints. This will reduce the damage prevention personnel costs in the gas pipeline safety program. The damage prevention cost estimates provided in the CY2015 base grant application will likely be overstated as well.

ACTIVITIES

Audit

Thresholds not exceeded; therefore an explanation is not needed.

Communication

Thresholds not exceeded; therefore an explanation is not needed.

Maintenance, operations and repairs

To a great extent, the office equipment for the inspectors and program manager consists of electronics equipment such as computers, printers, scanners and digital cameras. The electronics equipment is purchased and maintained by the Commission's Technology Division. This includes the costs for mobile communications. So, while \$300 was estimated for CY2014, there were no costs in this category for CY2014 other than costs for electronics equipment included under indirect costs.

Memberships, subscriptions and professional activities

The registration fee for the Central Region NAPSRR meeting was slightly greater, \$200 instead of \$150, than estimated.

Professional services (i.e. studies and research)

While we anticipated an expenditure of \$300 for professional services, no dollars were spent on studies or research on CY2014.

Publication and Printing

Thresholds not exceeded; therefore an explanation is not needed.

Rental costs of building and equipment

The dollar amount listed here is a portion of the cost of the office space dedicated to the gas pipeline safety program. The space dedicated to the pipeline safety program is approximately 10 percent of space occupied by the Division Director. We neglected to include an estimate for this cost category when submitting the base grant application for CY2014.

Training and Education

Thresholds not exceeded; therefore an explanation is not needed.

Travel

The Commission's second full-time inspector for the gas pipeline safety program resigned effective September 30, 2014. The estimated cost provided in the CY2014 base grant application included travel costs for attending a greater number of courses at the Pipeline Safety Inspector Training and Qualifications Division (TQ) and a greater number of safety inspections during CY2014.



MATERIALS

Motor Vehicles

Thresholds not exceeded; therefore an explanation is not needed.

Office Equipment

To a great extent, the office equipment for the inspectors and program manager consists of electronics equipment such as computers, printers, scanners and digital cameras. The electronics equipment is purchased and maintained by the Commission's Technology Division. This includes the costs for mobile communications. So, while \$300 was estimated for CY2014, there were no costs in this category for CY2014 other than costs for electronics equipment included under indirect costs.

Safety Clothing

No new or replacement safety clothing was purchased in CY2014 for the gas pipeline safety inspectors.

Supplies

The estimate provided in the CY2014 base grant included supplies for the 2014 North Dakota/South Dakota Operator Training Seminar hosted by North Dakota. Since almost all of the supplies for that meeting came from the Commission's office supplies, the cost ended up as part of the indirect cost.

Testing Equipment

Thresholds not exceeded; therefore an explanation is not needed.

Indirect Costs

Indirect

Thresholds not exceeded; therefore an explanation is not needed.

