

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Public Service Commission
Northern States Power Company
Pipeline Safety Enforcement**

Case No. GS-19-385

ORDER

March 4, 2020

Preliminary Statement

On January 5 and January 7, 2019, Staff conducted an incident investigation at Riverview Place, 5220 Building B & C, 12th St South, Fargo, ND.

On December 19, 2019, the Manager of the Public Service Commission Gas Pipeline Safety Program issued a Notice of Probable Violation (NOPV).

On January 16, 2020, Northern States Power Company (NSP) submitted a letter in response to the NOPV requesting a response deadline extension.

On January 16, 2020, the Manager of the Public Service Commission Gas Pipeline Safety Program extended the response deadline from January 20, 2020 to January 24, 2020.

On January 22, 2020, NSP submitted a response to the NOPV.

On February 13, 2020, NSP submitted payment of \$12,000.00.

Discussion

During the January 5 and January 7, 2019 incident investigation, Staff identified two probable violations of Pipeline Safety Regulations.

Probable Violation No. 1 alleges that service regulator and relief vents were not located where gas from the vents could escape freely away from any opening into the building as required by Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 192 section 192.355(b)(2).

Probable Violation No. 1 has a proposed civil penalty of \$10,000.00.

Probable Violation No. 2 alleges that NSP customer service piping and fittings were not protected from atmospheric corrosion, as required by Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 192 section 192.479.

Probable Violation No. 2 has a proposed civil penalty of \$2,000.00.

In its January 22, 2020 response, NSP did not contest the allegations of probable violations.

NSP did not submit a written explanation, information, or other materials it believes may warrant mitigation or elimination of the proposed civil penalty.

Under Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 190 section 190.208(a), upon NSP paying the proposed penalties and advising the Commission of the payment, NSP has admitted to the Probable Violations and has authorized the Commission to make a finding of violations and issue an order.

Order

The Commission orders:

1. NSP violated Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 192 section 192.355 (b)(2) by failing to ensure that service regulator and relief vents were not located where gas from the vents could escape freely away from any opening into the building.
2. NSP violated Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 192 section 192.479 by failing to ensure customer service piping and fittings were protected from atmospheric corrosion.
3. The Commission accepts NSP's payment of \$12,000 in full satisfaction of the civil penalties, and the Commission shall close this case.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Julie Fedorchak
Commissioner


Brian Kroshus
Chairman


Randy Christmann
Commissioner