



**Public Utilities  
Commission**

Mike DeWine, Governor  
Sam Randazzo, Chairman

**Commissioners**

M. Beth Trombold  
Lawrence K. Friedeman  
Dennis P. Deters  
Daniel R. Conway

July 9, 2019

Daniel Creekmur, President  
Columbia Gas of Ohio  
290 West Nationwide Blvd.  
Columbus, OH 43215

Mr. Creekmur:

On May 9, 2019, a representative of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio conducted a pipeline safety inspection of your pipeline facilities and records following an outage in Zanesville, Ohio, pursuant to Section 4905.91(B) of the Ohio Revised Code.

As a result of the inspection, the Staff has issued the following Notice of Probable Noncompliance to Columbia Gas of Ohio in accordance with Section 4901:1-16-09 of the Ohio Administrative Code, for review and written response within 30 days. The response is your opportunity to provide additional information for consideration by the Staff and/or to provide a proposed corrective action plan.

If you need more information, please call me at (614) 644-8983.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Chace, Program Manager  
Gas Pipeline Safety Section  
Facility and Operations Field Division

PC:ts  
Enclosure

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO  
GAS PIPELINE SAFETY SECTION

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

NOTICE OF PROBABLE NONCOMPLIANCE

Sent to Daniel Creekmur Title President  
Operator Columbia Gas of Ohio  
Address 290 West Nationwide Blvd.  
City Columbus State OH Zip Code 43215  
Date of Inspection May 9, 2019 Place of Inspection Zanesville, Ohio  
GPS Inspector Michael F. Purcell II

DESCRIPTION

ALL PROBABLE NONCOMPLIANCES LISTED BELOW SHOULD BE CORRECTED OR ACTION TAKEN TO CORRECT WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RECEIPT OF CERTIFIED LETTER.

- (1) Section 192.623 (49 C.F.R.); Title: Maximum and minimum allowable operating pressure: Low-pressure distribution systems.  
(2) Section 192.803 (49 C.F.R.); Title: Definitions.

**Describe Probable Noncompliance**

**192.623** *Maximum and minimum allowable operating pressure: Low-pressure distribution systems.*  
*(a) No person may operate a low pressure distribution system at a pressure high enough to make unsafe the operation of any connected and properly adjusted low pressure gas burning equipment.*

**Columbia Gas of Ohio over-pressured a low pressure system in Zanesville, Ohio. The pressure exceeded the maximum safe operating pressure to 562 customers with natural gas burning appliance(s). Please describe actions taken by Columbia Gas of Ohio to assess the low pressure system and customer appliances for damage and any corrective action taken. Please also describe actions Columbia Gas has taken or is taking to determine the root cause of this over-pressurization and prevent future recurrences, including any changes made to procedures, training, business rules and practices, etc.**

**192.803** *Definitions.*  
*Abnormal operating conditions means a condition identified by the operator that may indicate a malfunction or a component or deviation from normal operations that may:*  
*(a) Indicate a condition exceeding design limits; or*  
*(b) Result in a hazard(s) to persons, property, or the environment.*

**A Columbia Gas of Ohio employee did not recognize an abnormal operating condition ("AOC") when performing covered tasks on a low pressure regulator station in Zanesville, Ohio. The employee performed work on a low pressure regulator station involving taking backup overpressure protection off line and failed to restore the system to its proper configuration upon completion of work by leaving a pressure regulator control line valve in the closed position. Failure to recognize this abnormal operating condition caused a maximum allowable operating pressure excursion on a low pressure system.**

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

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**in**

**Case No(s). 20-1759-GA-GPS**

Summary: Staff Report of Investigation Exhibit 5 electronically filed by Mr. Thomas E Stikeleather on behalf of PUCO Staff.